

SA Commuter

June 2023

Local is lekker

THE KINGS OF SPIN

Mad Mike drops in on the local spinning scene on his tour around South Africa

MOET & CHANDON

Len Maseko of the Weekly Mirror meets the man behind the legend



Mystery Ghosts
arrive in Heidelberg

Slackpacking
the Drakensberg



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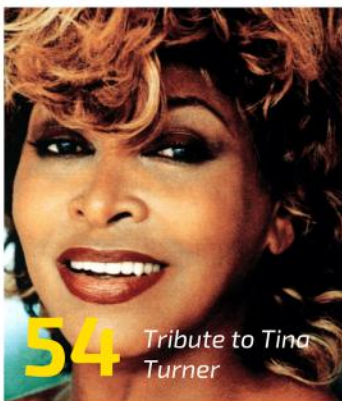
Geniene Preston, Publisher, radio personality, app and web developer, didn't get there by design. It was by accident she became an entrepreneur

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Editor's Note

SA COMMUTER LOCAL IS LEKKER

Its a great big thank you to Audrey McMillan and her team of merry men and women that South Africans world wide are able to have a little bit of home in whatever country they have settled. And its a privilage to be a part of that commitment. In SA Commuter Local is Lekker Magazine, we bring you stories of South Africans, what we do, where we go and how we get by in our daily lives. Each month we bring you snippets of home with braai recipes, video clips of things you might have missed and there is a competition or two for for those of you who love enteriting competitions. Don't forget to download the SA Commuter Radio app below for some great listening. Sponsored by SAPRO!

Geniene Preston
Editor-in-Chief



In this issue, you can enjoy our usual columnists, Gus Silber, Wayne Duvenhage, Len Maseko and his team from the Weekly Mirror as well as Louis the Lawyer. Chet Diepram brings us a review on All Dressed up with somewhere to go. We went along on Heidlebergs first Ghost Tour, followed the slackpacking trip up the Drakensberg and Red Bull (through Red Bulletin) gave us an inside view on Spinning (secret and illegal motor entertainment). Neil Solomon took SA to Cannes, Comic Con is making and appearance and the Group Golden Buzzer is a first !! Enjoy...



Contributors

04.



Inside | Gus Silber
gus_silber

Gus Silber is a journalist, author, editor and scriptwriter based in Johannesburg. His books include The Phelophepa Health Care Train, Ten lessons From the Future and Radical Innovation, co-authored with Wolfgang Grulke. "Healthcare and innovation happen to be two of my abiding interests as a journalist," he says. "Too often, we focus on the gloom and doom surrounding social services in our country. The iHL Review was an opportunity to shine a light on the good and the great." Memeburn considers Gus one of the 50+ prominent South African journalists on Twitter. Find out why: @gussilber.

Michael Sorenson

Part of the Mystery Ghost Tour team, and an ex Projectionist for Ster Kinekor, gives Michael and eye for great photography and supplies many of our photos



Weekly SA Mirror (Pty) Ltd is a start-up company that launched a weekly digital newspaper of the same name in May 2021, with the aim to be a significant player in the media communications and publishing landscape, not only in South Africa, but across the continent. 100% black-owned, Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Level 1 outfit, based in Johannesburg.



Louis the Lawyer has been in the legal field for many years and offers us advice on legal matters that not only assist us in the workplace but also in our personal lives.
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Andrea van Heerden



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Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse is a registered non-profit Civil Action Organisation, located in Johannesburg, South Africa. The anti-corruption advocacy organisation focuses on tackling government corruption and misappropriation of public funds



Hi. My name is Chet. And I'm a theatre addict. I believe in the power of entertainment, my dream is audience development in abundance. So, please, do enjoy my reviews over the next months.
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insta @chet_diepraam



Wayne Duvenhage

UNDER THE SCOPE

ROAD SAFETY

ROAD SAFETY IS A COLOSSAL SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN: WHAT'S THE PLAN, GOVERNMENT?

The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) says that it is becoming increasingly clear that the current state of road safety in South Africa is a catastrophe with grave implications for the social, economic, and health future of our country. The high number of road deaths and injuries is a national crisis that not only needs more awareness, but also immediate action.

"The Department of Transport is not living up to the promise of the National Road Safety Strategy 2016-2030. This promise is aimed at reducing road-related fatalities by 50% by 2030. Considering that road safety is an imperative, it is important to acknowledge that at the centre of it all are people. The carnage on our roads is caused by human, vehicle, and road factors," says Andrea van Heerden, OUTA's senior legal project manager. According to Van Heerden, the high number of road accidents and the associated consequences have a significant impact on South African society and continue to hamper socio-economic development. "The impact is not only measured in terms of human lives lost and the resultant grief, but it also costs the country more than R45 billion in the form of the Road Accident Fund compensation to those maimed in road accidents," she says.

Read More here :
<https://www.outa.co.za/blog/newsroom-1/post/road-safety-is-a-colossal-south-african-concern-whats-the-plan-government-1261>



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Help us oppose corruption

OUTA is standing up against government corruption and mismanagement.

Our work is made possible through donations by our paying supporters.

Join us in working towards a better South Africa by becoming a paying OUTA supporter.

In 2023, we're in court challenging the AARTO law, the Karpowership generation licences and SANRAL's secrecy over toll profits. We're also challenging electricity prices and defending South Africa's water resources. We want to see South Africa's tax revenue used for the benefit of all, not a greedy few.

Any amount welcome.



RUSSIAN SHIP

JUST TELL US WHAT WAS ON THE RUSSIAN SHIP

Government's lack of transparency on Russian ship cargo creates serious problems for South Africa

Our government's lack of transparency on allegations of armament supplies to Russia, a country that is in a war of aggression against Ukraine, has brought South Africa very close to a chain of events that will spark significant economic hardship for our nation.

The inexplicable lack of transparency and information about what was loaded onto the Russian ship Lady R which docked in Simonstown for a few days in December 2022 is extremely concerning not only to South Africa's largest trading partners, but also to millions of citizens who care about our position on the Russia-Ukraine war. The activities currently unfolding, including the recent landing of a Russian military aircraft at the Waterkloof air force base, send a clear signal that the ruling party is somehow dependent on Russian favours and is prepared to compromise the state.

"These issues are already having a negative impact on the current exchange rates, with the potential for significant negative economic repercussions for South Africa. What we find unacceptable is government's response to introduce an independent inquiry into whether armaments and ammunition were loaded into the Russian ship or not," says Wayne Duvenhage, OUTA CEO. "As citizens, we have the right to know what our government supplies to foreign countries. There is no need for an inquiry at this stage, instead we want absolute transparency to South African citizens and the world on this matter.

"This is not rocket science and the authorities just need to tell us if anyone in government authorised the loading and supply of whatever it was onto the Lady R and, if so, whether the inventory included armaments and/or ammunition."

The South African government owes its citizens nothing less than the truth on this matter, so that we can get on with easing the tensions rising between us and our biggest trading partners and save our country from any further embarrassment and possible negative trade impacts that will be devastating to the country.

More information A soundclip with comment by OUTA CEO Wayne Duvenhage is here.



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Kings of Spin

THE DAREDEVIL SPORT OF SPINNING HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE GANGSTER CULTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS. BUT NOW IT'S SHAKING OFF THE STIGMA OF THE PAST AND GIVING RISE TO A WHOLE NEW FORM OF SELF-EXPRESSION

KOPAS, TROUBLES, RIZZO AND MUZI ARE MEMBERS OF A SPINNING CREW NAMED BAD COMPANY, WHO SHOW THEIR SKILLS AT EVENTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. TONIGHT, THEY'RE BURNING RUBBER AT WHEELZ N SMOKE, A BESPOKE SPINNING ARENA IN THE SOUTH OF JOHANNESBURG.

THE CREW, WHO – QUITE RIGHTLY – CONSIDER THEMSELVES ATHLETES, ARE FIGHTING A STIGMA AGAINST THEIR SPORT THAT HAS ENDURED FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. “IN THE '80S AND '90S, THUGS WOULD STEAL THESE CARS AND TAKE THEM INTO THE TOWNSHIPS,” EXPLAINS SKOPAS. “FROM '83 ONWARDS, THAT'S WHEN THE BOXSHAPED BMW CAME OUT. THEY WOULD SPIN, SPIN, SPIN. AND IF SOMEONE DIED, THEY WOULD LINE THESE CARS UP AND BURN THEM ALL. AS TIME WENT ON, PEOPLE WOULD SAY, 'HEY, MAN, WE LIKE THIS THING, THIS SPINNING.' IT WAS PRIMARILY OUT OF SOWETO, ESPECIALLY IN THE EARLY DAYS. IT WAS A TREND.” IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA, PRE- 1993 3-SERIES BMWs BECAME KNOWN AS GUSHESSES, AND THOSE WHO DROVE AND SPUN THEM WERE CELEBRITY HEROES. GUSHESSES BECAME NOTORIOUS OVER THE DECADES, HAVING BEEN USED AS THE GETAWAY CAR OF CHOICE IN MANY A HEIST AND ROBBERY. OFTEN, BEFORE THESE ILLEGALLY USED VEHICLES GOT DESTROYED, THEY WOULD FIRST BE SPUN TO WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR LIVES ON THE DUSTY STREETS, WITH PEOPLE STREAMING OUT OF THEIR HOMES TO CHEER ON THE COMMOTION.





Westside Crew get up close and personal with fans at Wheelz N Smoke

Another one bites the dust: more than a hundred tyres were left shredded at the end of a night's spinning delight at Wheelz N Smoke



ANYWHERE ANYTIME | MARCH 2018

SQUEALING RUBBER, LOCKED IN A VIOLENT BATTLE WITH TARMAc, SENDS THICK PLUMES OF POTENT THROAT BURNING SMOKE INTO THE COOL HIGHVELD AIR.



A "suicide slide" involves hanging out of a rapidly spinning car, your head dangling centimetres from the tarmac

“Even today, if you go to the township and start spinning, within minutes there will be hundreds, even thousands of people coming out to see what’s happening,” says Skopas.

The cult of the gusheshe has infiltrated all aspects of South African popular culture and featured in movies, TV shows and music videos; rappers AKA, Cassper Nyovest and Sheen Skaiz have all had hit tunes referencing the sport. Today, this cultural phenomenon is so much more than a gangster’s pastime, and venues like Wheelz N Smoke are fighting for spinning to be recognised, sponsored and regulated.

Its owner is Monde Hashe, a land surveyor by profession, and a spinner himself. He’s not here at Wheelz N Smoke tonight; instead, marketing man Nduzo Ngwenya is keeping an eye on things. “This is just the beginning,” he explains. “We want to develop the sport, bring in sponsors, have bigger events. We don’t always get the exposure we deserve, especially from the local media. The foreign guys come here and are amazed – they’re out there, telling our stories.” Wheelz N Smoke is one of around a dozen spinning arenas in Gauteng, South Africa’s most densely populated province.



Speaking to those involved with the sport, one gets the impression that currently there’s more jostling for domination than any kind of co-operation. “It’s true,” says Ngwenya. “But it’s so small, still a fringe sport. That’s just the way it often is with these kinds of things in the beginning.”

While it’s now recognised by Motorsport South Africa, spinning is still battling for a proper, unified identity. “But

I don’t see us all coming together and having a governing body,” muses Skopas. “There’s just too much politics,” Rizzo adds.

As the sun sets over the Highveld, the crowd rock up in their thousands; some arrived hours earlier to ensure they got

a good viewing spot. The excitement is palpable: there hasn’t been any spinning for a few weeks, due to flash floods. The smell of dagga fills the air. A kid of around three years old plays with his draadkar (wire car) on the arena tarmac, his dad egging him on. A guy is doing a dance as the crowd eagerly clap along to the beat of the music. The DJ drops a fat bassline as another BMW, bearing the name “Sparky” and filled with its own bunch of tricksters, starts tearing it up – literally – on the tarmac.

The pile of totally shredded tyres grows ever bigger – over a hundred, easily.

Wheelz N Smoke provides the spinners with free fuel and second-hand tyres that they can drive to absolute ruin – and they do. Tyres get completely burnt out, and no car leaves the tarmac without its back wheels spinning on their rims. And the whole thing is lapped up by the crowd, which comprises a huge cross-section of South African society. Black, white, coloured and Indian, young and old, male and female: they're all here, getting into a frenzy; all unmistakably petrolheads.

There are close to 15 cars on display tonight; some only make the occasional appearance on the tarmac, while others perform numerous runs. Informal pit crews are scattered around the open car park, peering under hoods and hoping their magic touch will bring the engine back to life for another dizzying run.

Earlier in the day, at his suburban home in Edenvale in the east of Johannesburg, Skopas changes his shirt, revealing some nasty scarring on his back. "This is what spinning does," he says. "I landed under the car five years ago." He started spinning with a Golf in 2007 and then began "properly", as he puts it, with BMWs in 2010. His is a tale of finding your identity in this madcap sport. "I learned how to spin on street corners, being chased by cops," Skopas explains. "Getting arrested by cops.

Skopas explains. "Getting arrested by cops. I learned to spin in a place called Vosloorus [a large township in the south-east of Johannesburg]," he explains. He moved to Joburg from the small coastal city of East London in the Eastern Cape to live with his father. He didn't know anyone up in the big city and didn't have any friends. Unusually for a white kid, he started hanging out at the minibus taxi ranks and making friends there.

"Because of that, I grew up in Soweto. I was driving taxis as a teenager. I speak Zulu, I speak Sotho, I speak everything. I grew up in the townships and made it my decision to learn the language." More than 20 years after the end of apartheid and South Africa's subsequent transition into a multiracial democracy, it's still relatively unusual for whites to speak the indigenous African languages: English is the lingua franca; the language in which virtually all business is conducted.

Skopas' heroes were people like the late Sibusiso "Terminator" Mthimunya – known as the "King of Spin" – who he cites as his role model, and fellow spinning pioneer Eric Maswaya.

 **THE RED
BULLETIN**



"IT'S MY HOBBY AND MY SPORT, AND THERE AREN'T A LOT OF FEMALES INVOLVED. I WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING THAT'S UNIQUE, AND SPINNING IS UNIQUE."

These guys, along with others like them, are household names in these communities, where the sport has long reached cult status. Skopas vividly remembers the first time he saw them spin on street corners in the townships.

Terminator passed away in 2012. "He taught me everything I know; he's the reason that I got a grip on spinning," says Skopas. "He died in an accident on the way back from a spinning event in Nelspruit. We were coming back when he had a blowout, went onto the grass and got flung 100m from the car.

"He's a legend, the greatest spinner ever," continues Skopas, pointing to the poster of his fallen friend that hangs on his wall. "To this day, his is the biggest funeral I've ever seen. Townships were shut down, and there was 15 kays of traffic heading into Kwa-Temba, which is where he was from."

Behind the bar at Wheelz N Smoke later that day, I spot a guy whose shirt pays homage to another spinner who has passed away. It seems that this sport has had its share of fallen heroes. "I've been to Swaziland for at least a hundred shows so far," Skopas reveals. "I've been to Botswana, Namibia, Dundee, Madadeni, Vryheid, Durban, Kimberley, Kuruman, Bloemfontein..."

The ultimate goal for Skopas and his fellow spinners is to be able to do these kinds of exhibitions all over the world.

But, to do that, the sport will first have to decide exactly what it is. There's no scoring system and no race against the clock: this is freestyle drifting, plain and simple, although it actually pre-dates drifting. It's about doing the wildest tricks at the highest possible speed.

There are distinct types of drivers, too. On one side, there are the guys who get out there purely to spin and drift the car; those who are trying to get as tight to the safety barricades as is humanely possible with their out-of-control tails. These guys aren't satisfied unless the spectators, who are sitting with their legs dangling over those barricades, have to rapidly lift them out of the way in order for the back end of the Beemer to sear past without them losing a limb. On the other side are those who are more into doing their tricks outside the confines of the car. These are the drivers, co-pilots and tricksters who, like Bad Company, leap out of and onto the car while it's spinning. In Skopas' opinion, these are the entertainers.





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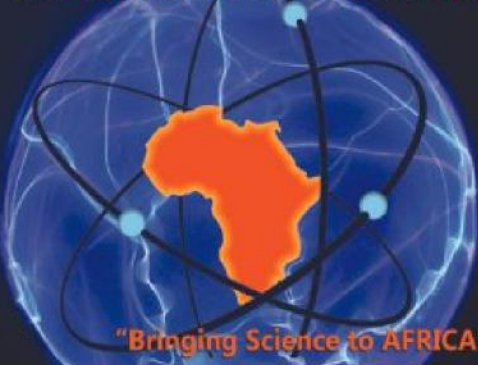
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GROUP GOLDEN BUZZERS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS



MUSA MOTH

When you hear about Musa Motha and his mix of talents and skills, it is hard to describe him in just a few words. And when you see him performing, it can take your breath away. Musa is a full-time professional dancer, choreographer, and motivational speaker. He is also a cancer survivor. As a performer with one leg, he wants to inspire other people who live with disability and break down social stereotypes. Today, he tells us his story, rich with personal interests, a clear vision and a rapidly growing successful career.



Mzansi Youth Choir is a performance choir that represents the best of Sowetan Excellence.

The Mzansi Youth Choir was established with the aim of affording talented, underprivileged teenagers and young adults the opportunity to proficiently perform locally and abroad.

The word Mzansi means “south” in isiZulu and is also the township slang word for South Africa. The choir’s repertoire is an exciting assortment of South African music which incorporates elements of traditional music, pop and jazz.

The cultural heartbeat of South Africa is presented in three pillars:

Our Roots (traditional music),
Our Spirit (gospel and anthems),
Our Youth (current pop music).



Can You Tell Us A Bit More About Musa Motha?

I am South African and in 2006, when I was 11 years old, I was diagnosed with bone cancer, as a result of which my left leg had to be amputated. Before this tragic event, I was into soccer and dreamed of one day becoming a professional player. After my illness, I had to accept that I would not be able to pursue this dream. However, I believed that when one door closes, there is certainly always a window left open.

Once I had finished the necessary treatment and recovery programme, I decided to start focusing on dance. This was back in 2010 and I have been dancing ever since. I began with hip-hop and Pantsula, a form of street dance which originated in the South African townships.

In 2018, I started a professional dancing career with Vuyani Dance Theatre in Newtown, Johannesburg. This is where I have learned a whole lot more about dance, including ballet, classic, modern and contemporary dance, Afro fusion, tapdancing and other dance genres. Currently, I am freelancing and have been working with a number of international artists.

"I am an introvert by nature and I struggle to open up to other people, dancing actually helps me to show my feelings."



What Type Of Dance Do You Find Most Enjoyable?

I believe in versatility of dance, so I am not focused on one style. I would like to know every dance genre possible in order to be able to express my feelings through dancing. Because I am an introvert by nature and I struggle to open up to other people, dancing actually helps me to show my feelings. In a way, I use dance as a therapy and way of expression. One of the principles I live by is seeing people happy, so making my audience happy is one of the best goals I have set for myself. I guess, this is one of the things that influenced my dance career – making other people happy.

Read more here
<https://bookofrolemodels.com/musa-motha/>



The Story of Mzansi Choir

2003

Choir was established.

2010

During the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the choir shared the stage with Columbian superstar Shakira and local band Freshly Ground for the performance of the official World Cup song 'WakaWaka' at the Kick-Off Concert as well as the World Cup Final.

2011

International highlights include tours of Canada 2011 and 2018, Denmark, Egypt, England, Scotland, Turkey and Russia (Moscow and St Petersburg).

2017

In April 2017 the choir performed at the International Youth Choir Festival at the Royal Albert Hall and in the Royal Festival Hall in London. The Mzansi Youth Choir was the only choir from the African continent to be selected to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and the only choir to receive a standing ovation.

2018

During 2018 the choir opened the concert with the Nigerian superstar D'Banj and closed the Global Citizen Concert with a stunning performance with world megastar Beyoncé in a packed FNB Stadium. This performance was broadcast to 180 countries across six continents.

2020

The choir wins the first ever virtual World Choir Games with a heart-warming rendition of "A Million Dreams" – a video compilation of all choristers singing in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominated for Hollywood in Music Awards "Independent Music Video Category" with Wouter Kellerman for The Climb.

2021

Release videos with Nigerian Afropop singer, Yemi Allade (Rain), multi-award-winning South African musician, Samthing Soweto (Danko) as well as PJ Powers (Bayete Mzansi).

2022

Performs "Umuzi Wethu" (song in the closing credits for the award-winning documentary titled 'Land of the Free'), wins the 20th Annual Garden State Film Festival Movie Music Competition in New Jersey, USA. Release video with Grammy Award-winning South African flautist, Wouter Kellerman

ABOUT US

How Susie Kramer left Europe and came to Africa in 1939

My sister, Caroline asked me to send you the story of how our mother ended up in Africa. Hope you find the story interesting! - William de Villiers

My mother, Susan was born in Serbia in January 1925. At this distance in time, we no longer know why her mother chose to give birth there, but I suspect it may have had something to do with the manufacture of sugar. The Serbs were apparently known for their skill in making sugar, and my grandfather, Oszkar, was the successful, energetic, and innovative general manager of a sugar factory in Romania.

Susan spent much of her childhood in Bodfalu [Bod], near Braşov in Transylvania, the site of her father's factory, which - when I saw it some years ago - appeared to be on a bleak plain, smelling strongly of cattle, and otherwise entirely devoted to the cultivation and processing of sugar beet.

By 1937 Oskar had had enough. He retired, taking his family to live in Bratislava, in what is now Slovakia. By 1939, however, it had become clear that they were neither wanted nor welcome in a part of the world so close to Vienna, by now merely an extension of the German Reich.

On 14 March 1939, the Slovak Diet issued a unilateral declaration of independence, Slovakia became the Slovak Republic, and Jozef Tiso became Prime Minister. (He was executed for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Bratislava in 1947).

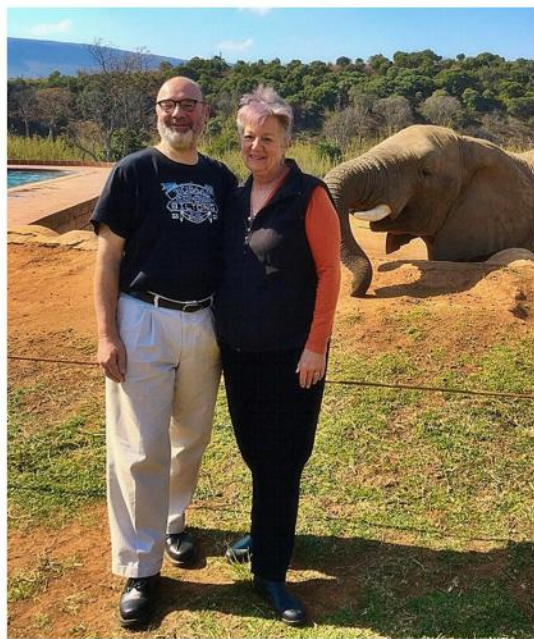
My grandfather, rising fifty years old, concluded sensibly it was time to emigrate, but in a sudden rush of blood to the head, decided that he would go farming in Africa.



He went ahead, to London. My grandmother, Freda, and two of her three daughters, were left to pack and follow. They chose to travel by train, from Bratislava, across Austria, through Germany, to Holland. But their flight almost failed at the start. There was an enormous crush of people at the railway station, hoping to get onto the train, and away from the looming horrors of populist nationalism. At the critical moment my 14-year-old mother fainted, and the crowd parted, allowing my determined grandmother to shepherd her brood and baggage into a compartment, and to find seats.

My mother had two abiding memories of the long, frightening journey.

Freda was a stately woman, and Susan was impressed by her courage and dignity when faced with petty officials throwing up their arms in the Party salute and barking, 'Heil Hitler' at her. She would smile gently and reply to them all with old-world courtesies, 'Grüß Gott.'



Where are Caroline and William now?

William was born in Kenya and educated at schools there, and in South Africa. He attended the University of Stellenbosch, graduating in law in 1980. He retired at the end of January 2011. Since then, he has kept himself busy with his twin passions genealogical and historical research. He and his partner, Billy Downer, live in Cape Town with two spoiled cats and way too many books. In their spare time they are keen walkers.

Caroline bought a property in Magaliesberg which now has 9 cottages and is growing in popularity. Stone Hill is a pet friendly venue and with Caroline's love for all animals has 14 dogs, 5 cats and a multitude of chickens!



STONE HILL
BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION

Then came disaster. At the Dutch border, the gateway to a better life, the border guards discovered that Freda and her daughters did not have visas to enter the Netherlands. They were arrested and imprisoned! My mother remembered being let out periodically for exercise.

Meanwhile, Oszkar in London moved heaven and earth, and after some time visas were forthcoming, and Freda, Vera and Susan, were released and allowed to sail to England.

Then came one of the great ironies of my mother's life. Oszkar had plumped for Kenya. Describing himself confidently as a 'farmer,' he booked passage for his family from Southampton to Mombasa, via Lisbon.

The ship he chose was the s.s. Usambara. The shipping line was the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie!

Their luggage safely stowed in their tourist class cabins, Oszkar, Freda, Vera and Susan departed Southampton on 25 May 1939. They might as well have been on a rocket ship heading for Mars. None of them spoke English. They had never set foot in Africa. Oszkar had spent his life behind an office desk. But at least they were leaving a dying Europe and heading for a far colony under the bulldog protection of the Union Jack.

Among the thirteen passengers on board was one other 'Refujew' family, also heading for Mombasa - in first class berths: Dr Georg Priebatch (a veterinary surgeon), his Aryan wife, Helene, and their little boy, Erich, aged 5.

Mrs Priebatch, with what would nowadays be referred to as rock-like privilege, wore an enormous steel Magen David around her neck, making sure that the whole world knew where she stood. The families made friends, and it is a matter of regret that they lost touch during the war.

Arrived at Nairobi in June 1939, my grandparents decided that Susan, being the youngest, and having an obvious gift for languages should be their interpreter. By then she spoke German (which had hitherto been the language used between members of the family), Hungarian (which had been used to speak to the servants, but now became the family's home language), Romanian, Czech, and French, which was the language of the nuns whose school she had last attended.

She spent hours travelling around the countryside with her father, looking at farms for sale, and doing the best she could as a mediator between seller and prospective purchaser. She hated every minute of it. Not least when, on one famous occasion, they ran out of petrol somewhere in what would soon become the National Park, and she had to leg it to look for help.

Oszkar was treated with suspicion when war broke out. The colonial authorities, with rigid impartiality, interned him, a Czechoslovak Jew, in a camp otherwise inhabited by fearsome German Nazis (no doubt I exaggerate. A little). But it was not for long, and the family finally settled on a farm at Limuru, where Oszkar cultivated pyrethrum.

Though Susan quickly became fluent in English, her parents were never comfortable in the language. My grandfather once proudly took some folks around the garden to admire his 'combinations' (ladies' undergarments), when what they saw was a brave show of carnations. When he was out on the farm during the morning, he would send messages to my grandmother to ask the time, so my Freda taught the kitchen toto [lad] how to tell the time in Hungarian, and would send him back with the answer in a language Oszkar could properly understand.

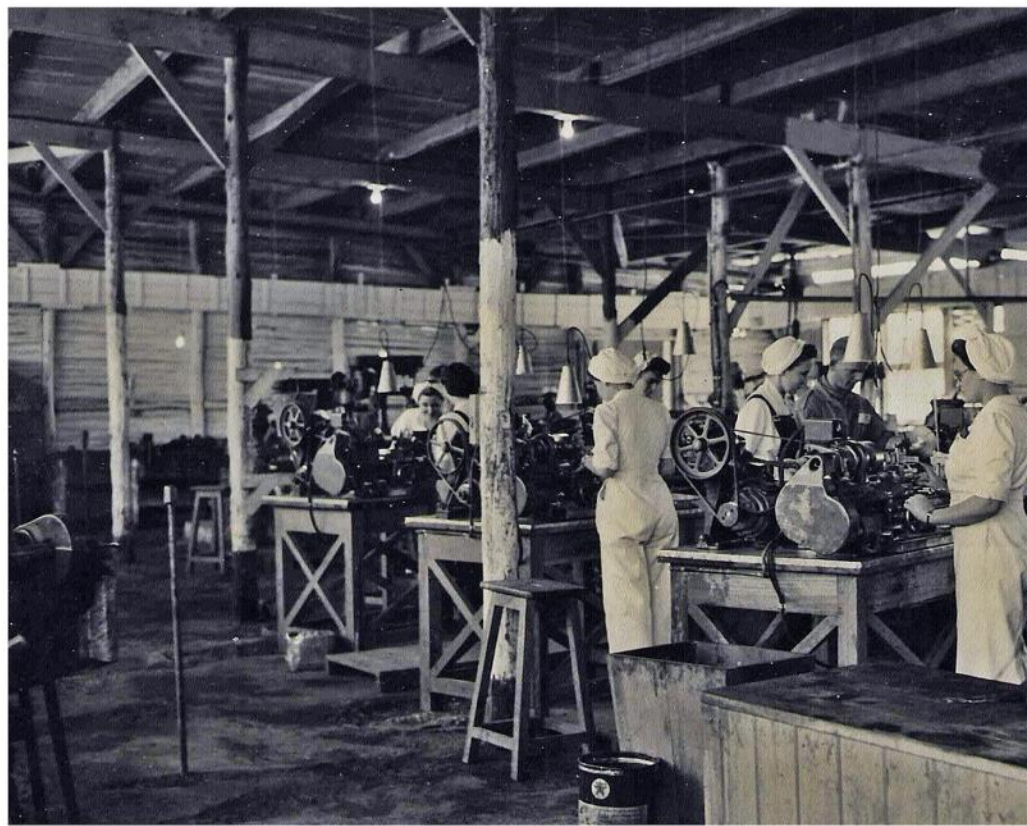
Freda's unmarried sister, Ella, got away a bit later than the rest of the family. She travelled via Italy. On the way she sent them a message to say she was bringing the family treasure. Great excitement! When she arrived, however, and her trunks were thrown open, what did they contain but my grandmother's linen. Though everyone was a little crest fallen, I'm happy to report that I still have, and use, a tablecloth made for Freda when she married in 1917, with her initials FK at each corner.

Susan hated the drudgery, dirt, and boredom on the farm, and she actively disliked her father, who was a short, clever, irascible man, with very decided views (all traits which have come out in his Kenya-born grandson).

The brightest spark in her teenage years was when the Japies - South Africans - began flooding into Kenya in 1940. They were strong, cheerful, tanned, and wore teeny-weeny shorts - unlike their Pommy allies, who were weedy, pale, and whose shorts stretched interminably to under the knee.

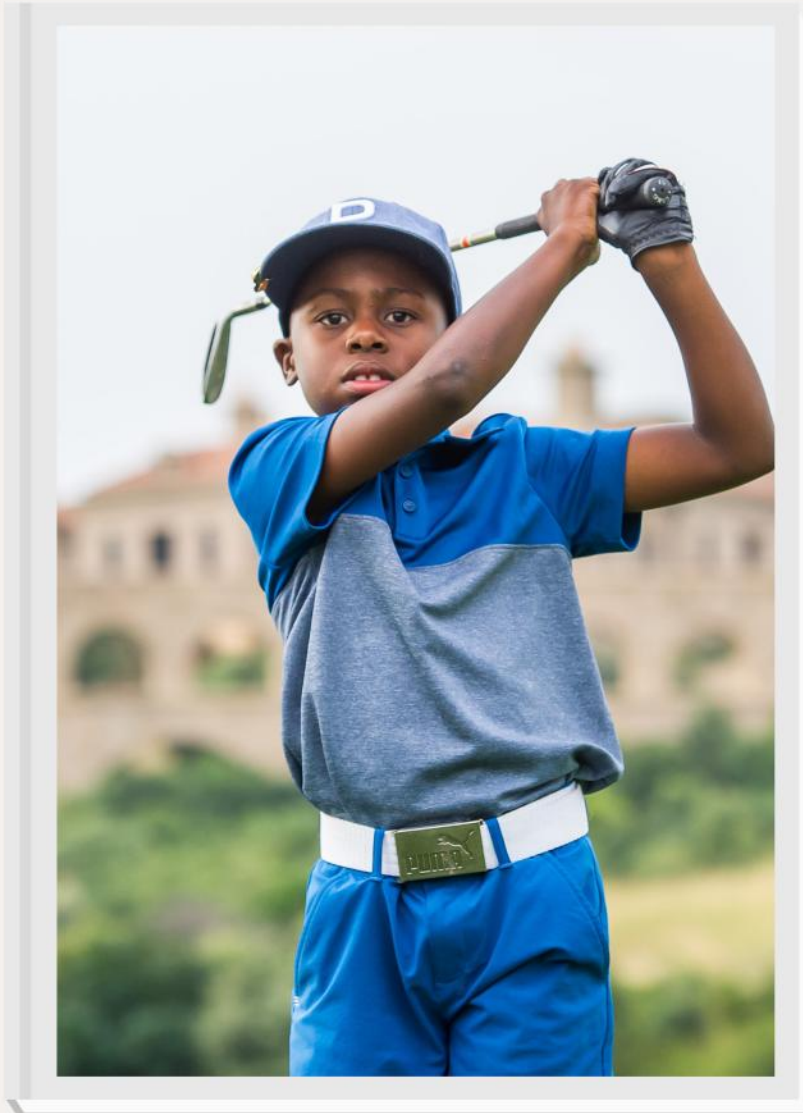
It was with considerable relief, therefore, that she won permission to 'join up,' provided only that her maiden aunt should join up, too, to be her chaperone and guiding influence away from home. And so it was that, in 1944, she and Ella became civilian employees of 401 Base Workshops, East African Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

She was free. At last.



Meet South Africa's own young Tiger Woods

Steyn City makes history as it becomes home to South Africa's junior world golf champion, SimTiger, Africa's own young Tiger Woods



Catch the Carte Blanche Audio Podcast here below if you are reading it online....





SA's young Tiger Woods, playing it like a pro



ROUGHLY five years since its launch, the Steyn City's Jack Nicklaus designed golf course – ranked in the top 100 courses in SA – has already made tremendous strides in the local golf circles. Not only has it won the hearts of well known players from two of South Africa's most loved national teams, Bafana Bafana and the Springboks.

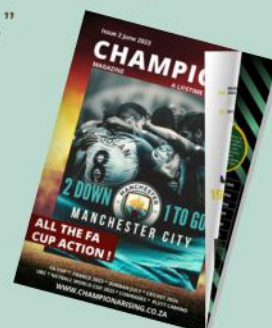
The golfing world has been paying special attention to one Simthandile Tshabalala, aka Sim Tiger, all because at seven years old, he isn't sorely the youngest member of the Steyn City golf club. He's conjointly one among the foremost gifted, as affirmed by several major international trophies he has accumulated in the nine months he has taken up golf professionally.

Just over a week ago, Simthandile left South Africa to participate in the Australian Open Golf Championships, in which he came fourth, solidifying his world ranking of number 14 in the boys under-seven category. It's no wonder that overseas golf experts have been fast to draw close parallels between the grade two pupil and world golf icon, Tiger Woods, landing him the nickname 'Sim Tiger'.

Commenting on his overall performance in Sydney, the 'young Tiger Woods' had this to say: "It was very, very tough, but I feel proud for what I was able to achieve and finish fourth inspite of my circumstances. Our flights from South Africa to Sydney took more than 30 hours altogether. I was tired and because we arrived there later than expected, I didn't get a chance to do practice rounds, which other kids I was playing against luckily managed to do."

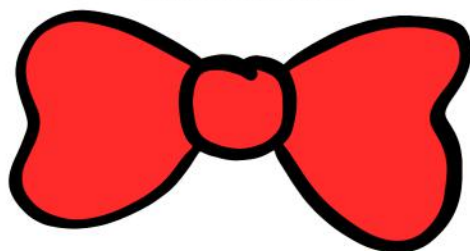
Likewise, his father, Bonginkosi Keith Tshabalala couldn't be more proud of his son's resulting performance, given his earlier struggles to get a Visa issued on time. "Each time he would sit down or get inside the car (upon arrival in Sydney), he's just sleep because of fatigue. But as soon as he got onto the field, he insisted on playing, and that's something I'm most proud of as a father – his tenacity."

**For more sporting action
check out the Champions Mag here**





**SEUSSICAL JR
GET READY FOR
LAUGHTER AND RHYME
WITH
SEUSSICAL THE
MUSICAL JR**



**"OH THE THINGS YOU CAN THINK! THINK AND
WONDER AND THINK!"**

**"TODAY YOU ARE YOU, THAT IS TRUER THAN TRUE.
THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE WHO IS YOUNGER THAN YOU." -
DR SEUSS**

**"YOU'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES. TODAY IS YOUR
DAY! YOUR MOUNTAIN IS WAITING... SO GET ON
YOUR WAY!"**

"WHY FIT IN WHEN YOU'RE BORN TO STAND OUT!"

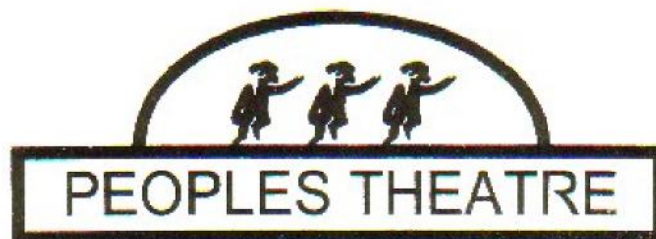
**Show times for schools are Tuesday to Friday at
9am and 11am.**

**Show times for Public are 10h30 and 14h30
Weekends and school holidays**

Ticket Prices:

**R165 per person for members of the public
R130 if you are a member of the Peoples Theatre
Kids Club**

**R140 for public accompanying members
For School group rates, please contact the
theatre directly**



**TUESDAY, 13 JUNE -
SUNDAY, 30 JULY 2023**

Jill Girard and Keith Smith are delighted to present Peoples Theatre's 2nd production of this year, as always bringing children, parents and all those with a love of joy and laughter, together for a rollicking theatre experience with the fabulous Broadway show *Seussical the Musical Jr.*

Previews begin on Tuesday, 13th June with the official opening on Youth Day, Friday 16th June at Peoples Theatre. *Seussical the Musical Jr.* runs through the winter school holidays, with the final performance on Sunday, 30th July 2023.

Based on the much-loved Dr Seuss books, *Seussical Jr* draws its characters from a number of books. It is filled with non-stop music, laughter and feel-good fun.

Dr Seuss has been a children's favourite author for over 60 years and is loved for his use of language, rhyme and humor. The Cat in the Hat, Horton Hears a Who, Green Eggs and Ham and many more have been the stepping stones to reading for many children and introduced them to a wonderful range of characters and positive concepts.

These are just a few of the wonderful quotes from Dr Seuss, illustrating the importance of reading and gaining knowledge to equip the younger generations with the skills to fulfill their dreams and aspirations in life.

The show's directors Jill and Keith say; "The Peoples Theatre strives to educate younger minds in order to create a stronger generation through the medium of theatre. All while having loads of fun in the process, and enjoying the magic that comes alive on the theatre stage."

Designer Grant Knottenbelt will be bringing Dr Seuss's unmistakable, quirky pages to stage with his set design. Costumes done by Merry Whillier, Sean McGrath and additional costumes by Luciano Zuppa. Ian Mills is the Choreographer and Coenraad Rall is Musical Director.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

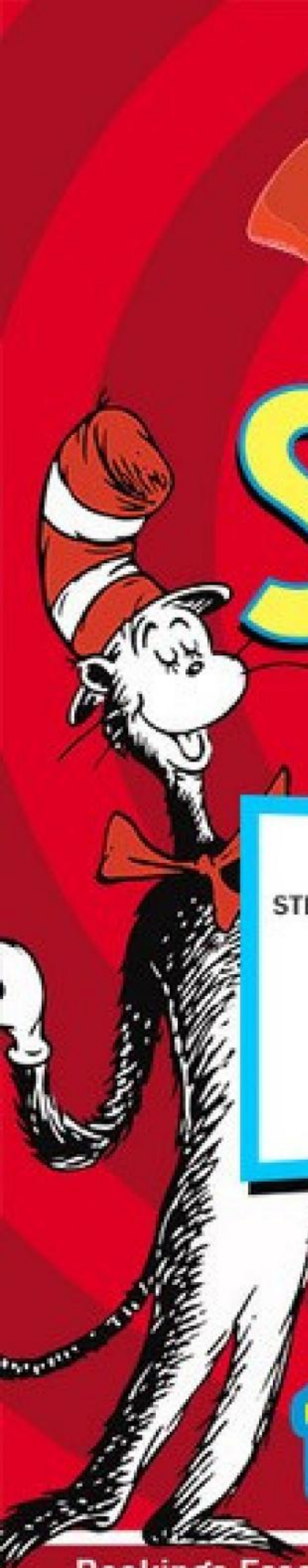
Call 011 877 6841 or email

info@peoplestheatre.co.za for bookings or enquiries.

**You can also book online at
www.joburgtheatre.com**



PEOPLES PRODUCTIONS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH DALRO (PTY) LTD
production of

The Cat in the Hat is on the left side of the poster, wearing his signature red and white striped hat and bow tie. He is pointing his right hand towards the title. A large, stylized red and white striped top hat is floating above the title. On the right side, there is a partial illustration of a purple, spiky creature.

Seussical JR.

Music by
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Book by
**LYNN AHRENS &
STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by Bryan Louiselle

Directors - Jill Girard and Keith Smith
Musical Director - Coenraad Rall
Musical Staging - Ian Mills
Set design - Grant Knottenbelt

13 June - 30 July

Bookings Essential: 011 877 6841 or info@peoplestheatre.co.za

**JOBURG
THEATRE**





THE RELEASE OF THE latest vintage of a prestige French bubbly is always a highly anticipated affair – especially if the brand is none other than Moët & Chandon, the biggest-selling champagne in the world. This is a widely heralded moment because vintage bubbly is never guaranteed for release in strict sequence year after year, hence its advent is ordinarily trumpeted as a rare occasion. Notably, for any vintage champagne to be declared vintage it depends on Mother Nature to contrive the best possible weather elements so the harvest can yield the best-quality grapes. Inevitably, the release of the Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage 2009 has been awaited with much eagerness – more so by the posse of bubbly lovers endowed with deep pockets.

True, the best things in life tend to cost a little more, pretty much the same as a vintage wine or vintage car, – all because of their rarity and pedigree. The Champagne region produces about 300-million bottles of the sparkling wine each year. Noteworthy, though, is that not all French bubbly is champagne as any genre produced outside the Champagne region may not legally be termed as such. Hence, wines of the same genre produced elsewhere in France are labelled Cremant or Cap Classique or MCC, as in the case of South Africa.

So, when the invitation arrived for me to meet internationally renowned Moët & Chandon chef de cave Benoît Gouez for an exclusive interview and tasting, my heart raced with excitement.

WORDS: LEN MASEKO



GRAND toast

A rare and Exclusive Interview with one of France's foremost wine figures, Benoît Gouez, Moët & Chandon's winemaker and Cellar Master. He reveals the characteristic Joie De Vivre and passion of a high skilled craftsman behind the success of the biggest selling Champagne in the World

A chef de cave translates to chief Cellar Master in everyday parlance. Yet, this is no ordinary vocation for a man saddled with the responsibility of such magnitude, making the biggest-selling champagne in the world and producing more than 26-million bottles of it annually. With this billion dollar task on his hands, Gouez is arguably one of the most influential figures around the world today, and surely enjoys an open line to the French President – by virtue of the grand champagne house's contribution to that country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Moët & Chandon's chef de cave since 2005, Gouez believes his path to becoming a champagne maker for the world's most loved bubbly was purely a consequence of "series of chance encounters and fortunate circumstances." As he is wont to point out: "I wasn't brought up in the world of vintners." Thus, the circumstances surrounding his appointment bore the hallmarks of the breaking of the mould as he was literally parachuted into a closed industry which places much store in knowledge being handed down through a lineage consisting of a small trusted circle in order to preserve tradition for future generations.

Were it not for Gouez's unparalleled mastery of his art, his career would possibly not have been catapulted this far with him becoming as celebrated a figure as he is today. Thanks to the distinguishing qualities which apparently captivated Moët & Chandon's gatekeepers, who were impressed with his peculiar sense of style, integrity and intuition.

My meeting after lunch with the man behind the famous brand was in a way low key. The venue – the ritzy Four Seasons Hotel ensconced in the hill-top of the leafy Joburg suburb of Forest Town – offered a sedate backdrop with its spectacular views of the city.

As we lock our eyes for the first time, Gouez reaches out for a handshake, flashing a welcoming warm smile. He stands tall just as I am; sports big, round spectacles and a dark suit matched with a light blue shirt, adding a corporate touch to his medium frame. I feel a bit under-dressed in the presence of such French sartorial elegance – jacketless and clad in a colourful beach shirt and black jeans. But dress decorum – or lack of it – hardly comes in the way of the business at hand. His demeanour is rather laid back and alluringly cool for a man with august credentials behind his name.

It turns out Gouez arrived in South Africa the previous night, just to present the new vintage, and it is his second trip in as many years. He is evidently tired from the long-haul flight from France to South Africa, but contrastingly upbeat for the private tasting.

We promptly take our seats at the table. Two coupe glasses and the august bottle of Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage 2009 – wrapped in sassy black packaging – await the business of the day on the table.



There is no flute, the ubiquitous tall slim-rimmed glass, in sight. Notably, the flute has been declared an anachronism in France and elsewhere, because it has been found to hide the true flavours and nuances of prestige bubbly. Champagne cognoscenti have decreed that the coupe glass (not the flute) is now the proper apparel to enjoy the full splendour of bubbly. Gouez pours the champagne into our glasses, and, as he does, the room is instantly filled with fragrance of the fizzy drink. Before we nose, he waxes lyrical about the exacting standards observed by the champagne house from vineyard to cellar.

For the 2009 vintage, Gouez has opted for the blend Pinot Noir (50%), 36% Chardonnay, 14% Pinot Meunier – a departure from the norm of several past vintages when Chardonnay generally dominated the nectar.

Gouez pauses to nose the bubbly. There is a pregnant silence as he contemplates his impressions of the aromas to which he has obviously become accustomed, but needs to make sure that all is in order. Then he takes his first swig...

"The first impression is that of an obvious and reassuring maturity. Gentle and comforting; initial nuances of harvest notes and notes of callisson and vanilla gradually expand into darker, toastier notes of grilled sesame seeds, roasted almonds and mocha," says Gouez, which sounds rather a mouthful for the few seconds his sip took.

Tasting further, he senses hints of fleshy fruits that create a deeply warm, serene sensation reminiscent "of an orchard of peaches and apricots" in the middle of summer. "Overall, the palate is simultaneously accomplished, generous and airy," he says, taking a longer sip this time.

For my part, I am utterly seduced by the sweet, opulent aromas reminiscent of freshly squeezed grape bursting with nature's goodness. The first sip reveals a quiet, mouth-filling explosion of delicious, fleshy fruitiness, hints of apricot and citrus notes – all followed by an utterly luscious and long-lasting finish.

A second full swig unravels – in slow motion – a symphony of flavours in the mouth while sensuously tickling the taste buds with its fine mouse. The bubbly's unfettered fruit expression exudes the distinct ornate style for which Moët & Chandon has come to be known. It is definitely unlike some of the heavy-toned old styles that tend to punctuate offerings from other houses. Entranced, we both gush at the rich endowments bestowed by nature on the 2009 vintage and especially, Gouez's unmistakable suave and highly skilled hand which nurtured this nectar to its full splendour.. It would have been nice to do a vertical tasting with the 2006, though, just to compare apples with apples. Gouez believes this vintage will turn out to be one of the best – after the 2002 – which, he says, has been declared Moët & Chandon's greatest in the 20th century. What drew him to the world of champagne?

"Champagne is all about sharing— it's a rich, passion-filled world. I love to share," Gouez says, his fingers tapping the coupe glass. "I love dinners with friends, good conversation, exchanging ideas and different points of view." What was his assessment of the South African market, when it comes to French bubbly? I ask.

"South Africa is a country with a great potential, especially when it comes to premium and prestige champagne," Gouez adds, pointing out that the maison would be focusing their efforts on marketing their top-end offerings in 2018. "We believe time has come for South Africans to go beyond the classical vintages and become aware of the premium and prestige champagne."

As we part amicably, Gouez drops something of a bombshell. Disappointingly, there will not be a bottling of the 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 vintages of Moët & Chandon in the future, he confides. Why, because these years did not yield a crop worthy enough for him to classify them as upcoming vintages. Bad news! Happily, there is good news to hang on to, though. And that is, Moët & Chandon's Grand Vintage 2009 is truly something of a tour de force.

More so, it will tide the prestige bubbly romantics over the coming barren years when there will be no new Moët & Chandon vintage to herald... and with which to toast.



**WE BELIEVE
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PRESTIGE
CHAMPAGNE**

WORDS: LEN MASEKO



WEEKLY SA
MIRROR
Insight to connect the dots...

COMIC CON AFRICA GEARS UP TO BRING JOBURG THE ULTIMATE POP CULTURE AND GAMING FESTIVAL!



25.

COMIC CON AFRICA



Johannesburg, May 2024, Dust off your superhero outfits, because Comic Con Africa, South Africa's ultimate pop culture and gaming festival, is set to return to the Johannesburg Expo Centre (Nasrec), 22 to 25 September 2023. The event is set to captivate fans once again, bringing together enthusiasts from across the country and beyond for a celebration of all things geeky, from comics and gaming to movies and television.

This is the first time that South Africa will experience two Comic Cons in one year. Following the smashing success of Comic Con Cape Town, which exceeded every expectation held by the organisers, next up, fans are now gearing up and excited to see what Comic Con Africa will bring.

The regular fan favourites are set to return – which include the Artist Alley, the main stage, an unparalleled shopping experience, international celebrities, esports, daily casual cosplay competitions, and more. With Comic Con Africa being an evolving show, this year's iteration will continue to expand the experience with more activities for all, free to play gaming competitions, and more open spaces for fans to connect. with the first international guest set to be announced at the end of May – Comic Con Africa will feature a star-studded roster of celebrity guests, including renowned actors, beloved comic book artists, talented cosplayers, and industry insiders.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with their favourite stars through Q&A sessions, autograph signings, and exclusive meet-and-greet photograph opportunities. The convention floor will be a bustling hub of activity, with exhibitors offering a wide range of merchandise, collectibles, and memorabilia. From rare comic books and graphic novels to gaming accessories and apparel, fans can expect to find an abundance of treasures to add to their collections.

"We are thrilled to bring Comic Con Africa 2023 to life after the incredible response we received for the inaugural Comic Con Cape Town," said Carla Massmann, Show Director of Comic Con Africa. "The overwhelming enthusiasm and passion from the fans in Cape Town were a testament to the incredible passion South African's have for pop culture and gaming. We are committed to creating a world class experience for attendees, and we can't wait bring all the communities back together again."

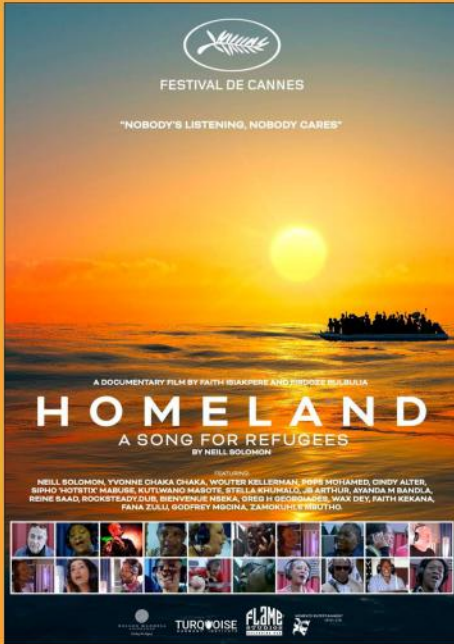
Following fan feedback, the organisers have promised a more fluid experience for fans that eliminates overcrowding by reassessing venue capacity and capping tickets sold per day. Moreover, with Comic Con Africa weekend also falling over a public holiday – fans can expect a more even distribution of attendees over all days. "We take our fan feedback very seriously and have the visitor experience top of mind for Comic Con Africa 2023." Massmann added.

Tickets to Comic Con Africa are now available but are limited. Be sure not to miss out on South Africa's premier pop culture and gaming festival by securing your ticket on Howler here: https://bit.ly/CCA2023_tickets





26.



Neill and Taryn Solomon



Homeland, a song for Refugees

Cannes Film Festival -2023

There is great pleasure in announcing that the documentary film based on the song was accepted at the 76th Cannes Film Festival which was screened at the 4th edition of Pavillon Afriques on the 22nd of May 2023.

Special thanks are due to everyone who was involved in the ethos of the project and for their selfless contributions in carrying the message and holding the torch high toward social cohesion and unity, worldwide.

Humbled and honoured to see the "Homeland Project" has come to life on such a prestigious stage. The song Neill Solomon composed, Homeland, A Song for Refugees inspired a ground-breaking film documentary screened at the 76th Cannes film festival shining a light on refugee crisis. The film premiered at the 4th Edition of the Pavillon Afriques, captivating a large audience and sparking a meaningful Q&A session.

Thanks must go to Ayhan Cetin, from the Turquoise Harmony Institute, who has been a pillar of unwavering support throughout this journey. His enduring dedication to the project has been invaluable and his commitment to fostering understanding and empathy is commendable.

Additionally, the talents of Faith Isiakpere and Firdoze Bulbulia, whose exceptional contributions shaped the film's essence, further elevating it to new heights.

The film's success is rooted in collaboration, as it was three years ago that the song, Homeland, A Song for Refugees set out on its journey. This milestone would not have been possible without the participation and dedication of the talented musicians who agreed to be part of this extraordinary project.

The film documentary, inspired by the profound message behind Homeland, A Song for Refugees, delves into the personal narratives of displaced individuals who have experienced the hardships and resilience of seeking refuge. It masterfully weaves together stunning visuals, heartfelt interviews, and musical composition to create an immersive and thought-provoking cinematic experience.

The overwhelming success at Cannes further cements the film's journey, which has already included screenings in the USA, Cameroon and Toronto, among other notable discussions and is a testament to its artistic merit and significant contribution to the cinematic landscape.

Congratulations team on this incredible achievement.



27.

KOM BRAAI MET ONS...

Submit your braai recipe
and video link here to be
featured in our next
issue of SA Commuter
Magazine and on our
Youtube Channel on
www.sacommuter.com

How to Grill Lamb Ribs | Full rack of Lamb Ribs easy way Xman & Co

Join us where we share one of our favorite and
easy way on how to grill lamb ribs at home.

Spices:

Rock Salt to taste
Ground Pepper
1.5 Tbsp Homemade rub to taste Cayenne Pepper
1 tsp
Paprika 1 tsp
Mint 1 tsp
Cumin powder 1 tsp
Homemade rub 3 Tbsp
Bbq spice 1 Tbsp
Chilli flakes 1 Tbsp
Mixed herbs 1 Tsp
Ground pepper 1 Tsp
Paprika smoked



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This is so easy - you can do this at home like a
legend.





Win a
Drakensberg
spa getaway

Win a Drakensberg spa getaway worth
11800
#drakensbergspacompetition #win #antbearlodg

ANTBEAR LODGE

**Enter
to Win**

Antbear Eco Lodge together with Mayeti Mobile Spa is giving away a romantic 2 night getaway package for 2 persons in a mountain view suite or luxury cave that includes breakfast lunch and dinner, a free bottle of bubbly and a couples spa massage package. Included is a private dining experience on the deck of your cave/suite by candlelight under the stars



www.gosouthafrica.co.za/spa



SLACK PACKING THROUGH THE DRAKENSBERG

Slack Packing is the South African version of the Camino Santiago walk famous in Spain for its soul searching journey.....



29.

The Giants Castle Slack packing trail is a luxury hike offering comfortable and varied accommodation for each night including luggage transfers, guide, conservation fees and delectable catering. Trails consist of small intimate groups of max 6 persons. This is a three-day hike through the Lowlands Conservancy and the Zulu Waters Private Game Reserve. The hike is gentle in distance making this hike perfect for beginners and families. The lodges offer three course dinners from locally grown ingredients with hearty breakfasts and picnic lunches are supplied. The first lodge is Antbear Lodge and what makes this lodge special is that it also offers a luxury cave for accommodation. Its an upmarket eco experience and is a hugely sustainable tourism product. We have an organic vegetable garden, own cows for milk and chickens for eggs. We bake our own bread and even make our own cheese.

In simpler terms, Slack-Packing is an assisted way of hiking where you have a host who carries the burden of your equipment, takes care of your possessions and set up your overnight camps for you.

2nd night is at Leopards Lair Lodge which offers an authentic agri-tourism experience in a lovely family atmosphere where you can meet their whole farmyard menagerie. The 3rd night is at the luxury 5-star private safari Lodge in the Zulu Waters Game Reserve. Zulu Waters takes sustainability seriously and that includes a thoughtful food experience.

Their ambition is to reconnect people with food and the wonderful plant-based food experiences that your private chef creates for you. Delicious, healthy meals that are truly sustainable, free of factory-farmed animal products, plant-based and good for you - and the planet!



walking the drakensberg restores your soul

Antbear Lodge is situated in the Drakensberg region of KwaZulu Natal near to Giants Castle. What makes our lodge particularly special is that we offer accommodation in a luxury cave. This is an accommodation unit built under a rock. Glass doors open onto a wooden deck with hammock chairs and a spectacular view of the Drakensberg Mountains. This is a luxury eco experience. The cave is cozy and comfortable with features like a Jacuzzi spa bath and a fireplace and even has rock art on its walls.

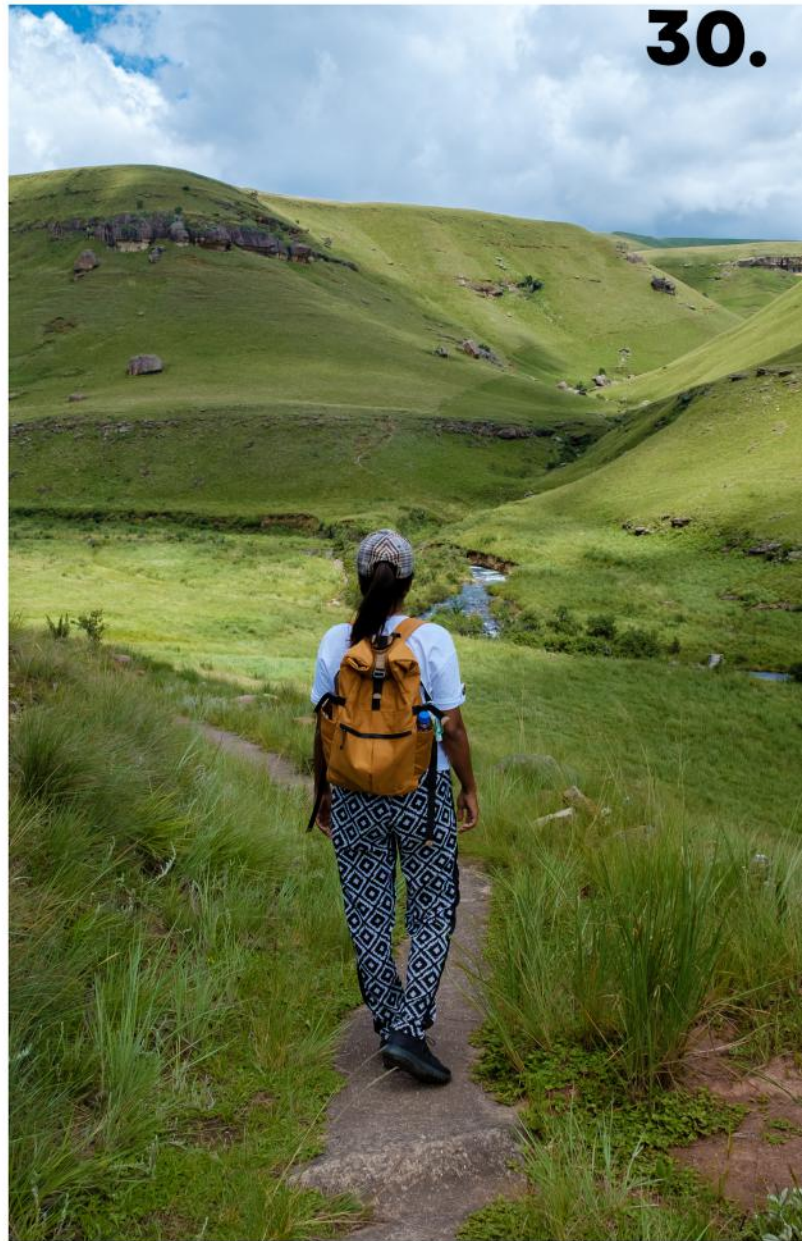
We also offer a private dining experience where we setup a table on the deck of your cave and you dine by candlelight under the stars.

Antbear Lodge is one of those smaller owner run establishments with 15 accommodation units as either Mountain View suites or Garden view suites.

Sustainability and responsible tourism are a huge part of the ethos of our lodge and we subscribe as much as possible to the farm to plate concept. We cook all our meals from scratch and have our own organic vegetable garden. We have our own chickens for eggs, cows for milk and bake our own bread and we even make our own cheese.

Antbear Lodge also offers horse trails ideally suited to beginners. Hot air balloon flights that launch from the lawn in front of the lodge and our newest attraction is our star gazing hammock camp where we tell the Zulu stories of the stars.

Contact Andrew Attwood -
Andrew@antbear.co.za
<https://www.antbear.com>
Whatsapp : +27 73 612 6964



The area offers a lot with spectacular hiking trails with dramatic views and waterfalls. And then there is the spectacular bushman rock art where you can see some of the best examples in the world.

30.



EXPLORE *Bonamanzi*



WHY NOT HOLIDAY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN CLUSTERED COMBO UNITS!!

A TOUCH OF THE WILD HOLIDAY AUCTION - CLOSING 15 JULY 2023

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FROM THE DESK OF A SOUTH AFRICAN ENTREPRENEUR (OVER 60)



BY GENIENE PRESTON

Being an entrepreneur of any age, means we have to keep up with the times or either fall by the wayside, or hire staff that have the knowledge you lack. That also isn't always the answer, because it means they can essentially, tell you what's not always true or your understanding isn't correct.

This month I want to share with you the technology of mobile vs desktop and mobile technology. If you like, taking the tech out of mobile and making it a less frightening place to be.

The question always arises, why would you download a mobile app from the internet rather than from the Playstore or the App Store and here I try and answer that question. Both from the perspective of the user and the perspective of the developer.

I have been developing on Wordpress for a number of years now and always wanted to have the opportunity of creating an App for Mobiles. It was a dream come true when I was offered the opportunity of creating a mobile app for my Radio and TV station, SA Commuter Radio and TV, to be on the PlayStore.

I didn't realise at the time, how much "control" of the design, images and links it would move into the hands of a developer who would charge me a fortune to make the smallest change even though they stretched the original image or didn't link it properly. Costs began to skyrocket and I decided to remove my radio and TV from the app store.

It also became very expensive to renew the listing each year with the Apple (IOS) platform wanting \$105 to list and in our currency that is not always affordable.

While watching one of my favourite programs for entrepreneurs, Dragons Den UK, I saw a pitch about a web app that would allow users such as myself, to create mobile apps and link it to a domain, without any coding experience.

That caught my eye. And the journey on PWA which is basically a web app, was born. I was hooked. Since finding Beezer and whitelabelling my apps to suit my domain, I have been able to publish many apps which work on laptops, desktops, tablets and mobile phones.

Reprinted from Blue Monkey Magazine
www.bluemonkeymag.co.za



Sending notifications has been a breeze and their chat line, I am sure, sends smoke signals when they see me on line but to their credit they have been patient and kind and to the point of creating videos for me if I am unable to accomplish tasks that require an understanding of coding.

Web apps are now currently being used by millions around the world and new software becomes available daily. The simplicity of Beezer in conjunction with Zoom VOIP has allowed my company to blossom with an employee of 1.

I can run a call centre from my home office by using those products as well as being able to assist fellow entrepreneurs with their business by offering them a solution that otherwise might be out of their reach. They can have a phone, a Beezer website (and no knowledge of Wordpress is required) which can run video, images, text and with all their options available, a full product range can be uploaded onto the market place at a reasonable price.

The younger sector of the market has been sceptical of Web Apps because they have become used to downloading from the Play or App store and its easily found. Web apps take a fair amount of marketing as you have to send the link out to databases via email or whatsapp. But again with UltraMessage allowing you to have a whatsapp robot answering your messages on your phone, you only need a second handset and sim card that can take care of that.

Beezer also has a backend where you can upload multiple emails and numbers that you can use to notify your clients that you have a web app and they should upload it! Together with a pop up or a notification, the recipients can simply be notified of the new app and now mobile technology is within their reach.

Being able to update the app is simple and when the recipient has the app icon on their mobile and they click on it, it updates automatically to adjust to the newly published changes. The Iframe allows programs to run within the framework of the app giving it a beautiful finish and the best background videos working in mobile and desktop.

I use CreativePro Labs for video editing and enjoy Canva for photos, templates in both landscape and portrait. I now have over 30 apps running on Beezer and with just a few simple clicks, I copy an app that is going to be similar to one I am creating and within an hour, I am up and running and ready to send out an app. I can assist my clients with a basic model of phone and app for as little as R750 a month!

The subscriber model allows your users to subscribe and with different models of subscription each one gets an alternative message. There might be one that is a supplier and another that is a client. They can receive different notifications and are able to see only certain menu items depending on what you have allowed each model to see.

The Zoom VOIP allows me to manage local phone numbers with unlimited calls to mobile and landlines together with voice mail and a host of other features.



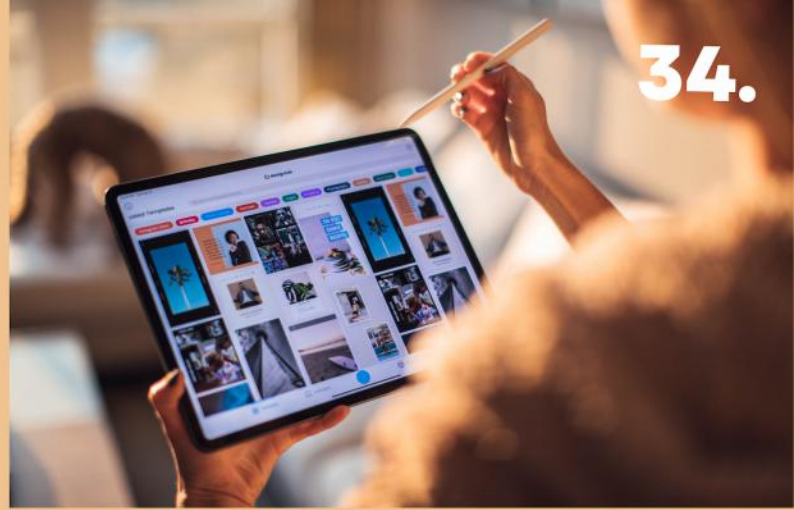
You would need to have a large company to manage this if it were not for entrepreneurs like me that research every single option.

I purchase life time licences wherever possible and this has allowed me to have software like Creative Studio, Talkia, Doodly and much more and be able to have a business that encourages other entrepreneurs to work from home and be flexible.

Registering to be a domain reseller, also allowed me to assist entrepreneurs with emails, storage, domains (although I must admit I am a domain registration junkie!) at a low price and they are then able to afford an app, a domain, a phone and run their business for only R750,00 per month.

Once a year I offer out Canva Pro as it has 5 emails and with that I am able to offer it at a cost of R250 for the year to share it with me. I have no shortage of takers and often register a second licence to assist those for whom R1999 is just out of reach.

So before you walk away from the drastic changes technology brings us on a daily basis, talk to the big companies online on their chat line. I am sure my name is now well known worldwide for asking so many questions, I end up talking to more than one call agent as they put me through to different departments. But as I am spending the money, and its hard earned, let me tell you, I want to know everything about that product and what it can do before I buy it. And it has to have a reasonable trial offer without a credit card option of approximately a week with full options available. Not just some, all the options must be available for me to make an informed decision.



Don't be bullied into a year's contract. A month to month is all that is required and I am not afraid to ask if my anniversary pay day can be last day of the month and it be a manual payment not an automatic deduction. I often pay earlier to create good faith if my clients have paid earlier. That means if I have a month where everyone will pay late, then the challenge is to pay the suppliers with whom I have a great relationship.

International suppliers are now assisting entrepreneurs wherever they can and helping them with packages or cheaper options until they can afford more. For example I have a lifetime licence for Talkia which lets me type in text, add royalty free music and create voicemail for Zoom that is acceptable in South Africa. My team all use it for their voice mail as well and we have an online radio and TV station which also benefits from Talkia ads. My sales team from around the country who all work from home, are able to make extra money by offering their clients radio ads that can be used on our radio station and with products such as Canva, they can also create TV ads for our TV station on behalf of our clients.

The water cooler just got bigger!

By Geniene Preston

CEO Xactavent Pty Ltd

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SA's Mystery GHOST Tours HEIDELBERG



Heidelberg - 10 June 2023

The 23 year long-running, ever-popular & media-acclaimed "Mystery Ghost Tours of South Africa", which have become such a household name that they've featured on TV soap opera's like "7de Laan", and internationally won the top tourism awards – will now also run in Heidelberg, Gauteng.

Owner of the tours, Mark Rose-Christie, opened the tours in Heidelberg on 10 June, 2023, as the final city in which the tours will run. Celebrity speakers, paranormal groups, and a free sumptuous banquet of delectable eats sponsored by Alpha 24-7, treated us all! I was fortunate to introduce Mark and give those who didn't know him, the opportunity to know his background.

Stone circles built by the Bakwena tribe long ago which were used for cattle as well as for spiritual rituals like England's "Stonehenge" was, see the occasional phantom appearing on the hillsides where the circles are – watching and protecting the town below. A town not only famous as the capital of the old Transvaal Republic and the Second Anglo-Boer War, but because of the many famous personages such as Gandhi, Churchill, Kruger, the poet A G Visser and many more, who either lived in the town or passed through it.



Even the famous Sarie Marais has her roots in the town, as does that other Marias – the famous Eugene Marais – who stayed in the town at times and had a deep belief in the supernatural and tried to prove that it existed in a scientific manner. Before them came the Voortrekkers, and then the clash between the Boers and the Brits who passed through the town's haunted railway station during the Second Anglo-Boer War.



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Mark Rose Christie



Some of the highlights of the tour were the well-known haunted Old Jail, A G Visser's house, the Klipkerk (Stone Church), the Höer Volkskool (local High School), "The Spook Bridge", the very haunted old Railway Station (which also serves as a pub stop), the art-deco styled Town Hall and its link to the Freemasons, and much more.

With its exotic Victorian architecture, varied history, and even gold plus rumours of tunnels beneath its surface, Heidelberg won't disappoint - whether you join the Opening Night tour for the history, the science of the paranormal along with bewildering live demonstrations of same such as Rose-Christie bending your own spare or old keys using PK-mind power, or just for pure entertainment.

With ghost stories galore, the tour ended up in the town's famous Kloof cemetery, where several of the most famous people in our country's history are buried there.

For Opening Night there was the 'option' to dress up as a Boer, Brit, Victorian Lord/Lady, Voortrekker or a Sangoma, for those couples who dressed up stood the chance to win three handsome prizes, the first prize being a weekend get-away in one of the oldest houses in the town at the luxury Cornerstone House guest house.

Second prize was a crate of specialised Heidelberg Heritage Beer from the Heidelberg Heritage Museum. Third prize were two books written by Anglo-Boer War expert author, Rob Milne. The winners were well deserving. What a great night it was too with over 40 cars and 120 plus people attending this momentous event (which almost didn't happen because the town's religious lead-ers believed Mark would be calling up ghosts, ghouls and zombie's).



WWW.MYSTERYGHOSTPRODUCTIONS.CO.ZA



Referred to by the media as "A Man of Many Firsts", Mark has appeared in every Major Newspaper, clocked up over 200 Radio Hours, and appeared in over 100 TV programmes in SA and Overseas. Not just because of the ghost tours, but far more... let me tell you.

After obtaining 2 degrees in Psychology & Sociology, and also becoming SA's only degreed Para-Psychologist - which means a Paranormalist if you don't know the term well - he became a Film & TV Producer, producing for SA Television by the age of 22 already.

At a young age of 24, he Produced, Directed and Played the Lead Role of "Judas" in the South African Premiere of "Jesus Christ Superstar" - a massive first for SA.

Even when David Copperfield was not advancing the Art of Magic & Illusion, and which led to the TV series "Magic Secrets Revealed", Mark then gave the art a long-awaited Facelift with totally new illusions - which was a first for the Entire World.

This led Mark to performing for none other than Pres. George Bush Senior in the USA.

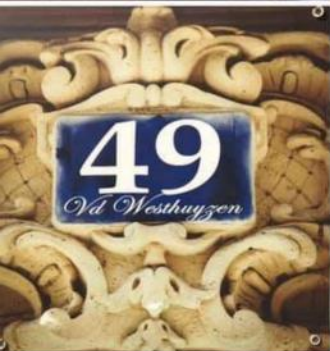
Then, Mark's name appeared in the famous London Magic Circle's "Who's Who of Magic in the World".

And then Mark's signed Photograph was hung in The Hall Of Fame at the International Home of Magicians... The Magic Castle... in Hollywood.

After a near-fatal motorcar accident in 1999, which damaged Mark's spine, he was forced to retire from the Entertainment World, and he began The Mystery Ghost Tours of South Africa, which have run for 23 years in 10 cities in SA - another first for SA.

Before his car accident Mark had launched one of the biggest ever Illusion Spectaculars for the world, called "Magic Of The Future", where in his final act, he Sang & Played at a Grand Piano - where both him and the grand piano began to float in mid-air... and vanished in a split second.

From a Spiritual point of view, Mark has even helped Priests, Dominees, Sangomas and Shamans, all of whom study various forms of Theology. This is because Mark has also studied Theology... but also a lot more ... For instance: Philosophy, Metaphysics, Archaeology, Mythology, the Science of Quantum Physics and more ... where today he is often called A Walking Encyclopaedia.



38.



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We have developed unique, dynamic and pro-active security solutions to meet our client's specific needs. We also implement these skills and solutions when providing assistance to other entities such as the South African Police Services (SAPS) during special operations, as well as other law enforcement agencies when required. One of our core functions is to minimise threats and security risks. Our risk management division conducts research, provides threat analysis and advises individuals and corporates on security risks which they may face. Our professional and committed team enforces compliance in respect of the client's specific risk and threat analysis plan. Our vehicle recovery teams work hand in hand with vehicle tracking companies as well as the South African Police Service and other Law Enforcement agencies to recover stolen and/or hijacked vehicles and to bring the perpetrators to justice.



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From the desk of Gus Silber



I am de-lighted to inform you that we haven't had power in our neighbourhood since three this morning. That was when the power tripped after the midnight to 2am shift of loadshedding, and it was still too exhausted to come back on in time for the next shift at 6am.



Operators were dispatched to locate the fault, as the City Power Twitter account likes to say. But by the time they had located the fault at the substation, the next loadshedding shift had already started, so they were regrettably not able to fix it. A real kvetch-22. Since I work from home, I was powerless to do anything about this, as the protracted outage had defeated both of my UPS units, which can last for up to eight hours on a good day. This meant that I couldn't use my home WiFi, and nor was I able to get a workable signal on either of my MiFi routers, or my iPhone. I had a big presentation to prepare, so my only option, aside from emigration, was to find a hot desk at a co-working space. I phoned around. The place down the road wanted R485, and the place up the road was asking R275.

Then I remembered reading about a new co-working space attached to a coffeeshop in Linden, one of my favourite Joburg neighbourhoods. They wanted R100 for a hot desk for the day. That sounded like a fair deal, so I zoomed there, swerving around potholes and gulleys like a driver in the Dakar rally. The coffeeshop with the working hub is called Rise and Grind, and it's next door to a "Plastic-Free, Planet Friendly Grocery Store" called The Refillery. There were a few people hot-desking in the working hub, presumably in the same boat — the Titanic — as me. I settled down in a cosy chair, plugged in my MacBook and my iPhone — power! — and began co-working, with a really nice Flat White for company.

I spent about four hours there, finished my presentation, and got up to pay. To my surprise, the bill for the hot desk and the coffee came to R85.

A mere R50 for the hot desk, since I had only been there for half the day. Pro-rata pricing is a rarity these days, as is a good Flat White.

The service is friendly and the space is neat, well-lit, comfortable, and highly conducive to getting work done. I mention all of this in case you too are a Johannesburg-based freelancer who is rendered powerless for the day by the powers-that-don't-be.

Rise and Grind is at 65 7th Street, Linden, 010 598-6699. I wish you power and a lower stage of loadshedding for us all. Good night!

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Shining Star

DAPHNE KUHN

OSCAR WILDE SAID
'I REGARD THE
THEATRE AS THE
GREATEST OF ALL
ART FORMS, THE
MOST IMMEDIATE
WAY IN WHICH
A HUMAN BEING
CAN SHARE WITH
ANOTHER THE
SENSE OF WHAT
IT IS TO BE A
HUMAN BEING.

ONE OF THE SHINING lights on the Johannesburg theatre scene is Daphne Kuhn, a fiercely independent theatre producer and owner of the 200-seater Auto & General Theatre on the Square at Nelson Mandela Square, in Sandton. This vibrant, engagingly articulate and energetic personality is the recipient of a number of awards, including the Naledi Executive Director's Award for her contribution to theatre. She has a deep, abiding passion for the arts.

She has been in a competitive business for more than three decades and, over the years, her intimate little theatre, which is a stone's throw away from the famous Mandela statue, has provided Gauteng theatre-goers with an exciting and diverse range of productions with more than 2000 shows staged since its inception in 1997.

What drives her is her "all-encompassing involvement in various aspects of theatre."

WORDS: PETER FELDMAN



In her early years Kuhn wanted to become an actress, never realising that one day she would be in a lofty position in which her decisions would help shape the theatrical landscape.

"I started off studying drama at Pretoria University "a hundred years ago," she laughs, "and attained my various degrees. I was essentially hoping to become an actress, but I hadn't thought further than that. I always had the leading part in theatrical productions at school in Shakespeare and Children's Theatre in Pretoria. We had a wonderful set of lecturers like Anna Neethling Pohl. We had a wonderful academic background and training. I performed in both English and Afrikaans. I also later taught drama and lectured at university."

Kuhn did not remain in theatre. Soon after getting married in the '70s, she was fortunate enough to get a position with SABC TV in the drama department and served as an assistant to British TV producer and trainer Mike Leeston-Smith from its inception. She also worked for the Civic Theatre (now the Joburg Theatre) and the Market Theatre, and feels she was never totally fulfilled until an opportunity arose to open a little theatre in Rosebank in 1994.

And that's how her thriving and creative career as an independent producer began 24 years ago.

After her success in Rosebank she cast her eyes towards Sandton, which she considered at the time to be "the hub and the centre of a fast developing area."



It was the right move at the right time. Kuhn raised funds, found a sponsor and in 1997 her new Theatre on the Square opened. During our interview, she raised the spectre of finance and the strain of keeping the theatre operating in a tough economic environment. It's a tribute to her that she never quits and continues to bring innovative productions to her little space in Sandton. It has hosted a variety of plays (from Tuesdays to Sundays) but also classical music concerts at lunch-time on Fridays, comedy on Sundays, and jazz, including the recent annual jazz and blues weekend.

Talking about the productions staged at her theatre she said 2017 had been a good year and there were many highlights. What is important is that she takes her audiences into account when selecting a play. "There is a responsibility to educate an audience, entertain an audience and give them something that they like.

THEATRE ON ■ THE SQUARE

But, at the same time, I believe there is a strong need to present new ideas, new voices and new things that that will broaden an audience's mind." She takes a chance with each production, adding that it's obviously easier to stage an established overseas play than a newly written local one, sighting as an example the runaway success of "From Koe'siestes to Kneidlach."

Written by Chantal Stanfield, a Coloured actress from the Cape Flats who fell in love and married a Jewish singer named RJ Benjamin, the play cleverly turns Stanfield's own life experiences into a delightfully funny one- woman show.

Says Kuhn: "Essentially, I love doing drama; plays of pure, legitimate theatre. I find it easier to work on plays that target a select interest group. I try to encourage South African writers to give me scripts and I read tons of them all the time. Some are good, some aren't so good. I'm influenced by contemporary subjects that hold up a mirror to our society, and I'm trying to create a voice, like the Market Theatre, while creating a balance between the commercial and the more serious, intellectual plays."

For her joy comes from watching an audience being challenged and provoked and entertained at the same time.

Another form of enjoyment is working with a diversity of theatrical souls who are determined to stage the best production possible. "The people I work with have passion and it inspires me. Oscar Wilde said 'I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.'"

As a producer, Kuhn believes that an important facet is to help encourage young people to attend the theatre.

"To see young people, through the medium of theatre, develop a love for this art form is wonderfully uplifting," she mentions. Her husband, Philip, a professional man, who is credited with taking many of the production photographs, enjoys music, theatre and the arts, and he encouraged his wife to approach theatre in a more business-like manner. She says: "My background was totally academic and we weren't trained to deal with the business side of things. The marketing of a play is sometimes more important to draw an audience, than the production itself."

Theatre has given her immense pleasure over the years and she is determined to "pay" back to the industry and to help keep arts and culture alive at a time when it's in a parlous state. "We are hoping that companies with a vision will help sponsor more theatre in South Africa and so help the industry survive."

A devoted wife, mother and grandmother of four, Daphne Kuhn considers herself a homemaker who, when away from the office, loves to read travel, and to listen to music. "I'm quite normal, you know," adds this impressive impresario.

Written and performed by **COSTA CARASTAVRAKIS**

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THEATRE
ON THE
SQUARE





44.

all dressed up with somewhere to go

Review by
Chet Diepram



Hi. My name is Chet. And I'm a theatre addict. I indulge in the power of entertainment, my dream is audience development in abundance, and I endeavour to take away the pretentiousness that often, and incorrectly, gets associated with the arts, theatre, and classical concerts in particular. I am honoured to be on the judges panel of the Naledi Theatre Awards. Have produced much and performed too. And have actually walked out of a show or three because I thought it was awful. Yes – audience development or not, if it's not entertaining, if it does not change your mood or get you thinking - I'm outta there. So, please, do enjoy my reviews over the next months.

Let's step into the spotlight and firstly tackle the rare world of musical comedy reviews. They should present with productions that combine compelling and humorous narratives and dazzling performances. "The Dress Code," staged at Theatre On The Square, takes this winning formula to new heights by delving into the intriguing world of fashion and its varied "users", while exploring themes of self-expression and identity, with wit as sharp as a dressmakers scissors. With its talented cast of Sharon Spiegel Wagner, Lori Strauss and Ntambo Rapatla, together with Clifford Cooper on piano, the very familiar tunes and visually stunning costumes, "The Dress Code" offers an unforgettable theatrical experience.



Billed as a “stylish comedic musical revue”, its only as strong as its music and script, and "The Dress Code" excels in this aspect. The show features a memorable song list of famous tunes that range from heartfelt ballads (Mz Rapatla gets a special mention here) to energetic ensemble numbers. Some lyrics changed for the many guffaw effects, while others retain their original pop hit cult status. You can expect Aretha Franklins Natural Woman, Elton Johns I'm Still Standing, Hylands' Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini, other songs Diamonds are Forever and Light My Fire, to name a few. Pianist extraordinaire Clifford Cooper is masterful on the keys. Though a concern, from opening night, 11 May that we attended, was that he needs to be miked up to get on the same sound levels as the ladies in the bridesmaid scene. One cannot discuss "The Dress Code" without mentioning its visual production design. The costumes, in particular the camp finale, are works of art that seamlessly blend fashion trends in council plastic with the quirky characters. Even Cooper gets to dazzle with a Swarovski belt. From elegant evening gowns to not-so-elegant bridesmaid dresses, to comfy Crocs to avant-garde creations, each costume reflects the personality of the performers and rope in gorgeously to the songs. The set design features simple and very effective mobile screens in gaudy fabric, making a curtain and entrance for many numbers. The clever adult puppet sequence in particular was an audience favourite, with a pair of panties, a brassiere and a single sock coming to life and discussing their fears. Hysterical and so very clever, and showing the talents of the performers with new characters and accents.

Beneath the clichéd glitz and glamour, "The Dress Code" tackles important themes that resonate with audiences of all backgrounds, and that is, to entertain, forget troubles and have good laughs, and appreciate cultural differences. Director Allan Swerdlow and producer Daphne Kuhn ensures it leaves a lasting impression, reminding us of the importance of embracing individuality and staying true to ourselves.

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Make a difference in the life of a dog by sponsoring them for just R350 per month. Your sponsorship will provide shelter, food, and primary health care for the dog you choose for a full month. And even if the dog gets adopted, your support will continue to feed and care for the next dog in the kennel. In recognition of your generosity, we'll put your name on a plaque outside the kennel of your chosen dog. Please email us a proof of your donation at info@happyyappers.org.za, so we can ensure your name is displayed on the kennel and include you in our tax register for your annual tax certificate.

Reference: Your Name + Dog's Name

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Legal Eagle

By Louis Nel

"Louis the Lawyer, our resident legal columnist, gives us good advice as both consumers and in business. His knowledge of online law is legendary"



This is most probably the application of the CPA that most often 'rears its head' in the travel & tourism industry – various sections (8 in total!) of the CPA apply – the main one is section 17 but we'll look at each of the 8 & then provide you a 'what to do' guideline on each.

However the first thing to do is to have a look at the common law, i.e. the law that applies whether or not you resort to/apply the CPA:

It is my view that the CPA has not revoked the common law per se. Thus such common law duties as caveat emptor ('Buyer beware') and caveat subscriptor ('Signatory beware'), especially read with my 1st point above, are in my view 'alive and well'. Section 2 (10): Interpretation – states that:

'No provision of this Act must be interpreted so as to preclude a consumer from exercising any rights afforded in terms of the common law'

Section 4 (2): Consumer Rights states that:

'The court must develop the common law as necessary to improve the realisation and enjoyment of consumer rights generally, and in particular by persons contemplated in section 3(1)(b)' (e.g. low income)

Section 56 (4): Implied Warranty specifically states that the implied warrant contained in section 56 (1):

'... applies in addition to any other implied warranty or condition imposed by the common law'

The above may be read to imply that whilst consumer common law rights are retained and in fact enhanced, supplier common law rights have been revoked – I don't believe that to be the correct reading or implication of the CPA as inter alia the rules of interpretation clearly states that such a meaning must be unequivocal which I do not believe to be the case – thus there are a number of supplier rights which we will deal with in a separate series of articles

'WHAT TO DO' GUIDELINE

Revisit your documents e.g. booking form, quote and T&C

Be aware of your rights as a supplier in the CPA
Don't panic when you receive a consumer complaint and/or letter from the consumer commissioner!



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A Journey THROUGH AFRICA



with paul clayton, director of the africa rally



"I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up, that I was not happy." - Ernest Hemingway

The Africa Rally is a three week charity road trip through Africa, running between 1st July 2023 and 22nd July 2023. It starts at Sparrowhawk Lodge, by Hartbeespoort (South Africa), and ends to the west of Kisumu, at Victoria Sands Lodge, on Lake Victoria in Kenya.



Any vehicle can enter, and we provide discounted entry, the more ridiculous the vehicle. Entry Categories: (<https://africarally.com/entry-categories/>) Costs (per team, no additional cost per person): <https://africarally.com/product/pathfinder-edition-2023/>

Discovering the Hidden Gems of the wild

The suggested route has been chosen to showcase some particularly amazing places, and I know most teams are looking forward to seeing Elephants in Botswana, Victoria Falls in Zambia, and braaiing fresh fish on the beach in Malawi (still the best fish I've ever tasted!). Once into Tanzania the wilderness areas to the west, along with Lake Tanganyika itself is what I'm personally looking forward to on my current reccy north, as previously I've taken a more direct route across the country, taking in Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area before entering Kenya.



What inspired you to create this rally? Who is it for?

I've been taking part in charity road rallies since 2010, when I made the highly ridiculous decision to drive from London to Mongolia in a 1.2litre Suzuki. Since then, I've driven old vehicles all over the world, completing the Plymouth – Dakar in 2016, and touring sub-Saharan Africa extensively in my Mark 4 Ford Cortina.

The pandemic made me reassess what was important in life, and that periodic desire to escape the corporate office life and travel, became a want to share my love of overlanding in Africa with as many people as possible.



On an individual level as well though, this rally is for people wanting to reconnect with the outside world and perhaps push themselves beyond their comfort zone after these last few years of restrictions. The Land Rover / Camel Trophy moto of "One Life, Live It" comes to mind.

Why travel Africa's roads in a vehicle that isn't the latest 4x4?

It's all about the journey rather than the destination. If you need to get somewhere fast, then by all means drive the latest 4x4, blend into the background on the road, and arrive at your destination ready to achieve your purpose there. However to truly experience the wonder of overland travel in Africa, an older vehicle is the way to go. Especially one which is decorated! My personal choice is to create designs either with our route map on the vehicle, or the flags of the countries which we will be travelling through. This means that when you stop for fuel, for lunch, or when you're stuck somewhere, you have a visual aid to chat to people about where you've come from and where you are going. People are also from my experience, much friendlier, and much more willing to help if you're in a ridiculous vehicle which everyone can have a laugh about.



In terms of who it's for... well, we don't mandate a specific charity as across the world so many people are currently needing help in one way or the other. Instead we ask each team to choose a charity they are already passionate about, and use this event as a platform to promote awareness as well as fundraise. There will be a prize for the team who raises the most before crossing the finish line.

It might not always be the most comfortable way to travel, but definitely ensures a good adventure, and as our rally is set over three weeks, it ensures there are plenty of rest days, and that you shouldn't have to always be driving.

Tell us about a time your vehicle broke down and how you got out of it.

Where do I start!? I've broken down many... many times over the years, but favouring a simple classic car does often provide the benefit of being able to get it running again by the side of the road, or in any backstreet mechanic's workshop.

The most dramatic was probably in Mauritania in 2016 when upon hitting a particularly nasty pothole the entire rear wheel flew off the car and bounced down the road. Although we eventually retrieved it, it was clear to the eye that a fair bit of damage had been done, beyond what our relatively conservative toolbox could fix. We hadn't seen another car all day... and it was hot... stuck in the middle of the Sahara hot. After a bit of discussion I got the compass out, set it for where I figured the direction of the nearest village on the map was, and started walking, with my two co-drivers left to watch the vehicle.

The kindness of strangers in these situations cannot be understated, and always provides a too often needed refresher for everyone's faith in humanity. “

I'd been going for about 10 minutes when I see this old Hilux coming down the road. I flag them down and although we don't speak the same language my gestures to the car on the side of the road in the horizon must make sense. "Mechanic?"



Finally a word we both know... then to my amazement the driver points in the back of the truck where there's another man in a blue boiler suit covered in oil. It turns out they had broken down about 10kms past us, had gone to fetch a mechanic earlier that day and were on their way back. They were only too happy to help us as well.

More recently I've cooked the brakes on the Ford Cortina while negotiating the steep roads in Lesotho, and just the other day managed to overheat the VW Kombi while heading for Botswana. In this last situation, I think help came faster than it ever has done before... with a chap called Graham who was also in a VW Kombi and just happened to be behind me, pulling over to offer me a tow.

The kindness of strangers in these situations cannot be understated, and always provides a too often needed refresher for everyone's faith in humanity.

How did you put together the route?

The route was designed through a mixture of going with what we know from personal experience, and because our HQ team all agreed that it showcases the best route through Africa to date.

What can overlanders learn from travelling Africa's roads?

Africa's roads provide something for all types of overlanders, on all types of surfaces. These range from beautifully tarred mountain passes (with very minimal potholes) in Malawi, to nicely graded washboard gravel allowing for a bit of sideways action, to dried up riverbeds often going from off-road to no-road very quickly.

The sheer amount of wildlife that can be seen from the side of the road dwarves anywhere else in the world – elephants, rhino, giraffes, ostriches, zebra, and even hippos could be up ahead.

Learn to expect the unexpected. You never know what will be round the next corner!

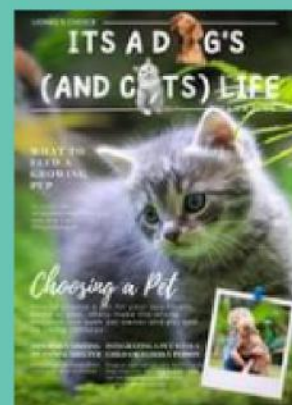
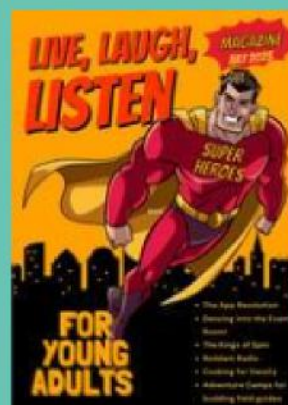
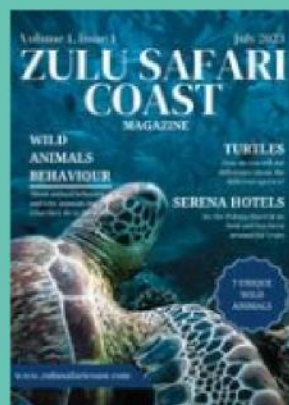
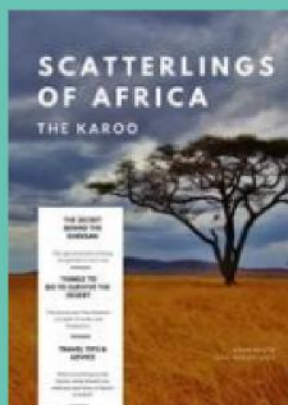
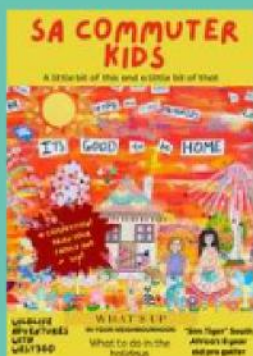
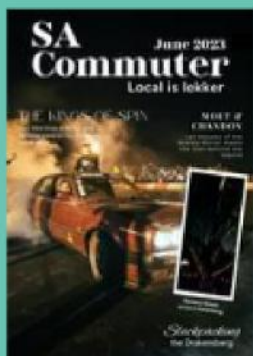
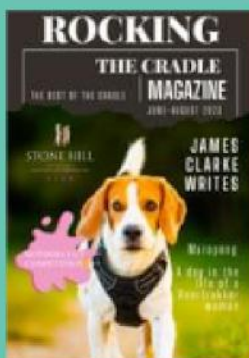


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MASTERCHEF JUDGE ANDY ALLEN MAKES A RARE PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE DEATH OF HIS FRIEND JOCK ZONFRILLO AFTER THE CHEF WAS LAID TO REST IN A PRIVATE FUNERAL

Masterchef judge Andy Allen has thanked his fans and followers for their outpouring of support and kind messages following the death of his co-star Jock Zonfrillo.

Zonfrillo, who died on April 30 aged 46, was laid to rest in a private funeral surrounded by a small group of family and friends on Saturday morning.

In an Instagram post shared on Thursday night, Allen opened up about his grief while showing gratitude to the 'thousands' of fans who wrote their condolences.

'Grieving the loss of Jock will no doubt be a forever process. The last couple of weeks have been the hardest there have ever been,' Allen, 35, began. 'However reading the thousands of messages of support from family, friends and those who didn't personally know Jock but loved him all the same, has been overwhelming and helped not only me but I'm sure others cope with the tough times.'



Masterchef judge Andy Allen has thanked his fans and followers for their outpouring of support and kind messages following the death of his co-star Jock Zonfrillo

He concluded: 'Although I won't be able to get back to each and every one of you....thank you x.'

Allen's caption was accompanied by a photo of himself standing beside Zonfrillo, who looked to be giving the young celebrity chef advice while filming the reality cooking show. Allen and his pregnant wife Alex Davey attended Jock's private funeral on Saturday where a number of close-knit family and friends farewelled the celebrity chef.

He also carried Zonfrillo's coffin alongside the late star's widow, Lauren Fried. Zonfrillo's coffin was covered with the Royal Banner of Scotland and adorned with white orchids. The Royal Banner was a nod to the chef's Scottish heritage. He was born and raised in Glasgow.

The service included eulogies from Fried and Ava Zonfrillo, one of Jock's adult daughters from an earlier marriage. Fried remembered her late husband as a sensitive man with a big heart.

'We were two halves that found each other in the exact right moment in life when we were ready,' she said. 'We were ready for that big love, to live a life of adventure, to become parents together, to imagine things and to actually make them happen.'

Among those who attended were Zonfrillo's fellow Masterchef judges Melissa Leong - who was visibly emotional and comforted by her friends as she went inside - Allen and his wife, former Masterchef judge George Calombaris, and celebrity chef Shannon Bennett. Other TV chefs who turned out to pay their respects included My Kitchen Rules stars Manu Feidel and Colin Fassnidge, as well as Miguel Maestre and Matt Moran. Jimmy Barnes had arrived alone to the memorial, but was later joined by daughter Mahalia as they sang Amazing Grace together, while former Australian of the Year Grace Tame attended with her fiancé Max Heerey.

Wheelchair tennis champion and 2022 Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott also paid his respects.

Zonfrillo died in his hotel room at Zagame's House on Lygon Street in Carlton, Melbourne on April 30 and was found by police at about 2am on Monday, May 1 - the same day Channel Ten was meant to premiere the fifteenth season of MasterChef Australia.

They were responding to a welfare check called in by his wife who was in Italy at the time with their son and daughter. The media personality was scheduled for several publicity engagements for season 15 of MasterChef when he died suddenly.

Zonfrillo died in his hotel room at Zagame's House on Lygon Street in Carlton, Melbourne on April 30 and was found by police at about 2am on Monday, May 1 - the same day Channel Ten was meant to premiere the fifteenth season of MasterChef Australia appearances to promote the cooking show's return

Daily Mail Australia can reveal that when the police entered the hotel room to conduct a welfare check, officers believed that Zonfrillo had died of natural causes and didn't find anything that suggested otherwise. There was also no drug paraphernalia found in the hotel room, sources said. In the wake of the tragic news, Zonfrillo's fellow Masterchef judges Melissa Leong and Andy Allen pulled out of all media appearances to promote the cooking show's return. The season premiere was rescheduled to Sunday, May 7.

Zonfrillo is survived by his third wife, Lauren Fried, and his four children: grown-up daughters Ava and Sophia, from his first two marriages, and six-year-old Alfie and two-year-old Isla, with Fried.

In the wake of the tragic news, Zonfrillo's fellow Masterchef judges Melissa Leong (left) and Andy Allen (right) pulled out of all media.

Allen's caption was accompanied by a photo of himself standing beside Jock, who looked to be giving the young celebrity chef advice while filming the reality cooking show



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-12101323/Andy-Allen-thanks-fans-overwhelming-support-following-Jock-Zonfrillos-death-funeral.html>



TINA TURNER SEIZED HER THRONE, OWNED IT, WITH PANACHE!



THRONE: Even if I never set foot on stage again, I'm happy and content with what I've done – Tina Turner...

What was an ordinary Wednesday quickly turned out to be a shocker when disturbing news of rock legend Tina Turner's passing, at the ripe age of 83, spread across a stunned world.

A classic example of faith and determination moving mountains, leggy Turner silenced her detractors when she became an international star at the age of 42 in the 80s. Instantly transforming into a shining symbol of hope and motivation for all those people especially women, who had given up on their dreams because they felt that their time had come and gone.

It was not just her husky voice that made the world sit up and take notice. Driving men crazy, to the extent of going bananas whenever they saw them, were those lovely, long legs that were always elegantly clad in high heels. She'd kick them in tune with the beat on stage and the reaction from our male species was always predictable.

Crazy!

Those figure-hugging, colourful, mini-dresses flaunted her assets to advantage. Not to mention the honey blonde wigs that she loved so much. It's not surprising that her fan-base was hugely made up of men. Women loved her too, immensely empowered by her confidence and positive outlook towards life. There's no denying that she was a package of dynamite.

Before she rocked the world, the Queen of Rock 'n Roll took a detour through R&B. A year later, she ruled the roost from the rock throne. A feat that's largely attributed to her meeting with a singer called Ike Turner, who later became her husband. The ink had hardly dried up on their marriage certificate when the abusive monster in Ike started rearing its ugly head. Whether he was jealous of Turner's success, global adoration, killing it on a predominantly male and growing global fan-base or bringing the bacon home, time would tell later? Often being beaten to a pulp, Turner spent time covering black eyes, bruises and bearing pain, performed as if there's no tomorrow. Mummy dearest insisted that she stick it out. When she left in the stealth of the night, she never looked back. Her decision to flee her abusive union would become a fortunate stroke of serendipity, as her solo career immediately thereafter shot into spectacular heights, living a great life, often seen on the arms of gorgeous, young studs.



“With her music and her boundless passion for life, she enchanted millions of fans around the world and inspired the stars of tomorrow. Today we say goodbye to a dear friend who leaves us all her greatest work: her music. All our heartfelt compassion goes out to her family. Tina, we will miss you dearly.”



The British Army band pleased the onlooking crowd with a rendition of the 'Queen of Rock and Roll's' classic hit *Simply the Best*

Overcoming a few contractual glitches, she experienced a phenomenal career renaissance, soaring to even greater heights than she'd imagined. Her music was in demand all over the world. She was in demand for live shows, and, – to this day – her sing-along hits remain a mainstay of most parties, events and regularly make most radio station's playlists.

Like most women, Turner went through a lot of trials and tribulations, but each time rose like a phoenix from the ashes. You'd think that after surviving dehumanising, abusive marriage, she'd live happily ever after. But, nay, in 2016 she was diagnosed with cancer. In 2017, she underwent a kidney transplant operation – and, thanks to her Swiss hubby Erwin Bach, who reportedly donated his kidney to her so she could have a second lease on life.

Good news came tumbling for the rock star when she was inducted in the Rock 'n Roll Wall of Fame as a solo artist in 2021. This was after she was first inducted into the Rock Hall in 1991 as part of Ike & Tina Turner duo. The world has over and over long affirmed her position as the best in rock, a fact attested to by 12 Grammy Awards. What's Love Got To Do With It, The Best, Private Dancer, are some of the hits that come to mind from her greatest repertoire.

Two years ago, Turner and Bach – who were married in 2013 – paid R2,3 billion for the 10-building waterfront mansion, which they used as a “weekend retreat”, according to the news website [news.com.au](https://www.news.com.au).

After moving to Europe in the '90s, Turner relinquished her US citizenship to become a Swiss resident around the time she married Bach, which allowed her to make the purchase. Swiss law requires prospective buyers to be residents of the country in order to invest in property in the area.

Their newly purchased estate in Switzerland also came just weeks before Turner made another big financial decision – agreeing to sell her extensive music catalogue to German music company BMG for a reported R1,3 billion, according to [news.com.au](https://www.news.com.au).

Turner last toured with her final Tina! 50th Anniversary Tour in 2008, performing shows across Europe and North America, earning over R2,5 billion. She died with an estimated net worth of \$380 million. She officially retired from performing in 2009.

The beautiful, sexy, alluring Tina once said in an interview about her life choices: “It can get better. I can make it better, I want better.”

May her soul rest in peace.

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LAST WORD

FROM AUDREY
MCMILLAN, CEO SAPRO

Hello, I'm Audrey, CEO of SAPRO International. I started the business with my dad over 25 years ago and have enjoyed every moment. Although sadly my dad passed away several years back, myself and my team have continued to make a difference to South Africans living overseas.

Essentially SAPRO's motto is exporting home abroad for a good reason. We specialise in exporting South African foods, wines and goods to those of you living overseas. I am often asked why things are so expensive overseas when South Africans who are visiting compare prices to those in the stores overseas. And I always reply, once you add the extra freight charges, import duties, clearing costs etc, things cannot cost the same as they do at home. Those who live overseas however, earn in dollars, or pounds, and to them the prices remain reasonable compared to their local products. South Africans are resilient and many of the retail stores we supply started by making their own boerewors and biltong using the recipes they used when living in South Africa. We still send them the same spices they used to use back home, but they have to use the local meat to make their products as we cannot export meat from South Africa as it does not meet the importing requirements.

Here in South Africa, we face constant challenges such as load shedding, container shortages, port strikes or railways not operational but we try not to let it affect our delivery schedules as we do try to pack the orders within 4 week of receiving the orders. We also have to be very mindful of the shelf life on all the food products we send as we know our customers need the longest shelf life possible, but there are some items that only come with a 6 month shelf life to begin with and these products are very difficult to send to our customers. If you are looking for something specific, ask your local SA Store and we will endeavour to send it over. If you are a supplier in South Africa and you want to start exporting your product in to new markets, always make sure your product is locally successful before bringing it to our attention as it is very difficult to grow a new product in the export market when it is not known locally as yet. From next month we will have a new product page as well as which products are most popular. There is a form on page 3 which will ask you for your favourite product and from that we will gauge our top 10!

Enjoy the magazine and chat soon!

Audrey



Click here to watch the latest interview with Audrey in Cape Town as I sat down with her in a rally car to get the latest information on exporting home abroad - Geniene Preston



Listen to some of our previous conversations on the SAPRO podcast Channel by clicking on the logo alongside.



Our website is a click away. If you have a new product to introduce or to get hold of one of our stores, just click on the icon.

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