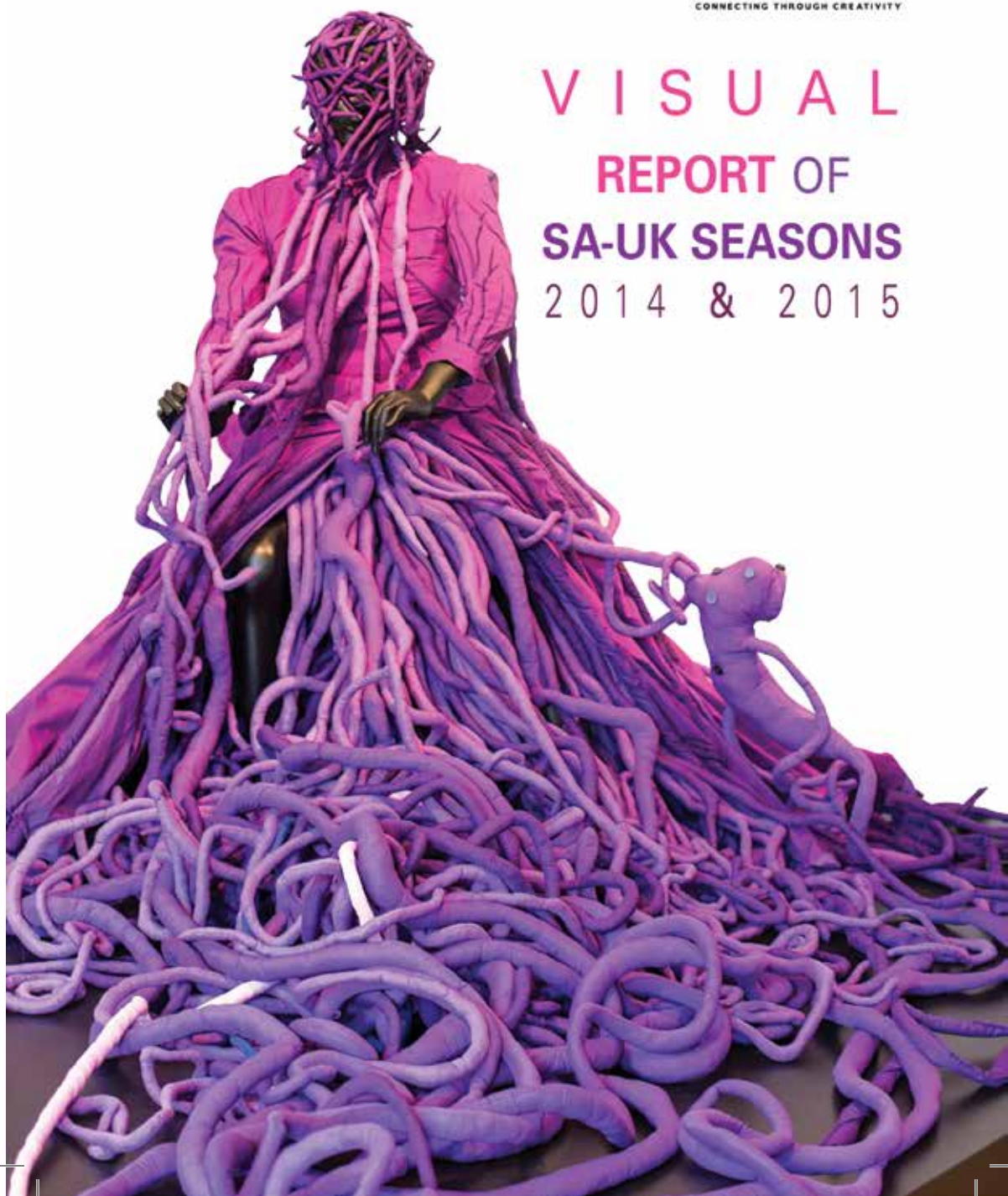


V I S U A L
REPORT OF
SA-UK SEASONS
2014 & 2015



The SA-UK Seasons 2014 & 2015 is a partnership between the Department of Arts & Culture, South Africa and the British Council.

PARTNERS



Cover Image: Where do I end and You begin (2014), Mary Sibande. Image Courtesy of Edinburgh Art Festival

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE



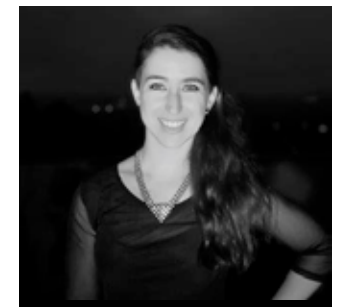
MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SOUTH AFRICA



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE SA-UK SEASONS 2014 & 2015



MESSAGE FROM PROGRAMME LEADERS



OVERVIEW OF THE SA-UK SEASONS 2014 & 2015

In March 2014, the South African Department of Arts and Culture and the British High Commission to South Africa, on behalf of the British Council, launched the SA-UK Seasons 2014 & 2015, a collaboration that saw the two countries engage in creative programmes as a channel to further strengthen cultural relations between the two nations.

The SA-UK Seasons were born from talks, which began at the Inter-Ministerial Bilateral forum in London in 2011, resulting in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Arts and Culture. This set out a platform for cooperation to be implemented by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and the British Council.

The SA-UK Season is composed of three streams:

1. Joint Projects: The Seasons' jointly supported projects of a collaborative nature between South Africa and the UK through a joint fund.
2. SA Season in the UK: South African projects in the UK managed and funded by the Department of Arts and Culture and implemented by the SA Seasons' team.
3. Connect ZA: UK projects in South Africa managed and funded by the British Council and implemented by the British Council Art's team.

Objectives of the Season:

- To promote people-to-people contact, institutional collaboration and programmes that will have the potential for long-term impact and sustainability.
- To connect new generations of creative professionals and audiences in South Africa and the UK.
- To foster skills transfer and development, sharing expertise and innovation in developing the creative careers of young people.
- To promote the growth and sustainability of the sector, including a strong emphasis on audience development, economic growth and market access.
- To showcase and promote SA and UK arts and culture that will present work that challenges and updates perceptions of contemporary culture and creativity in both countries.
- To promote and showcase the inclusion of professionals and emerging artists with disability by building on the rich legacy of working in the performing, visual and creative arts in the UK and South Africa.

NOTES TO THE REPORT

This report has been prepared to provide a visual depiction of the SA-UK Seasons 2014 and 2015. The report highlights selected projects per stream.



Joint Projects





GHOST DIAMOND

Genre: **Film**

Date: **January 2015 – January 2016**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa; London, United Kingdom; Bern, St.Gallen and Lausanne, Switzerland; Berlin, Germany**

Ghost Diamond is the new film by Chris Saunders, a Johannesburg-based photographer and filmmaker, and Okzharp, a Cape Town-born, London-based musician, presenting a new kind of South African hybrid fiction. The film connects specific Zulu and Japanese mythologies via elements of the story, the visual style and Manthe Ribane's dance performance. This film looks at the emotional landscape of the new international dialogues that are occurring in the modern hyper-connected African city.

The support from the SA-UK Seasons has galvanised a diverse and creative partnership and new collaborations. Ghost Diamond was screened at the Norient Art and Film Festival 2016 in Switzerland where Okzharp, Sondeza and Manthe Ribane have had the opportunity to reinterpret the film as a live performance.



VIVA TOWNSHIP ART PROJECT

Genre: **Street Art**

Date: **March – November 2015**

Place: **Mamelodi East, South Africa; Brixton, United Kingdom**

Viva Foundation of South Africa and Signal Project (UK) collaborated in establishing a working relationship between artist Emmanuel Molikoe from the Alaska Informal Settlement, Mamelodi East, and UK-based street artist and social activist Solo One (Boyd Hill). Solo One has used street art in a dramatic way in the area of social development, activism and advocacy of the plight of underprivileged communities in the UK.

An artist exchange saw Emmanuel Molikoe travel to the UK to work with Solo One, which has resulted in a mentorship that will extend beyond the Season's support. Furthermore, the exchange between the two organisations has resulted in collaborative ways of working with communities.





THE BINARY

Genre: **Fashion, Market Access**

Date: **April – July 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa; London, United Kingdom**

The Binary is a SA-UK fashion industry exchange programme that connected the creative entrepreneurs behind Johannesburg-based label Missshape and London-based label De Rien. The programme was as much about initiating business relations as it was about stimulating cultural exchange between British and South African fashion industries. Missshape was represented by Jamal Nxedlana, and De Rien by Cosmo Wise and Olubiyi Thomas. Both parties had an opportunity to curate an industry tour, which included trade meetings, media appointments, studio visits and networking sessions for the visiting parties.



De Rien shot a lookbook in Johannesburg. They had meetings with the director of the fashion agent and the fashion editor of GQ, and some of their pieces were featured in an editorial in the magazine. De Rien are currently in talks with Jonathan Fremantle, one of the directors at Hazard in Arts on Main about an exhibition that will potentially showcase and sell pieces from the De Rien collections. Jamal Nxedlana had meetings with the editor of Dazed and Confused, the fashion editor of I-D Magazine and a business development manager at Protein. He also met with the buyers from Primitive London. Nxedlana has established a relationship with the buyers from the Primitive boutique in London and has direct access to them at the start of each season when buyers look at potential collections.



HURRY HURRY ALBERT

Genre: **Literature – Comic Book**

Date: **May 2015 – March 2016**

Place: **Sheffield and Manchester, United Kingdom; Cape Town, South Africa**

Sheffield organisation Football Unites, Racism Dives (FURD) has partnered with Cape Town-based illustrator Archie Birch as well as organisations South African Football Players Union and District Six Museum to produce the comic book *Albert Johanneson: The First Black Superstar*. The comic book is based on the career of the South African soccer player Albert Johanneson, also known as 'Hurry Hurry Albert' who became the first black footballer to appear in an FA Cup Final as Leeds United met Liverpool in May 1965.



The comic was launched in May 2015 at a special event at the National Football Museum in Manchester, UK where Albert's daughter Yvonne presented Albert's football medals for exhibiting. Yvonne was also invited as a special guest of the Football Association in the Royal Box at the Arsenal vs. Aston Villa final on 30 May 2015.

Albert Johanneson: The First Black Superstar will be launched in South Africa at the District Six Museum in Cape Town on 21 March 2016 to coincide with Human Rights Day.



WAITING BY JASON LARKIN

Genre: **Photography**

Date: **June – September 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa; Brighton and London, United Kingdom; Bilbao, Spain**

Fourthwall Books (SA), in collaboration with Photoworks (UK), produced a publication of the photographic series Waiting by British Photographer Jason Larkin. While living in Johannesburg in 2012, British photographer Jason Larkin was struck by the ever present reality of people waiting. He was drawn to those who sought shelter from the harsh summer sun by positioning themselves in the shade. Here the features of individuals are obscured, leaving only the subtlety of posture and the details of place. Omitting any reference to the purpose or outcome of each wait, Larkin simply records, beside each image, the duration of the wait. Jason's meditation on this theme became the starting point for the Waiting Project in its several iterations.

Waiting has been exhibited as a street level exhibition in Braamfontein, Johannesburg from July – September 2015, coinciding with the launch of the publication and a seminar with students from the Market Photo Workshop. The publication was also launched in London. The work and project is available online at <http://waiting.today/>

Waiting was further exhibited as large outdoor prints as part of the Getxophoto Festival (Spain) curated by Christian Caujolle.



SEQUINS, SELF AND STRUGGLE

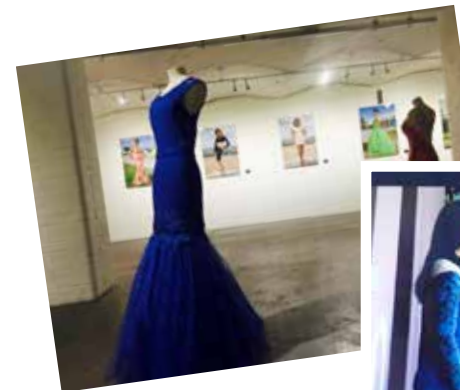
Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **July 2015**

Place: **Southbank Centre in London, United Kingdom**

This international, interdisciplinary symposium was a culminating event of the AHRC-funded project 'Sequins, Self & Struggle: Performing and Archiving Sex, Place and Class in Pageant Competitions in Cape Town'. The project is a collaboration among the Departments of Drama at Royal Holloway and Queen Mary University of London, The Centre for Curating the Archive and the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town, Africana Studies at Brown University and the District Six Museum.

Sequins, Self and Struggle aims to research, document and disseminate archives of two major cultural events in Cape Town: the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union 'Spring Queen' and 'Miss Gay Western Cape'. The two pageants, distinct though inter-connected, suggest a wide-range of research questions and research practices around performance of identity, gender, sexuality, race, landscape and labour in Cape Town today.





THE CHIMURENGA LIBRARY

Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **October 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

The Showroom and The Otolith Collective presented the Cape Town-based outfit Chimurenga. For their first UK presentation, Chimurenga infiltrated The Showroom's building in the form of The Chimurenga Library, inserting themselves into the existing frameworks, functions and structures of the space without displacing its everyday activities. Founded by Ntone Edjabe in 2002, Chimurenga (a Shona word that loosely translates as 'struggle for freedom') is at the centre of a vibrant new cultural projection across Africa, which includes championing new music, literature and visual arts.

During its first week, the exhibition The Chimurenga Library played host to the Pan African Space Station (PASS), Chimurenga's online music radio station and pop-up studio. PASS presented a live broadcasting programme of music, interviews and events with Chimurenga collaborators in London, including musicians, journalists, writers, curators and filmmakers.



INFLUENCES NAIL SALON

Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **November 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Artsadmin (UK) and British artist Phoebe Davies, in collaboration with The Sibikwa Arts Centre in South Africa, presented Influences Nail Salon as part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Davies' Influences Nail Salon engages audiences with contemporary feminism using the pop culture of nail art through an activist nail salon run by local women. The nail salon is a site for political and social exchange, enabling audiences to have nail designs applied depicting influential and significant southern African women. The participating young women chose the nail sets that included women of all ages and backgrounds, from well-known historical figures such as Lilian Ngoyi to Miriam Makeba, Caster Semenya, Nompandolo Mkhathshwa, Naadiya Moosajee and Thuli Madonsela.





THE FILM WILL ALWAYS BE YOU

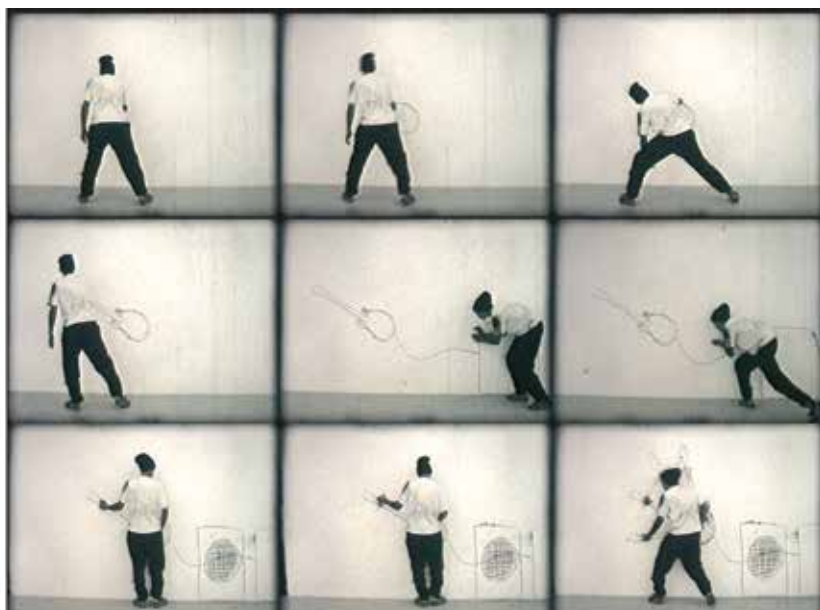
Genre: **Visual Art**

Date: **July 2015**

Place: **Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom**

The film series screened 25 films over a three-day period, introducing 27 artists born and/or active in South Africa to a London audience. This type of programme had never before been realised in scope or ambition.

South African artists were: Doris Bloom, Bridget Baker, Dineo Seshee Bopape, Jacques Coetzer, Angela de Jesus, Barend de Wet, Teboho Edkins, Neville Gabie, Angus Gibson and William Kentridge, Simon Gush, Donna Kukama, Michael MacGarry, Nandipha Mntambo, Zanele Muholi, Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Robin Rhode, Athi-Patra Ruga, Berni Searle, Bogosi Sekhukhuni, Lerato Shadi, Penny Siopis; Gregg Smith, Johan Thom, and Minette Vari.



Robin Rhode • Untitled (Air Guitar) • 2005 • super 8 film transferred to video • black and white • 7 minutes 15 seconds • courtesy of the artist, Berlin



DANCE ARCHIVE EXCHANGE

Genre: **Dance, Skills Exchange**

Date: **July – November 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, Mpumalanga and Cape Town, South Africa; Coventry, United Kingdom**

The Dance Archive Exchange materialised in two parts – first as an archiving and skills exchange, and then as workshops and discussions. Jessica Denyschen (The Ar(t)hive, SA) visited Coventry University (UK) for a skills exchange in dance archiving technologies. This exchange addressed strategic development around the construction of collections as well as the optimisation of operations regarding archiving in dance. UK-based Frank Bock (curator at Independent Dance, lecturer and existential psychotherapist) and Katye Coe (dance artist, Artistic Director of Decoda and lecturer at Coventry University) visited South Africa to facilitate their first Groundswell as part of the partnership programme. A meeting between Coe, Bock and P.J. Sabbagha (The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative) was facilitated in Mpumalanga to view the brand new Ebudlweni dance and residency location space. Coe and Frank have expressed great interest in returning to this space to work independently as artists as well as possible exchanges for students.





CAPE TOWN OPERA AND **WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE**

Genre: **Opera, Capacity Building**

Date: **July – November 2015**

Place: **Cape Town, South Africa; Wales, United Kingdom**

The SA-UK Seasons Partnership Grant supported four staff members from Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) and Cape Town Opera (CTO) to participate in administrative, educational and technical exchanges at each other's companies. It provided unique, hands-on and face-to-face opportunities for its staff to learn from one another. One-hundred-and-ten youths in Retreat and Vredenburg, South Africa participated in educational outreach programmes, including music composition, acting and score writing, which involved WMC staff.

Over 500 Cardiff-based foreign refugees, and 20 Cardiff-based children participated in educational events involving CTO staff. A total of 65 hours of professional consultation and instruction was given by leaders in UK theatrical venues, to CTO and WMC technical and logistical coordinators. This improved the WMC and CTO employees' skills and oversight of collaborative theatrical productions.

CTO's disability access programme (sign language and audio-described performances) was launched subsequent to WMC's Creative Learning Assistant's trip to Cape Town. She advised CTO on best practices for deaf- and sight-impaired audience development.



SA TO UK ARTS IN **ACTIVISM**

Genre: **Music**

Date: **August 2015**

Place: **King Williams Town, South Africa; Liverpool, United Kingdom**

The SA to UK Arts in Activism project is a partnership project between The Steve Biko Housing Association (SBHA) in Liverpool, UK and The Steve Biko Foundation in South Africa. The Project engaged hard to reach, young, diverse people and musicians from the UK and SA through an international exchange. It facilitated the sharing of experiences, knowledge and skills as the young artists experienced the creation, performance and marketing of a music compilation centred upon culture, activism and identity. Workshops using music as a tool for engagement and building skills, experience, confidence and opportunities were held in King Williams Town in South Africa. Roxanne Jones and Merki Waters from Liverpool 8 working with acclaimed Liverpool musician and producer KOF and South African singer-songwriters Tresor, Ncebakazi Yeko, Shaimag and Siphokazi created songs about their shared experiences of struggle, identity and equality. 'The Arts In Activism EP' was performed live at the Liverpool International Music Festival in August, which had over 151 000 visitors over three days.

The SA to UK Collective have digitally released 'The Arts In Activism EP', which can be downloaded from <http://www.artsinactivism.co.uk/>





UMSINDO

Genre: **Music and Visual Arts**

Date: **September 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

ART WEEK JOBURG presented Umsindo, an exploration of sound across borders through two events. It brought together a range of creatives to explore the nature of sound practice in contemporary art and to play with convention, and redefine resonance.

Okestral Sghubu featured artist collective Thath'i Cover Orkestra (SA) and artist and classical musician Hannah Jones (UK). The collaboration initiated relationships between the musicians, culminating in a live performance at Eyethu Lifestyle Centre in Mofolo, Soweto in front of an audience of 350 people.

LOS-JHB brought the work of sound artist Emeka Ogboh to the Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) for five days with a total of 592 visitors to the exhibition, including school tours as part of the JAG Education Programme.



CONNECTED

Genre: **Theatre and Digital Arts**

Date: **August – November 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa; Coventry, United Kingdom**

Connected is an international theatre and digital arts collaboration between Wellworn Theatre (SA) and Told by an Idiot Theatre Company (UK), which has seen two groups of teenagers from Johannesburg and Coventry connect via an online rehearsal room for the month of October in 2015. The young people selected to participate had previously had little or no experience in either theatre or digital arts.

The young participants learned valuable confidence-building skills as well as an increased ability to work as part of a unit towards one goal. They also learned and shared new and valuable digital skills such as: setting up a Gmail account, downloading apps, navigating smartphones, tablets, laptops and a chromebook, documentation skills, video conferencing, and multimedia tools.





ITO I

Genre: **Spoken Word**

Date: **October 2015**

Place: **Durban, South Africa**

Iain EWOK Robinson (SA) is everything that Kat Francois (UK) is not. He is the White African European Man to her Black European African Woman. Together, they tackle issues of ancestry and identity using the humour, passion and energy of their unique styles of writing and performing poetry. Whether talking to themselves, each other or the audience, these two veterans of SLAM and stage are fully engaged in carving out a new space for race to identify itself, using cutting humour and sharp tongues. I to I was directed by respected artist and filmmaker Karen Melissa Logan, who has created the multifaceted layering of audio and visual, incorporating photography by UK-based Robert Covell.

I to I was performed at Square Space Theatre in Durban to an estimated 130 people of varying age and race over a series of four public performances.



FAK'UGESI DIGITAL AFRICA RESIDENCY

Genre: **Digital Art**

Date: **August – November 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa; London, United Kingdom**

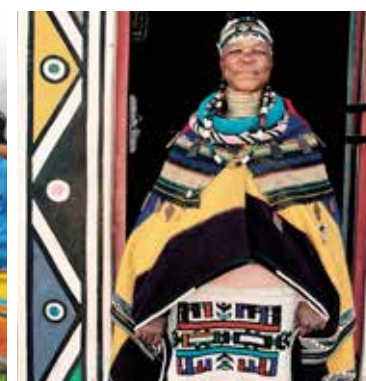
The Fak'ugesi Residency focused on the convergence of culture, creative practice and technology. The 2015 Residency was produced between the Fak'ugesi Digital Africa Festival in Johannesburg and the Networked Bodies Festival at Watermans in London in partnership with Wits Art Museum and Tshimologong Precinct in Braamfontien. All four residents occupied the Wits Art Museum basement gallery as an 'open lab' in which they ran workshops and events for the duration of three weeks, while inviting regular museum visitors to learn and observe the development of various technologically orientated cultural outcomes.

The Fak'ugesi Residency brought creative technology thinking, prototyping, construction and use to a large participating audience of young people. A total of 2 800 visitors, including school groups, visited the museum, as well as organised groups of students and young creatives.





SA Season in the UK





THE **ROYAL EDINBURGH** MILITARY TATTOO

Genre: **Dance**

Date: **August 2014**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

The 2014 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo presented a stunning traditional battle dance by the 'Ingobamakhosi' Dance Group from KwaZulu-Natal. The 40 dancers gave 25 performances to an audience of 220 000 people.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is very much a 'global gathering' – showcasing the talents of musicians and performers from every corner of the globe. It has been televised in more than 30 countries and performers from over 46 countries have taken part.



SOUTH AFRICA AT 20: THE **FREEDOM TOUR**

Genre: **Film**

Date: **October 2014 – April 2015**

Place: **Throughout the United Kingdom**

The year 2015 marked 20 years of democracy for South Africa and was, as the name of the project suggests, the theme behind the tour of 25 South African films across the United Kingdom. The films depict the history, culture and stories of South Africa and included anti-apartheid classics as well as contemporary films.

- 25 South African films
- 133 screenings
- 57 complimentary events accompanied screenings
- 21 United Kingdom locations
- 47 venues
- 5 673 audience members





INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOWCASE

Genre: **Fashion**

Date: **February 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

South Africa asserted her new identity in a fashion showcase alongside 28 other countries. The works of three designers were presented, all of who imbue the next wave of South African self-expression through well researched, original and ambitious design. The title of their collective installation, Futraspective, suggested that the designers' work looked back with a view to looking forward, all with clear ideas about what to leave behind, and what to take with them.

South Africa won second place for best exhibition and MaXhosa by Laduma received a special mention for best designer. The awards were presented at a ceremony during London Fashion Week, which ran at the same time as the showcase.

Exhibiting designers were Adriaan Kuiters and Jody Paulsen, Akedo and MaXhosa by Laduma. They exhibited to 10 000 visitors over the five-day showcase and the press in 27 countries with a 260 million media reach.



EDINBURGH JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL 2014

Genre: **Music**

Date: **July 2014**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

From the festival's commencement, the artistic policy has been to concentrate on musical excellence (rather than the 'star system') and to champion spontaneous creativity: music making on the spot in Edinburgh. These virtues have been developed in the 21st Century with the production of a wide range of new music, the establishment of the Edinburgh Jazz Festival Orchestra, an ongoing commitment to supporting Scottish musicians to realise creative ideas, and to link with international musicians. Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival has also grown its world outlook, presenting high quality musicians from all over the world, which included the 2014 participation of South African artists Artscape Youth Band, Feya Faku, Ian Smith and Lorenzo Blignaut. The Artscape Youth Band had the honour of Prince Charles attending their performance.





SOWETO MELODIC VOICES AT THE JUST FESTIVAL

Genre: **Music**

Date: **July 2014**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Just Festival events aim at challenging perceptions, celebrating differences and promoting respectful dialogue. The conversations, talks, exhibitions and performances that constitute Just's annual programme are designed to engage with topical local, national and international questions of social justice, equality and identity, including prejudice against race, ethnicity, class and economic status. Just explores these issues by creating safe spaces for dialogue and exchange between affected groups and individuals, invited experts, practitioners, community-based organisations, socially conscious performing arts groups and the general public. This multidimensional, multi-stakeholder approach encourages creative engagement with important societal questions from a variety of angles and perspectives with the aim of reducing religious, political and social intolerance.

The Soweto Spiritual Singers participated at the Just Festival 2014 and gave 14 performances.



SOWETO SPIRITUAL SINGERS AT THE UNDERBELLY FESTIVAL

Genre: **Music**

Date: **July 2014**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Underbelly is a UK-based live entertainment company that runs several festivals and events across the UK. They operate one venue at the Edinburgh Festival. Soweto Spiritual Singers gave 30 performances, which formed part of their 2014 Edinburgh programme.





EFG LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL 2014, 2015

Genre: **Music**

Date: **November 2014 and 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

The EFG London Jazz Festival, which has long been acclaimed for showcasing a heady mix of talent from around the world, is London's biggest pan-city music festival and takes place annually in November. Widely acknowledged for delivering world-class artists and emerging stars, the festival continues to take jazz to a massive audience.

For both 2014 and 2015, the festival focused on South African jazz by inviting South African artists such as Abdullah Ibrahim, Bokani Dyer, Sibongile Khumalo, Gloria Bosman, Thandiswa Mazwai, The Soil, Louis Moholo-Moholo and the Dedication Orchestra, to name a few.



THE SOIL AT COMMONWEALTH DAY

Genre: **Music**

Date: **March 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

An annual day of celebrating the Commonwealth of Nations, which is marked by a multi-faith service in the Westminster Abbey, featured South Africa's The Soil, an a cappella group from Soweto, who performed for an audience of 2 000 people and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.





ON MASS

Genre: **Music**

Date: **November 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**



In 2015, young musicians from the Roundhouse Music Collective invited young musicians from South Africa, Ukraine and Nigeria to work collaboratively with UK contemporary composers David Coulter and Jamie Cullum. The project set out to create a new work that was premiered to an audience of 3 000 people at the Roundhouse. This formed part of the EFG London Jazz Festival 2015.

The new piece was inspired by, responded to, and celebrated young people's creativity and worked across geographical borders and genres. The focus of the performance was 'mass music making' that put collaboration, creativity and experimentation at the forefront of the work.



EKHAYA AT 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN GLASGOW

Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **July 2014**

Place: **Glasgow, Scotland**



Ekhaya, South Africa's home away from home, became a place not just for sports but also South African arts and culture during the Commonwealth Games. The SA Season in the UK presented artists like Hugh Masekela, Mahotella Queens, Phuzekhemisi, Vusi Mahlasela, DJ Zinhle, Crazy White Boy, Naima McLean, Philani Ngidi and the Afro queens, Celeste Ntuli, Freshly Ground, The Soil and Mi Casa.



INTERNATIONAL NELSON MANDELA DAY

Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **July 2014**

Place: **Glasgow, Scotland**

The SA Season in the UK celebrated International Nelson Mandela Day 2014 in Glasgow, which was significant because Glasgow was the first city in the UK to award the imprisoned Nelson Mandela the freedom of the city, symbolically bestowing him the keys to the city in 1981 in what was a hugely controversial move. The celebration also preceded the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 by just a week.

The celebration saw a two-day event that included performances by South African artists Hugh Masekela, Mzansi Youth Choir and a cappella quartet, iComplete. These events attracted an audience of nearly 1 000 people.



AFROVIBES

Genre: **Multidisciplinary**

Date: **October – November 2014**

Place: **Throughout the United Kingdom**

Afrovibes is a travelling biennial festival of contemporary theatre, dance, film and music from South Africa. Central to the festival is a specially created Township Café, a space that serves African food and drinks, hosts events and acts as a hub for festival activities. It serves as a meeting place for UK artists and audiences and provides an opportunity to directly engage with the visiting South African performers, through post show talks, workshops, debates, late night music events, and jamming sessions.

- 60 events
- 44 South African artists
- 13 UK locations
- 10 productions
- 4 weeks





FUTURE NEWS CONFERENCE AND LIVE REPORTING

Genre: **Literature/Journalism**
Date: **April and June/July 2014**
Place: **Glasgow, Scotland**

Future News, a British Council initiative, offered 16-18-year-olds from Commonwealth countries training on aspects of video editing to media ethics from top international journalists at a three-day conference in Glasgow. Kelebogile Mojanaga, Mpho Machaka and Mikaela Thakur, three young, aspiring South African journalists, were selected to attend the conference as part of the SA Season in the UK's 2014 programme.

The iconic Mitchell Library became the base for a Live Games Newsroom during the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow. Kelebogile Mojanaga, Mpho Machaka and Baxolise Mfidiyoung again travelled to Glasgow to put their skills into practice as they worked on Games-related stories and compiled and edited reports. Chris Roper of the *Mail&Guardian* accompanied the young South African journalists as a mentor on both visits.



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Genre: **Literature**
Date: **August 2014 and 2015**
Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Edinburgh International Book Festival (EIBF) welcomes over 800 authors in over 700 events each year, including novelists, poets, scientists, philosophers, sportsmen, illustrators, graphic artists, historians, musicians, biographers, environmentalists, economists, Nobel and Booker prizewinners and many more. The Festival also takes joy in bringing readers and writers together for entertainment, discussion and pure inspiration.

In 2014, the Festival invited six South African authors to present their work. Margie Orford, Damon Galgut, Lauren Beukes, Zakes Mda, Niq



Mhlongo, and Carol-Ann Davids not only presented their own work, but were also invited to join panel discussions about South Africa and its successes and challenges during the two decades since Apartheid.

In 2015, Margie Orford was invited back to the Festival, where she was spot-lit for both her excellent crime writing and her latest journalistic work, in particular, her articles regarding violence against women in South Africa.

Working with the South African Department of Arts and Culture for the past three years, EIBF have welcomed more than a dozen South African writers.



ROYAL COURT THEATRE, **NEW PLAYS** FROM **SOUTH AFRICA**: AFTER 20 **YEARS OF DEMOCRACY**

Genre: **Theatre**

Date: **May 2014**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

The Royal Court Theatre (RCT) worked with twelve South African playwrights in 2014 to develop scripts. Napo Masheane, Neil Coppen, Omphile Molusi, Mongiwekhaya Mthombeni, Amy Jephta, Simo Majola were six of the twelve South African playwrights who were chosen to go to London. Here, they were awarded the opportunity to work closely with a UK director associated with the RCT and develop their scripts through a series of readings and rehearsals. Mongiwekhaya Mthombeni's script has been developed into a full production.





AFTER FREEDOM: NEW RHYTHMS OF SOWETO MUSICAL

Genre: **Theatre/Dance (Musical)**

Date: **July/August 2015**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Open auditions were held in Soweto for the vastly undiscovered Sowetan youths and eleven cast members were chosen to make After Freedom: New Rhythms of Soweto Musical a reality.

The cast members played a significant role in developing and improving the production and were deeply invested when they performed for over 1 900 audience members at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Told through a story of a young male character, the musical takes audiences through ups and downs of youth life in South Africa. The musical, which is a continued collaborative effort between Simply Soweto Encha and Edinburgh just Festival, premièred at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2015.



AUTONOMOUS TIMES

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **May – October 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

Arebyte Gallery (located in Hackney Wick, London) invited emerging South African artist Nelmarie du Preez to form part of their series of gallery residencies and solo shows where the gallery space is transformed into a 'laboratory'. Du Preez spent four to six weeks using the gallery as both a studio and exhibition space, while giving the public an inner look at the process of creation while taking an active role in developing research and sharing knowledge/skills in terms of new technologies and labour politics.

Nelmarie Du Preez, Sasol's 2015 New Signatures Art competition winner, achieved great success through this artist residency in the UK:

- Her first solo exhibition
- Live streaming of the piece being created in real time
- Multiple workshops
- Various artist talks





EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **August 2014**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Edinburgh Art Festival presented 'Common-wealth' – an ambitious international exhibition that was staged in the City Arts centre in Central Edinburgh in 2104, celebrating work by leading and emerging artists from five continents. The project highlighted the 2014 Art Festival, Edinburgh Festival's season, Culture 2014, and the starting point for new partnerships, and enduring international networks and exchanges.



Thembinkosi Goniwe from Johannesburg, South Africa was one of five highly regarded mid-career curators invited from locations across the Commonwealth to participate in the exhibition, and to present a selection of artists' work reflecting their own personal locations, local and global connections, experiences, and perspectives. Thembinkosi curated three local artists Kay Hassan, Mary Sibande and Kemang Wa Lehulere for the 2014 festival.



EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **July/August 2015**

Place: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

The UK's largest annual celebration of visual art that attracts over 250 000 visitors each year as well as brings together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces. It strives to display the best contemporary Scottish artists and the most important international artists and movements of the 20th Century and historical periods in the context of exhibitions.

The title of the 2015 festival was *The Improbable City*, where South Africa's Kamang Wa Lehulere was invited and commissioned to showcase.





ESTHER MAHLANGU TURNS 80

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **November 2015 (Exhibition)**

Place: **Cape Town, South Africa 2015;
London, United Kingdom 2016**

One of South Africa's greatest living artists, Esther Mahlangu, turned 80 on 11 November 2015. To celebrate this, as well as her role in educating young people in the traditional art of the Ndebele, 34FineArt Gallery arranged a solo exhibition with an accompanying exhibition catalogue. The exhibition opened in Cape Town on 11 November 2015 and will be showcased in London, United Kingdom in 2016.



Connect ZA





MAKER **LIBRARY** NETWORK (MLN)

Genre: **Design**

Date: **2013 – ongoing**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom and Global**

'Design is a profession, it's a process. Making is a body of knowledge that we all share.' Daniel Charny, founder and director MLN, and From-Now-On.

The project was initiated by British Council Connect ZA with Daniel Charny as a way to connect UK and SA makers, design-based thinkers, and to create a physical and digital network for exchange between them. Entrepreneurship is also a strong focus of MLN, as the knowledge and skills shared will enable growth for new and existing makers. MLN has grown beyond British Council's imagination: libraries and makespaces can now be found in Brazil, Nigeria, Turkey, Istanbul, Germany and other countries.



INTERNATIONAL **FASHION** **SHOWCASE** 2015

Genre: **Fashion**

Date: **2014 and 2015**

Place: **London, United Kingdom**

Designs by Cape Town collaborative art and fashion creatives, Adriaan Kuiters and Jody Paulsen, as well as MaXhosa from Laduma knitwear, the Buyel'mbo collection by designer Laduma Ngxokolo, hang at (XYZ).

The Futraspective fashion show saw South Africa looking back to go forward in an international showcase. New designers displayed a riot of textures and influences, from bold prints to beadwork and folded metal.

This year, one of Laduma's MaXhosa garments won the Most Beautiful Object Award at Design Indaba 2016.





CREATIVE HUSTLES

Genre: **Creative Economy, Multidisciplinary**

Date: **2013 – 2016**

Place: **Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa**

Since 2013, the British Council Connect ZA team, alongside SA partner Live Magazine, have hosted a series of Creative Hustles – innovative and experiential youth gatherings for young people to engage with established industry and arts professionals. Various themes of interest to 18-35-year-olds have been explored, such as music curation in different spaces, digital art and making, innovative collaborations, woman in art and international music festivals, to name a few. Young people have been introduced to new career opportunities through the Digital Hustle events, namely the scope available in digital marketing. This is presented alongside Digify Bytes, nationwide.

This year, they will continue to grow the Creative Hustle network and explore new audiences, spaces and cities such as Durban and Pretoria.

CONNECTING FUTURE MARKETS

Genre: **Creative Economy**

Date: **2014 + 2015**

Place: **Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa;
London, United Kingdom**

British Council Connect ZA and Business and Arts South Africa collaborated with the Arts Marketing Association and created an Audience Development Programme to train four master facilitators and scale this training through BASA's Education Programme. This engages a hybrid methodology and practise using marketing, digital strategy and consumer insight analysis. The research that came from this engagement is supporting the sector's understanding of their audiences and is currently being expanded to an online platform.





INNOVATION ZA (I/ZA)

Genre: **Creative Economy, Design**

Date: **August 2014 and 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa,
with United Kingdom participation**

Following the success of Innovation ZA in 2014, British Council Connect ZA, together with its partners, presented a four-week programme that ran from 20 August to 12 September 2015. Situated alongside the Fak'ugesi Digital Africa Innovation Festival, the programme included various activities and events that explored innovation across various creative forms.

The programme boasted one Huffington Post article, 22 partners, 30 events, over 1 800 participants, over 10 000 Facebook impressions, over 80 000 Twitter impressions, and trending across three hashtags.



CREATIVE FUTURES

Genre: **Creative Economy**

Date: **September 2014**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Six countries were represented, 16 young professionals from UK and SA participated, over 2 000 000 hashtags were reached, and R3 700 000 worth of media value was generated.

Creative Futures was a gathering of the hottest digital, design, music, performance and visual arts creatives from the UK, SA and the rest of Africa in the heart of 'Johustleburg', curated with Livity Africa. Three days of creative exchanges, talks, performances, parties and public discussions forged relationships and collaborations between participants that still continue today.



YURI SUZUKI RESIDENCY

Genre: **Creative Economy**

Date: **September, 2014**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

“My work is interdisciplinary, bringing together interactive design, music, art, electronics and people. I am interested in the relationship between sound and people, and how music and sound affects people’s minds.” – Yuri Suzuki.

Yuri collaborates with people worldwide and was commissioned by UK company onedotzero to be part of their cascade_za workshop and to create a piece of work as part of Connect ZA Innovation Month.



He worked with SA artists Bogosi Sekhukhuni, Neo Mahlasel and technologist Nathan Gates, as the first Tshimologong Precinct Resident, to hack musical instruments and create quirky, intriguing performances in public spaces. The works were showcased in Johannesburg as part of Fak’ugesi Digital Africa Festival.



CASCADE ZA

Genre: **Creative Economy**

Date: **September 2014 and 2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Twenty applicants across disciplines were selected in an open call and spent five days learning and playing in the international education programme run by London-based cultural and events organisation onedotzero.

The programme resulted in a series of interactive events open to the public at the closing of Fak’ugesi Digital Innovation Festival and British Council Connect ZA’s Innovation Month.





MANDELA DAY SHORTS

Genre: **Film**

Date: **2014**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom**

The British Council Connect ZA programme and The Space co-commissioned three new moving image artworks from six emerging South African and British visual artists, animators and musicians. Each artwork brought together a British and South African creative: one specialising in visual art or animation and one in music, to create a work between 90 seconds and three minutes in length. The aim of the co-commission is to promote emerging creative talent, and inspire cross-pollination between different art forms and cultures.

The three films, launched on Mandela Day, were: The Earth is Flat, Pied Piper's Voyage and Vividism.



ROYAL COURT WRITING PROGRAMME

Genre: **Literature, Theatre**

Date: **2013 – 2016**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom**

This is a two-year workshop involving 28 young writers from across South Africa and Zimbabwe, culminating in public readings, sharing experiences of contemporary Southern African life, to an international audience.

One of the plays I see you by Mongiwekhaya has been co-produced by Royal Court and The Market Theatre to international acclaim, and is the first collaboration between the two theatres in 20 years.





WRITING A NEW ZA

Genre: **Literature**

Date: **2015**

Place: **United Kingdom, worldwide, online**

Writing A New South Africa was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service, and ignited Twitter conversations across all episodes. Johannesburg-based spoken word poet, Afurakan Thabiso Mohare, looks at South Africa two decades after the fall of apartheid. He explores themes that younger writers are choosing to engage with in their own work. These authors, poets and playwrights are exploring the past and present, from apartheid's legacy to political corruption, from rootedness in the land to the chaos of the inner city. Thabiso has recently been commissioned to work with Megan Jones of BBC radio on digital poetry.



INTERVERSE

Genre: **Literature**

Date: **2016**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom, online**

Over 130 000 impressions and 90 000 accounts reach on Twitter!

InterVerse acknowledges the highly-charged conversations taking place around intersectionality. The series is an international poetry-for-the-people, content-creating and knowledge-sharing project that ran for eight days in February 2016.

It included conversations, workshops, Twitter poetry slams and live events with Debris Stevenson (UK) & InZync Poetry Sessions (SA).

Stellenbosch's InZync Poetry connects with Mouthy Poets out of Nottingham, across the various workshops and live poetry events.





RETURN TO ELSEWHERE

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **2014**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom**

A Return to Elsewhere was a photographic collaboration between Kalpesh Lathigra (UK) and Thabiso Sekgala (SA) to develop work within Indian communities in two primary locations – Marabastad and Laudium – in South Africa and Brighton in the UK. The project explored understandings of belonging, history, silences, memory and loss; creating narratives, and raising questions, around truth and fiction and notions of connect and disconnect. This was shown at both the Brighton Photo Umbrella, Joburg Photo Umbrella and is a digital exhibition.



CO-LAB

Genre: **Visual Arts**

Date: **2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Co-Lab investigated the power of independent, artist-led project spaces in the visual arts in the UK and South Africa.

Three leading project spaces from across the UK took residency in downtown Johannesburg in Ithuba Gallery, collaborating with SA creative practice, presenting collaborations and UK work alongside workshops, screening and talks exploring contemporary visual culture.

The ongoing relationship between the participants has been exciting and has resulted in return visits between the countries.





ROUNDHOUSE RISING

Genre: **Music**

Date: **2014**

Place: **United Kingdom**

Six live acts, six different sounds and two cities.

One competitive weekend of live performances in Johannesburg created a rhythmic synthesis between the British Council Connect ZA, Live SA and the Roundhouse venue in London in 2014.

Cape Town-based hip hop producer Wildebeats and Johannesburg ensemble The Brother Moves On were the Future Music Rising winners.

Future Music Rising was part of the 2013 #FutureMusic series.



BASSXCHANGE SA/UK

Genre: **Music**

Date: **2014, 2015 and 2016**

Place: **South Africa, online**

BassXchange UK/ZA is an online competition that offers UK-based producers the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to win an all expenses paid trip to Cape Town, South Africa to immerse themselves in the Cape Town Electronic Music Festival activity.

"I've built links with some hugely talented producers I met out there and am hopefully going to be doing some remix swaps and also a mini tour of SA in late September. The BassXchange project was incredible, inspirational and fantastic and I still can't believe I got to be a part of it." – Murder He Wrote, 2014.

Murder He Wrote is in the process of putting together a release from a South African artist (Daddy Warbucks) whom he met while in Cape Town for BassXchange UK/ZA 2014. "It had the most interesting track selection and also he'd made his own edits and versions of.

"Out of all these mixes this mix had a constant groove and took me on a journey, which is what you want from a DJ" – Nightmares On Wax, Leeds-based DJ on 2016 winner Cateran.

ateran also got to close off the main stage at the opening night of CTEMF's main festival in February 2016. A BassXchange first!





YOUNG FATHERS SA TOUR

Genre: **Music**

Date: **2015**

Place: **South Africa**

“Look at the songs on the album and we’re putting something out there that needs to be said: that the walls need to be broken down. As soon as you talk about issues of race, people shut down. But we want to talk about it. What is a black man: what do they look like and what do they act like? What is a white man? And everyone is part of that, everyone is involved.” – Alloysious Massaquoi, Young Fathers.

Young Fathers were in South Africa in February for a two-city tour hosted by SA beats platform, Weheartbeat and Cape Town’s Assembly Radio in partnership with the British Council Connect ZA and Okayafrica.



SB.TV

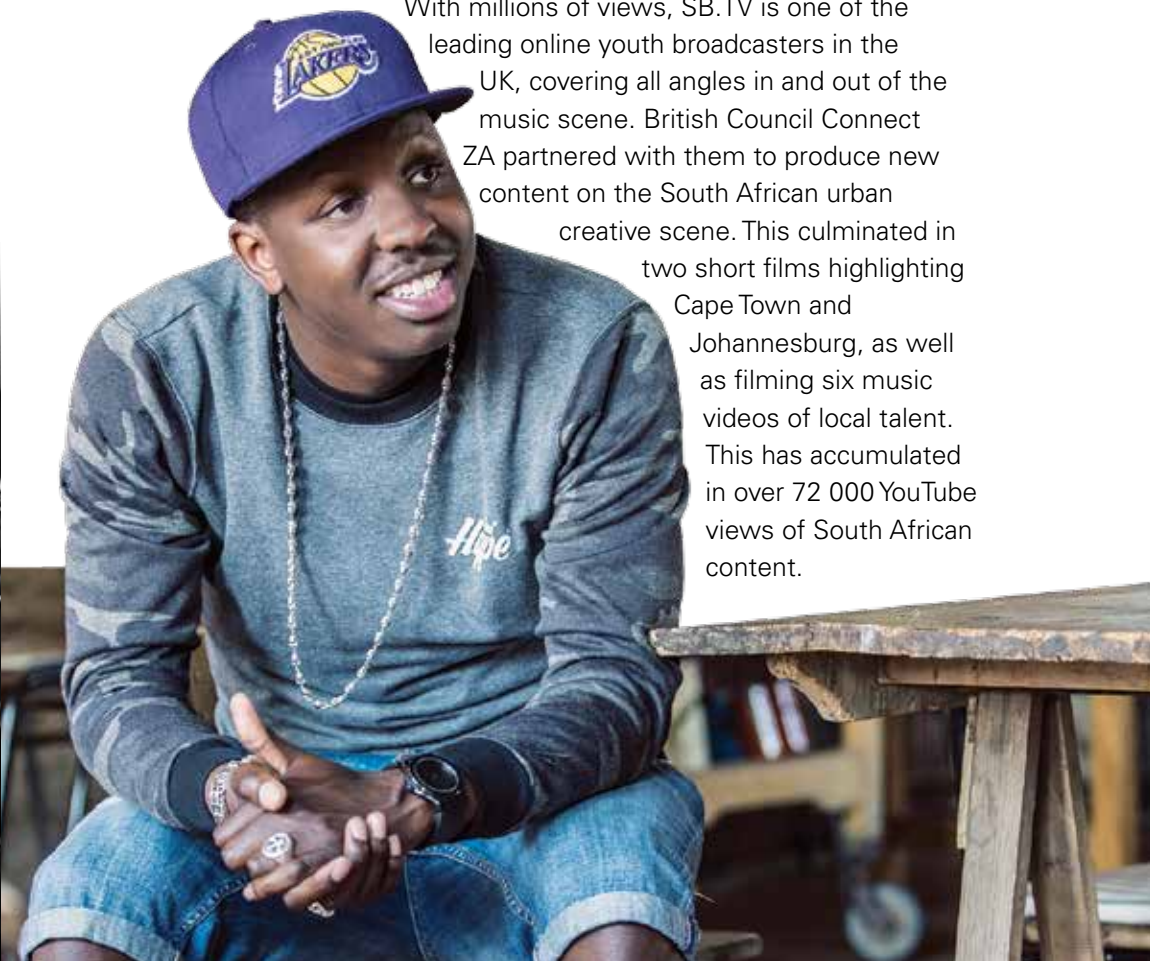
Genre: **Cross Disciplinary**

Date: **2014**

Place: **Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa; United Kingdom**

“We were honoured to get the opportunity to fly out to South Africa to connect with the talent out there. We had an incredible time learning about the culture and how music has developed.” – SB.TV.

With millions of views, SB.TV is one of the leading online youth broadcasters in the UK, covering all angles in and out of the music scene. British Council Connect ZA partnered with them to produce new content on the South African urban creative scene. This culminated in two short films highlighting Cape Town and Johannesburg, as well as filming six music videos of local talent. This has accumulated in over 72 000 YouTube views of South African content.





SUPERDREAM

Genre: **Cross Disciplinary**

Date: **2014**

Place: **South Africa, United Kingdom**

Superdream connected two urban park spaces, Windmills Hills Park (Gateshead, UK) and Jeppe Park (Johannesburg, South Africa) through a series of artists' responses. Working with UK and South African-based artists, Superdream explored urban living, ideas and uses of public space as well as the role local communities can play in stabilising and redefining public cultural life.

The Superdream Project was a collaboration between The Trinity Session (Johannesburg), Swallows Foundation (Newcastle) and ISIS Arts (Newcastle).



KAZIM RASHID RESIDENCY

Genre: **Cross Disciplinary**

Date: **2015**

Place: **Johannesburg, South Africa**

"Ultimately, the best thing about The Residency was getting the opportunity to create such strong relationships, which in turn have developed into such strong professional opportunities." – Kazim Rashid.

Kazim's residency saw him return to South Africa. He built on existing relationships and developed new ones with music and creative industry individuals and companies from Johannesburg and Cape Town.

"I will 100% return to South Africa." And he already has!



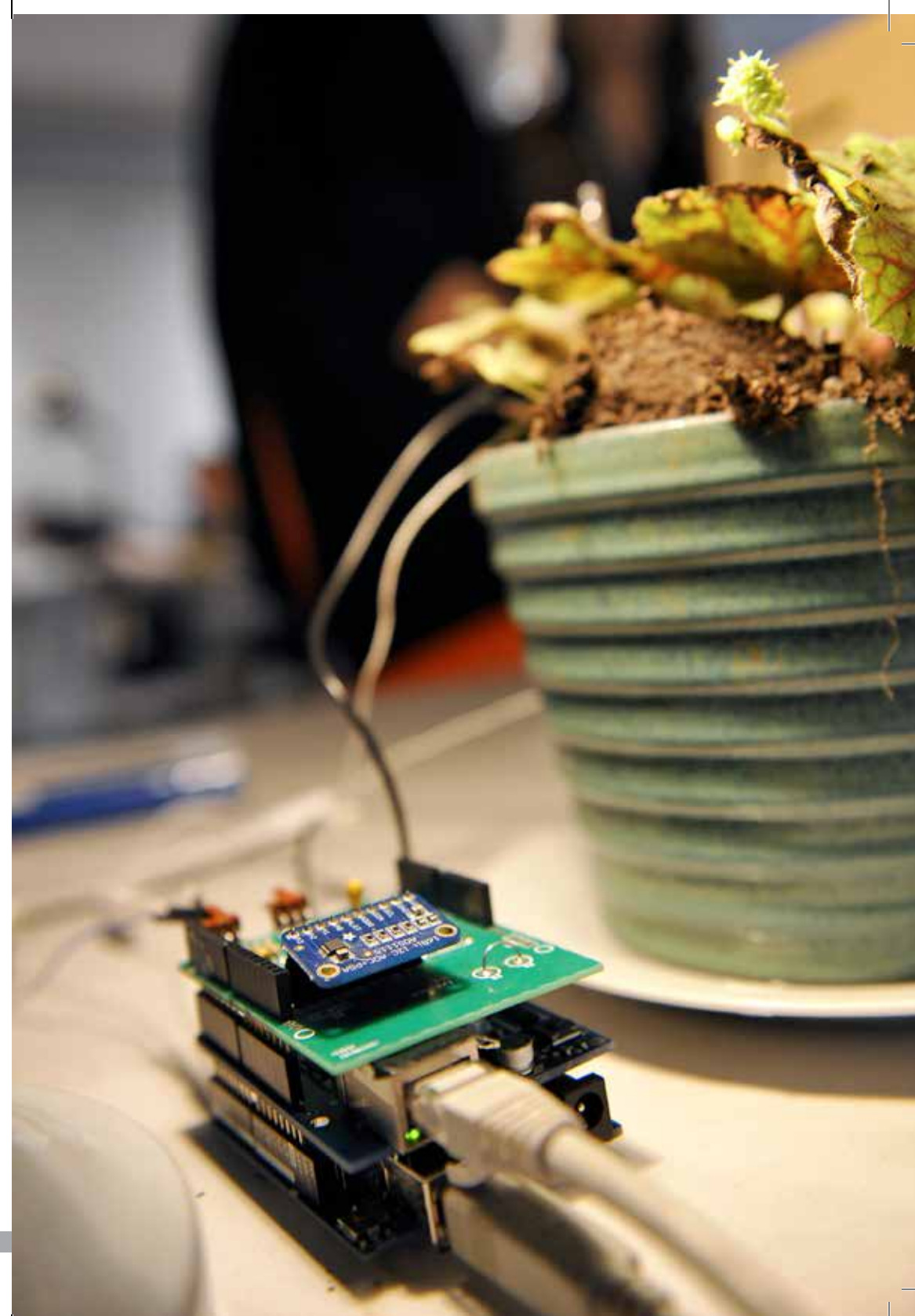
THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM

Co-Chairperson:	Ambassador Samuel Kotane and Thandiwe January McClean (2014)
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Project Manager:	Magdalene Reddy (2014)
Project Coordinator:	Andrea Voges
Project Coordinator:	Christie Lee Kiff
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Communications and Marketing:	McCann (2015)

THE UNITED KINGDOM TEAM

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VISUAL
REPORT OF
SA-UK SEASONS
2014 & 2015



SA-UK
seasons 2014
2015
CONNECTING THROUGH CREATIVITY