

Programme

20th Artscape Women's Humanity Festival

2026 Theme: "A Place For All"

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Wednesday, 8 July	17h30 for 18h00 – 20h00	AWHF Launch & Media Launch and Unveiling of the EVERYWOMAN Textile Artwork commemorating 55 years of Artscape. Ingrid Jones - Co-Founder & Editor-in-Chief of Sawobona and Woman magazines will endorse this year's launch	Chandelier Foyer
Thursday, 30 July	20h00 – 22h00	Divalicious Dames	Arena
Friday, 31 July	20h00 – 22h00	Divalicious Dames	Arena
Saturday, 1 August	20h00 – 22h00	Divalicious Dames	Arena
Tuesday, 4 August	12h30 – 13h30	Cape Cultural Collective Lunch Hour Concert "Concert With Women"	Chandelier Foyer
Wednesday, 5 August	11h00 – 14h00	1000 Women Event – interactive art-based programme including a Writing Workshop by Woman Zone	Chandelier Foyer
Thursday, 6 August	17h00 – 18h00	Book Launch Bottelnek Breek Bek	Innovation Lounge
Friday, 7 August	19h00 – 20h00	Bottelnek Breek Bek	Arena
	18h30 – 19h30	Bottelnek Breek Bek	Arena
Friday, 7 August	20h00 – 22h00	ABFAB Drag	Theatre
	10h00 – 15h00	AWHF Exhibitor stalls	Theatre Foyer
Saturday, 8 August	10h00 – 12h00	IAM Queer Expressions – Celebrating Ecclesia de Lange's Book Launch "Exiled"	isiBaya
	12h00 – 13h00	Kom Fietna saam Marel dia with Gaireyah Fredericks & Celeste Matthews Wannenburgh	Innovation Lounge
	13h00 – 14h00	BONES film screening (Nomandla Vilikazi)	isiBaya
	14h00	2 nd EVERYWOMAN Textile Artwork to be unveiled – Chandelier Foyer	Chandelier Foyer
	14h00 – 15h30	PANEL DISCUSSION: Well-known radio personality Lester Kiewit will facilitate 70 years since The Women's March against injustice - Where are we now? To look at actions and accountability around the challenges facing marginalised communities. Panellists are specialists in the areas of Gender Based Violence and Femicide, Disability and LGBTQIA+	Innovation Lounge Chandelier Foyer
	16h00 – 18h30	Voices In Unison	Opera House
	18h30 – 19h30	Bottelnek Breek Bek	Arena
	20h00 – 22h00	ABFAB Drag	Theatre
	10h00 – 16h00	AWHF Exhibitor Stalls Radio Tygerberg Exhibition Stalls	Theatre, Marble & Chandelier Foyer
	10h00	Humanity Walk	Civic Centre to Artscape
Sunday, 9 August	10h55	Moment of Silence	Piazza steps
	11h00	Interfaith Blessing from Cape Town Interfaith Initiative	Piazza steps
	11h20	Performance by Activist & World Renowned Performer Jimmy Nevis	Piazza steps
	11h30	All attending Festival to gather on Piazza steps, symbolically rip tape off their mouths to shout 'Break the Silence, Reclaim our Voices' with Women for Change	Piazza steps
	11h45	Vocalist + Spiritual Dancers	Piazza
	12h00	End of official AWHF programme	
	12h30 – 13h30	Kom Fietna saam Marel dia	Innovation Lounge
		Festival attendants are invited to bring picnic baskets and picnic together	
	14h00 – 17h00	Radio Tygerberg Sis'ters Conference	Opera House
	15h00 – 16h00	Bottelnek Breek Bek	Arena
Thursday, 13 August	09h00 – 16h30	Healing together: Reconciling the Masculine and Feminine presented by Genderworks	isiBaya and Innovation Lounge
Friday, 14 August	09h00 – 16h30	Healing together: Reconciling the Masculine and Feminine presented by Genderworks	isiBaya and Innovation lounge
	19h00 – 20h00	Thandi Swaartbooï Celebration Concert	Arena
Saturday, 15 August		Woman Zone Book Launches:	Innovation Lounge
	10h30 – 12h00	Choreographing Rebellion by jacki job	
	12h30 – 14h00	Chasing Deadlines by journalist Rusana Philander	
	13h00 – 15h30	Rachel Kolisi – Falling Forward Official Documentary Screening Experience	Theatre
	15h30 – 16h30	Thandi Swaartbooï Celebration Concert	Arena
Saturday, 15 August	18h30 – 21h00	Rachel Kolisi – Falling Forward Official Documentary Screening Experience	Theatre
Friday, 21 August	09h00 – 16h00	Arise Women of Africa by Sport for Social Change Network	Chandelier Foyer
Saturday, 22 August	10h00 – 12h00	Meer As Warm Gloede Launch (Ingrid Klucjov) Documentary about Menopause: Screening of 1 st Episode	Innovation Lounge and Opera Bar

Stakeholders / Partners



Programme Credits

Artscape

D.F. Malan Street, Foreshore, Cape Town. 8001 • P O Box 4107, Cape Town. 8000
Tel. +27 21 410 9800 • artscape@artscape.co.za • www.artscape.co.za

Booking Information

Artscape Box Office, Webtickets outlets and credit card telephone bookings

Dial-a-Seat: 021 421 7695

Box Office Enquiries: 021 421 7839

Mondays to Fridays: 09h00 – 17h00 • Saturdays: 09h00 – 12h30

Artscape Management: Marlene le Roux (CEO); Yonela Schaupp (CFO); Marius Golding (Director: Operations); Lungisani Nkomo (Director: Human Resources); André Steenveld (Director: Business Management); Ilze de Wet (Company Secretary); Portia Valentine (Client Service Manager); David van Deventer (Theatre Manager)

Artscape Council: Mr Zak Gordon (Chairperson); Ms Karen Meiring (Deputy Chairperson); Mr Clint Abrahams; Mr Krishna Govender; Ms Saba Zahara HoneyBush; Ms Khwezi Kunene; Ms Jacqueline Lapoorta; Mr Phil Molefe; Adv Jean Wilke;

Project Team: Tania Williams-Kaponda (Project Management: Team Leader); Thandi Mlungwana (Senior Project Manager); Lulama Masimini (Project Manager); Toberin Meyer (Projects Marketing Co-Ordinator); Yolanda Smith (Community & Partnerships Coordinator); Candice Jansen (Publicist); Belinda Jackson (Publicist); Alyssa Daniels (Executive Assistant); Nancy Richards (Woman Zone); Beryl Eichenberger (Woman Zone)

www.artscape.co.za

Artscape Theatre Centre • @artscapetheatre • @ArtscapeTheatre • @ArtscapeTheatre



A place for all



ARTSCAPE

WOMEN'S
HUMANITY
FESTIVAL

8 July – 31 August 2026



Foreword



This year, the Artscape Women's Humanity Festival carries a weight of history that is both humbling and galvanising. As we gather in August 2026 under the theme A Place for All - Women in Action, Vroue in Aksie, Abafazi Kwintshukumo, we do so at the intersection of two landmark anniversaries: 55 years of Artscape Theatre Centre, and 70 years since thousands of women marched to the Union Buildings to defy a system that sought to reduce them to a pass number.

Those women were not simply protesting a law. They were asserting their humanity. They were declaring, with their bodies and their voices, that they belonged in the streets, in the halls of power, in the fabric of the nation. Seventy years on, we walk in their footsteps, honouring their courage.

This year's programme reflects the breadth and depth of what it means to advocate for a society in which every

person is seen and valued. From the symbolic 70th Anniversary March, honouring the legacy of Sophie Williams-De Bruyn and her fellow marchers, to groundbreaking productions, film screenings, book launches, workshops and intergenerational conversations, the Festival is a living demonstration that culture and activism are inseparable.

Gender-based violence continues to devastate our communities. Persons with disabilities remain marginalised. The LGBTQ+ community faces ongoing threats. Women's leadership is still the exception rather than the norm. These are not abstract concerns - they are the daily realities of people we know, people who deserve better.

The 1956 Women's March showed us what is possible when women act together. This Festival is our answer to that inheritance: a renewed commitment to put policies into action, to reclaim every voice that has been silenced, and together to build a place that is truly for all.

We invite everyone, women and men, young and old, from every walk of life to join us. This is a festival for all of us, because gender justice, human dignity, and a society free from violence are concerns that belong to every person. When we march, we march together.

Marlene le Roux
Chief Executive Officer
Artscape



On the 9th of August, South Africa commemorates the historic Women's March of 1956 as a defining act of courage that changed the course of our history. This year, we mark its 70th anniversary, and we do so as an institution also celebrating 55 years of Artscape Theatre Centre. These two milestones converge with profound meaning.

The Artscape Council is proud to support a Festival that honours this dual legacy through the theme A Place for All - Women in Action. Across theatre, dance, film, dialogue and community, the 2026 programme affirms that the arts remain one of our most powerful instruments for advancing equality, dignity and inclusion.

We invite every person regardless of gender, ability or background to join us, to listen, and to act.

Mr Zak Gordon
Chairperson
Artscape Council

Humanity Walk - Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Women's March

Date: Sunday 9 August 2026
Time: 10h00

Venue: Departs from Cape Town Civic Centre

Join us for this year's **Humanity Walk** as we honour the legacy of **Sophia Theresa Williams-De Bruyn** and the courageous women who marched on **9 August 1956**, marking the 70th anniversary of this historic moment. The walk departs from the **Cape Town Civic Centre** and proceeds to the iconic Artscape steps. **Led by members of the disability community**, alongside gender activists and the LGBTQIA+ community, the walk serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing pursuit of equality, inclusion, and human rights, while reflecting on the challenges that society continues to face today.

Be part of change. Be part of history.



Following the walk, acclaimed songwriter, gender activist, and internationally renowned performer **Jimmy Nevis** will present his powerful new hit, **"Roses & Thorns"**, celebrating resilience, hope, and the strength of our shared humanity.

Productions and Exhibitions

EVERYWOMAN Textile Artwork commemorating 55 years of Artscape (Exhibition)

Date: 8 July - 31 August 2026
Venue: Theatre Upper Foyer



As part of Artscape's 55th anniversary celebrations, Woman Zone presents the *EVERYWOMAN Textile Artwork* - a collective creation co-ordinated by Felicityann Khan that honours women from diverse communities. A second artwork to be unveiled during the festival marks 70 years of The Women's March of 1956.

These remarkable textile artworks serve as symbols of unity, heritage, and creative expression, reflecting the many voices that contribute to our cultural landscape. Join us in celebrating this inspiring tribute as we mark 55 years of Artscape, a space where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and communities come together.

Join us in celebrating this inspiring tribute as we mark 55 years of Artscape, a space where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and communities come together.

Cape Cultural Collective - Lunch Hour Concert "Concert With Women"



Date: 4 August 2026
Time: 12h30 - 13h30
Venue: Chandelier Foyer

Celebrate the power, creativity, and resilience of women through music at this special Lunch Hour Concert presented by the Cape Cultural Collective. *Concert With Women* showcases talented female performers in a vibrant programme that honours women's voices, stories, and artistic contributions. Audiences can look forward to an inspiring lunchtime experience filled with captivating performances that reflect the richness and diversity of South Africa's cultural landscape.

ABFAB DRAG

Date: 7 & 8 August 2026
Time: 20h00
Venue: Theatre

The annual hit, *ABFAB DRAG*, returns to Artscape with a bang on 7th and 8th August 2026. With fine feathers preened, false eyelashes fluttering and sequins glittering, the fiercely feminine/masculine are gathering to celebrate the world of "lip sync", with ambiguous seduction and gender identification. Cape Town has a scintillating DRAG tradition that dates to the thirties, especially in vibrant District Six.

It features top-class drag divas Vida Fantabisher, Manila von Teez, as well as Kat Gilardi, Jayde Kay Johnson, and Angel Lalamore of drag cabaret group 3D fame. As well as Mitchell Darling, who will also dazzle you with her live vocals. The show is all choreographed and put together with sublime dancers by choreographer Nkosinathi Sangweni.

MC Terence Bridgett is no stranger to the Artscape Stage and will narrate you through this magical show. Basil Appollis stitches it all together and cracks the designer whip as director. This year's show is dedicated to Soli Philander and Alfred Rietman.

We boast **"SOLD OUT"** houses in previous years, so book early.



Divalicious Dames

Date: 30 July - 1 August 2026
Time: 20h00
Venue: Arena



Join drag mime artists Ramsay Davids & Martin Neethling on a trip down memory lane, for a fun-filled evening of songs from yesteryear. They have been performing as a duo since the year 2000 and enjoy telling stories with their song compilation. As an act, they have been proud to perform during the Artscape Women's Festival where they feel the spirit of inclusivity.

Bottelnek Breek Bek

Date: 6 - 9 August 2026
Time: 6 & 7 August @ 19h00, 8 August @ 18h30, 9 August @ 15h00
Venue: Arena



Bottelnek Breek Bek, the ground-breaking novel by award-winning Dianne Du Toit Albertze, that makes its way from page to stage where it is premiered at Artscape. Join us for the official book launch, featuring live extracts performed by Dianne Du Toit Albertze and Riaan Visman.

Facilitated by author Rachelle Greef

Directed by Basil Appollis

Produced by Marlene le Roux/Artscape

Voices in Unison - A Celebration of Choral Music in Cape Town



Date: 8 August 2026
Time: 16h00 - 18h30
Venue: Opera House

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon celebrating the rich tradition of choral music in Cape Town. As part of the *Artscape Women's Humanity Festival*, Voices in Unison brings together some of the city's finest choirs for a celebration of harmony, diversity and musical excellence.

From university, community, chamber and church choirs to the unique traditions of the Cape Malay Choir movement, this concert showcases the power of choral music to unite people across cultures and generations.

Performing choirs include:

- Cantiamo Chamber Choir • Maranatha Male Choir
- Tygerberg City Choir (Tygerberg Stadschoor) • Cape Peninsula University of Technology Choir • Stellenbosch University Chamber Choir • The Cape Town Choristers
- Cape Malay Choir Board Choir • Treble Clef Female Choir

1000 Women

Date: 5 August 2026
Time: 11h00
Venue: Chandelier foyer



This Women's Month, join 1000 Women Trust for an empowering creative experience Through storytelling, artistic expression, and dialogue, we'll explore healing, wellbeing, and ways to address gender-based violence.

Step into a safe space for reflection, connection, and community support.

Kom Fietna Saam Mareldia

Date: 8 & 9 August 2026
Time: 12h00 - 13h00
Venue: Innovation Lounge



Kom Fietna Saam is a vibrant and heartfelt South African theatre production that celebrates community, resilience, humour, and the rich spirit of Afrikaans storytelling. Featuring Gaireyah Fredericks, Celeste Matthews Wannenburgh and award-winning actor/director, Lee-Ann van Rooi.

Healing together: Reconciling the Masculine and Feminine

Date: 13 & 14 August 2026
Time: 09h00 - 16h30
Venue: isiBaya and Innovation Lounge

Healing the *Divide*, a *Gender Equity and Reconciliation Workshop* presented by Genderworks, crafts safe space to speak about gender & sexuality while building community. A two-day immersion experience of experiential sharing and being deeply listened to, participants witness to coming home to self, gaining respect for others across difference, & shifting to healing in their lives. For more information contact ilbgaum@mweb.co.za.

Rachel Kolisi - Falling Forward Official Documentary Screening Experience

Date: Saturday 15 August 2026

Afternoon session 1

Exhibition & Stalls: Open at 12h00
Screening starts: 13h00

Evening session 2

Exhibition & Stalls: Open at 17h30
Screening starts: 18h30



Falling Forward is a personal documentary following Rachel Kolisi through the defining seasons of her life - identity, loss, healing, motherhood, courage, and rediscovery. This exclusive screening includes the full documentary, a women-led market, and an intimate fireside chat with Rachel. An experience for every woman who has ever fallen and chosen to rise again.

Meer as Warm Gloede Screening

Date: 22 August 2026
Time: 10h00
Venue: Innovation Lounge

Join us for a screening of Episode 1 of *Meer as Warm Gloede*, a four-part Afrikaans documentary series that breaks the silence and myths surrounding menopause. Following Antoinette Louw on her deeply personal journey.

The event will include a special appearance by lead anchor Antoinette Louw, as well as other contributors featured in the series. Guests will also have the opportunity to join a Q&A with the producer and director of the show.

Radio Tygerberg se Sis'ters Vrouekonferensie

Date: 9 August 2026
Time: 14h00 - 18h00
Venue: Opera House



Radio Tygerberg se Sis'ters Vrouekonferensie is terug op Vrouedag, Sondag 9 Augustus 2026 by die Kunstekaap Operahuis. Tema: "Vryheid". Gassprekers sluit in Gretha Wiid, wat jou sal laat lag, leer en inspireer, en Jenna-Leigh Bilong, spreker, skrywer en TV-nuusaanbieder. Paneelbespreking met Rouchelle Liedemann, Ingrid Venter, Liomee Vosloo en Benescke Janse van Rensburg. Lof, aanbidding en inspirasie wag!

Thandi Swaartbooi Celebration Concert

Date: 14 & 15 August 2026
Time: 14 August @ 19h00 & 15 August @ 15h30
Venue: Arena

This Celebration Concert marks 40 years of Thandi Swaartbooi's extraordinary contribution to South African arts, culture and community development.

Through live music, narration and performance, the concert will share the defining moments, challenges and achievements that have shaped her career. Witness her journey through music, accompanied by Women Unite, an all-female marimba band featuring guest artists.



Panel discussion: 70 years since the Women's March against injustices. Where are we now?

Date: 8 August 2026
Time: 14h00
Venue: Innovation Lounge

Well-known radio personality **Lester Kiewit** will facilitate **70 years since The Women's March against injustice - Where are we now?** To look at actions and accountability around the challenges facing marginalised communities. Panellists are specialists in the areas of Gender Based Violence and Femicide, Disability and LGBTQIA+.

Panelists: Member of GBV activist organization Women for Change, Prof Gertrude Fester-Wicomb (Former Artscape Board Member 1994 & Former Commissioner of the Gender Equality Commission); Adv Bonnie Currie-Gamwo (NPA and Thuthuzela Care Centre's); Pastor Craven Engel (CEO of The First Community Resource Centre Hanover Park); Notukela Makohliso (disability activist); Dianne du Toit Albertze (author & LGBTQIA+ activist); Mme Mildred Ramaka Lesia (93) (Political Veteran since 1953 - led the March against injustice and the compass in Cape Town 9 August 1956.)

On display will be *Women for Change's Unburied Casket* - a wood and beaded manifestation of their award-winning campaign bringing South Africa's GBV and femicide crisis to the global stage.