

THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARKET THEATRE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

TOMBA!

contemporary dance experience

@ THE MARKET THEATRE

10 - 13 SEPT 2025

programme

moving border/lands

jomba.ukzn.ac.za | markettheatre.co.za













JOMBA! 2 0 2 5 acknowledges the support of its Partners & FUNDERS















































FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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(Cover) Madha Kan. Choreographed by Yaseen Manuel. Dancer Lusindiso Dibela (from SboNdabaDance) (2024). Photo Val Adamson



JOMBA! THE MARKET

10 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

To CELEBRATE our third year of partnership, JOMBA! is delighted to continue to work with the Market Theatre to collaborate in sharing a smaller and carefully curated 'JOMBA! @ THE MARKET' following the Durban festival. Four selected local and international dance companies will travel to Johannesburg's Market Theatre to feature in a week-long celebration of some of the world's most profound and provoking dance makers and dance companies. Gauteng and The Market Theatre audiences will have an opportunity to revel in the performance excellence of this curated contemporary dance platform.

BODIES OF WATER - Dancer Zinhle Nzama (2025). Photo Val Adamson

OMBA! CONTEMPORARY DANCE EXPERIENCE I 10 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to our JOMBA!

"moving border/lands"

OUR 27th JOMBA! FESTIVAL'S 2025 curatorial provocation is "moving border/lands" and sets out to engage, through incredible dance encounters, artists and dance makers who battle with, and navigate the current unfolding socio- and geo-politics of border/lands.

SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity - Vuyolwethu Mdluli & SboNdaba Dancers. Photo Marko de Beer

welcome

This festival has invited artists and dance makers who are exploring how an embodied performance form like dance responds to, and revises ideas of border/lands; real or imagined - manifest between nation-states, between North and South, between fluid ideas of genders, between performances of tradition and modernity, between colonial and the post-/ decolonial narratives, shifting binaries between perceptions of ability and disability.

Set against a backdrop of both local and global political renegotiations of what borders mean, set against a war-torn Gaza, a ravaged Ukraine, anti-foreigner right wing political movements in Europe and America, and against Africa's own constant negotiations of borders not created by Africans... JOMBA! begins to ask what it means to 'move across and between borders'. We curatorially engage ideas of 'borders' in two ways: first (and more overtly) as a terrain that we stop at, step over, and come up against. Secondly, we engage borders as metaphors for how we imagine and practice ideas of belonging. As a critical dance festival, we have curated a series of artistic

encounters that we feel question ideas of border crossings. We have invited dance works that ask us to re-look at borders (real and imagined) as a metaphoric and poetic space which we are either seeking to cross, or to renegotiate. We honour dance makers who bring beauty, humour, pathos, and politics to our stages and hearts, to audiences who come back again and again to support this work, and to our partners and funders who consistently 'show up' for us and make it all possible.

LLIANE LOOTS

Curator: JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience



programme "moving border/lands" BODIES OF WATER - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (2025). Photo Val Adamson

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER BARNEY SIMON THEATRE

18:30 KANYAR epilogue Didier Boutiana (Soul City, Réunion)

JOHN KANI THEATRE

20:00 SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity
Sbonakaliso Ndaba (Cape Town, South Africa)

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

20:00 SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity
Sbonakaliso Ndaba (Cape Town, South Africa)

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER BARNEY SIMON THEATRE

18:30 KEMET - Black Lands / Alkamal Walkamal Almutlaq - Completeness and Absolute Wholeness (double bill) Asanda Ruda (Soweto, South Africa)

JOHN KANI THEATRE

20:00 BODIES OF WATER
FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY with choreography
by Lliane Loots and the dancers (Durban, South Africa)

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER BARNEY SIMON THEATRE

18:30 KEMET - Black Lands / Alkamal Walkamal Almutlaq Completeness and Absolute Wholeness (double bill)
Asanda Ruda (Soweto, South Africa)

JOHN KANI THEATRE

20:00 BODIES OF WATER

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY with choreography by
Lliane Loots and the dancers (Durban, South Africa)

BOOKINGS



SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity - Lusindiso Dibela, Sonwabile Mhlonyane and SboNdaba dancers. Photo Marko de Beer



JOMBA! is delighted to be honouring South African dance maker and teacher Sbonakaliso (or Sbo as she likes to be called) Ndaba as the 2025 JOMBA! Legacy Artist. She is being honoured for her innovative choreographic work that spans over three decades of dance making in South Africa and internationally. Also deeply significant to this JOMBA! Legacy Award is Sbo's lifelong commitment to initiating many performance dance training initiatives including Phenduka Dance Theatre, Indoni Dance Arts Academy and recently SboNdaba Dance, a non-profit company dedicated to strengthening the performing arts in Cape Town. Her long-term impact on training professional contemporary dancers and the legacy of this is felt throughout South Africa and JOMBA! is deeply humbled that we can honour her and her work in this way.

JOMBA! Legacy Artist

SBONAKALISO NDABA

(CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA)

"You can never be fully human unless you've discovered the humanity in other human beings" - Beyers Naude

SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity - SboNdaba Dancers. Photo Marko de Beer

egacy artist



ABOUT

BORN IN DURBAN, KwaZulu-Natal, Sbonakaliso Ndaba trained at Jazzart Dance Theatre under Alfred Hinkel. Over her celebrated career, she has danced and choreographed for leading South African companies, including Jazzart, Vuyani Dance Theatre, Moving into Dance, Tshwane Dance Theatre, Indoni, and SboNdaba Dance. Her international credits span Australia, Denmark, and Holland. Ndaba has been instrumental in founding key training initiatives such as Phenduka, Indoni, and SboNdaba Dance—a non-profit dedicated to empowering artists and communities through performance. Her freelance work has included choreography for Sarafina (film), Backstage (TV), and Cape Town Opera. Recognised as a leading African Contemporary choreographer, she has received numerous awards including Best Choreographer (Daimler Chrysler SA), Best FNB Dance Umbrella, and the Western Cape Cultural Affairs Award (2016). Recent productions at Artscape include Our Oceans, Our Future, Our Mother the Earth, and !ke e: /xarra //ke—a moving tribute to 30 years of South African democracy.

SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity

Choreography: Sbonakaliso Ndaba

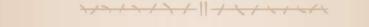
Dancers: Litha Makanda, Lusindiso Dibela, Sinazo Mxeli, Sonwabile Mhlonyane, Vuyolwethu Mdluli, Wanie Johannes, Asemahle Dayimani, Akhona Mpoza, Clayton Jannike, Lathitha Nomgca, Sinalo Vakala (Kiidy), and Xola Sanezo Tyuka

SboNdaba Dance - In search of Our Humanity, takes the audience on an emotional journey through South Africa's evolution. From the ancient, free-roaming Khoi and San ancestors, to the struggle for unity, it showcases the nation's growth and defiance. The finale speaks through movement, gestures, and trust, revealing the challenges of today's fragile unity. This work is a vibrant celebration of culture, resilience, and the shared humanity that binds us all together.

This work is made possible with support from The Mzansi Golden Economy from the Department of Sport Arts and Culture (South Africa), Dance for All (Switzerland), The Dokoda Fine Bursary.

SboNdaba Dance - In search of our Humanity - SboNdaba Dancers. Photo Marko de Beer





CCA JOMBA! AND THE MARKET THEATRE

PHAKAMISA DANCE COMMISSION

2 0 2 5

in partnership with the National Arts Festival
(with contributing funding from Standard Bank South Africa)

ASANDA RUDA

(SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA)

2024 Iaunched an innovative joint annual dance commission by the Centre for Creative Art's JOMBA! and the Market Theatre with the express purpose of supporting and making space for innovative and provocative South African dance makers. Titled the PHAKAMISA Dance Commission - with reference to the isiZulu idea of lifting up and holding - this commission is an ongoing commitment to the illustrious JOMBA! and Market Theatre partnership (started in 2023) to grow and support South African dance. We are delighted, for 2025, to also be partnering with the National Arts Festival and the Standard Bank Young Artist programme, to award this year's commission to Soweto-born Asanda Ruda.





Asanda Ruda

phakamisa dance commission



ABOUT

ASANDA RUDA, the 2025 Standard Bank Young Artist Award winner for Dance, is a performer whose work has captivated audiences in Italy, Russia, and Greece. She trained at Moving Into Dance (MID) from 2011 to 2015 and later toured internationally with the MID company, presenting her own works and those of celebrated choreographers. In 2020, she collaborated on *The Rite of Spring* with the Pina Bausch Foundation, and in 2021 received the l'Acogny d'Argent Award at Burkina Faso's Africa Simply the Best festival, which led to a residency at HELLERAU in Germany. In 2024, Ruda joined the Itrotra Art X Connection's Tokoloho Training Programme, advancing her exploration of Afro-contemporary dance, generational otherness, and self-emancipation. Her acclaimed solo *KEMET - Black Lands*, which earned her a residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, embodies her pursuit of individuality and spiritual healing through the transformative power of dance.

KEMET - Black Lands Choreographed and performed by Asanda Ruda Lighting Design by David Hlatshwayo

KEMET - Black Lands is a solo dance work that traverses generational alienation, political defiance, and personal emancipation. Rooted in Afro-contemporary expression, the piece navigates the intersections of space, politics, and culture, transforming the body into a vessel of both ancestral memory and self-liberation. In this solo, Ruda carves out an audacious, self-defined identity that is both homage to the past and a declaration of new possibilities. Echoes of ancestral music reverberate through her movement, as she reclaims space and affirms presence in a world that often marginalises difference.

Alkamal Walkamal Almutlaq Completeness and Absolute Wholeness

Choreography by Asanda Ruda

Dancers: Asanda Ruda, Thandiwe Mqokeli and

Sinazo Bokolo

Director and Dramaturge: Moeketsi Koena

Music: Brian Ngobese Costumes: Dimakatso

Lighting Design: David Hlatshwayo

Props: Moeketsi Koena and Mandla Hlatshwayo

Alkamal Walkamal Almutlaq translates as 'Completeness and Absolute Wholeness' from ancient Arabic, and captures the eternal bond between spirit and soul. Performed by three dancers, this work delves into how these elements interconnect to heal and revive the body. Ethereal Afro-contemporary movement and symbolic rituals invite audiences to contemplate love, health, and balance. This poetic performance suggests that love itself is both a cause of sickness and a force of healing, transforming the body into a temple of resilience and renewal.

Asanda Ruda's work is co-produced by The National Arts Festival, Market Theatre Foundation and JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience (Centre for Creative Arts), with contributing funding from Standard Bank South Africa.

KANYAR epilogue

COMPANY SOUL CITY (Réunion)

Choreographed and performed by Didier Boutiana

For his first solo work, KANYAR, Didier Boutiana developed a dramaturgy based on the social dimension of our psychological conditioning and the mechanisms and lived reality of exclusion. The solo work, which travelled all over the world, was hailed as a sensitive and emotional journey of a soul in the quest of his own path. In this follow-on solo, KANYAR epilogue - as a post-version of KANYAR - the audience is offered a silent existential shout within the night, where this fonnker (traditional poetry of Réunion) is a reminiscence of a world of fanaticism and self-glorification. Didier Boutiana, whose roots are in hip-hop, is an expressive and transcendent dancer from Réunion Island, and could also be called a fonkézèr (poet) in his movements.

ABOUT

SOUL CITY has been constantly evolving since its inception in 2008. Led by choreographer Didier Boutiana, Soul City is a hip-hop dance crew that has become a dance company. From Le Port, the company has conquered Réunion, the mainland, and the world. Soul City weaves a mixed choreography, imbued with spirituality and humility and has toured all over the world.



KANYAR epilogue

BODIES OF WATER

BODIES OF WATER (a ritual meditation)

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (Durban, South Africa)

CHOREOGRAPHY: Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER: Sifiso Khumalo

DANCERS: Jabu Siphika, Zinhle Nzama, Sifiso Khumalo, Siseko

Duba, Sbonga Ndlovu, Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube

MUSICIANS: Violin - Refiloe Olifant

Percussion - Mandla Matsha

Voice - Sifiso Khumalo

VIDEO INSTALLATION/PROJECTION: Wesley Maherry

LIGHTING: Wesley Maherry

COSTUMES: Bongumusa Masondo

VOICEOVER: The final voiceover offers statements from feminist water activists from all over the planet - Vandana Shiva, Matthew Fox, Bayo Akomolafe, Rajendra Singh, WHAIA, Astrida Niemanis,

Peggy Pierrot and Veda Austin.

BODIES OF WATER embraces a double meaning as the dance work negotiates the ecology of water alongside an awareness that the human body is made up of mostly water. Setting the dancing moving body as a breathing metaphor for climate justice, the six FLATFOOT dancers face what happens to bodies in times of personal and political crisis. Set against our own African geopolitics, and a larger 'body' of social dis-ease, BODIES OF WATER comes back to the ideas of how we relate to 'bodies of water' as both artistic and political metaphors for survival.

BODIES OF WATER - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (2025). Photo Val Adamson



FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY's

home in the heart of the East Coast of South Africa in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Their sense of geographical location is important as it offers a unique flavour to this contemporary dance company. Often working with memory and history, FLATFOOT has developed a unique identity as a contemporary South African dance company that is known to offer artistically and socially charged dance theatre work. Lliane Loots began FLATFOOT in 1994 as a part-time training programme that aimed to offer contemporary dance training to any Durban/ eThekwini-based dancers. In 2002 a decision was made to secure a more permanent base for some of the exceptional dancers who were coming through the training. In 2003 the company settled into its permanent status and began its professional journey to become the internationally recognised contemporary dance company that it is today. FLATFOOT sets out to push the boundaries of space, place and belonging in its dance performance work that has seen the company touring extensively on the African continent, and globally.



Workshops

JOMBA! and the Market Theatre will also facilitate a series of free workshops with guest artists.

PLEASE NOTE

These workshops are free of charge and open to dancers over the age of 16. As places are limited booking is essential at least one day in advance of the workshop.

NO BOOKING, NO PARTICIPATION!

BOOKINGS

Thobile Maphanga 2024jomba@gmail.com

JOMBA! Workshops (2024). Photo Val Adamson



WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - 16:00-17:30

WITH DIDIER BOUTIANA (Réunion)

Enjoy a workshop that draws on such disparate influences as hip-hop, yoga and contemporary dance as you find your own groove and self-expression in this workshop.

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER - 16:00-17:30

WITH SBONAKALISO NDABA (Cape Town, South Africa)

This workshop offers participants a full body class experience in the technical dance training methods of Sbo Ndaba. It is a high impact class that pushes dancers to think with their bodies!

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - 10:00-11:30

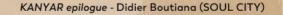
WITH ASANDA RUDA (Soweto, South Africa)

This class is an open, free-flow contemporary dance session infused with elements of African cultural dance and hip hop. This unique blend creates a space for participants to explore grounded, expressive movement rooted in identity, rhythm, and improvisation. Dancers of all levels are encouraged to connect with their bodies and the collective energy of the space in a vibrant and liberating dance experience.

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - 16:00-17:30

WITH SIFISO KHUMALO AND FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (Durban, South Africa)

Enjoy a deeply grounding contemporary dance class in a growing exploration of what FLATFOOT calls its "African Release". Sifiso Khumalo offers an embodied class that will challenge and delight. Look out for a special sharing of some of the repertoire of BODIES OF WATER, working with live musicians.



Acknowledgements

FOR JOMBA!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/CURATOR Lliane Loots

ASSISTANT CURATOR AND JOMBA! PROJECT MANAGER Thobile Maphanga

JOMBA! PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL MANAGER Wesley Maherry

JOMBA! KHULUMA WRITING RESIDENCY Clare Craighead with Marcia Mzindle

JOMBA! OPEN HORIZONS PLATFORM ADMINISTRATION Clare Craighead

LIGHTING Tina Le Roux

SOUND Zara Gaffney

SENIOR TECHNICIAN Thabo Pule

STAGE MANAGER Lisa Goldstone

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Trevor Kubheka

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IT SUPPORT Bashaarath Siddigi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS Myunga Mbali Mtetwa and Kholeka Khumbuza

ADMINISTRATION INTERNS Andisa Mpisi, Thalente Ndlovu, Ayanda Chule and Nhlkanipho Thabethe

BODIES OF WATER - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (2025). Photo Val Adamson

FOR THE MARKET THEATRE

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