



**THE**

# LAB SHOW

2-4 DECEMBER 2011

**PROGRAMME**

THE ARTS LAB & TUMBUKA DANCE COMPANY



## ABOUT ARTS LAB

SPACE TO PLAY, CREATE, EXCEL

The Arts Lab is a professional development programme for performance artists providing training, a space to create new work and a platform from which to showcase talent. The programme combines performance training, with hands on training in arts leadership, management, production and arts-for-development.

All training is linked directly to producing original work, and aims to serve both individual performers and existing arts groups and organisations. Arts Lab also provides links to regional and international practitioners and audiences, through training, collaboration and touring.

### PERFORMANCE TRAINING

Training is centred around the creativity of the performer, with a focus upon theatre arts and contemporary dance and aims to serve the artistic vision and growth of exceptional talent. Training is split between developing

specific performance skills and conceiving, constructing, writing and rehearsing new work. Training and mentorship is provided by leading practitioners in Zimbabwe, and international experts in different performance areas.

The Arts Lab brings together dancers, musicians, singers, actors, writers, visual artists which leads to exploration across art forms. Tumbuka Dance Company work with performers from other renowned groups such as CHIPAWO, New Horizons, OTHER GROUPS IN THE GROUP as well as established solo artists like Edith We Utonga and John Pfumojena.

### CREATING NEW WORK

The Arts Lab facilitates an experimental

performance workshop space where creative visions are nurtured and artistic boundaries pushed. The result is fresh original work rooted in Zimbabwean contemporary reality.

### A COLLECTIVE OF PERFORMING ARTISTS

Those who have come through the programme form part of the Arts Lab Collective which represents a pool of outstanding individual talent, managers and groups who can market, manage facilitate diverse arts-based programmes – for theatres, communities, schools, development partners, corporate partners, events, festivals.

### TOURING AND AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Smaller split off ensembles tour high density areas performing work developed in the Arts Lab workshop, buses

## QUOTE

**This has come from soupy to super!**

Eve Kawadza

are organised to bring community groups to performances at central venues in Harare – this is attempting to bridge gaps across social, economic divides amongst audiences in Zimbabwe. National tours of Zimbabwe are set for 2012, with two major productions both dance and theatre.

### PERFORMING ARTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

As well as performance training, the Arts Lab also provides training in using the arts for communication, education and development. This forms part of the hands on training in diversifying income. Through combined training and practise participants are trained in the use of applied arts for individual and community development including forum theatre, issue-based performance for social change, drama and dance therapy, workshop facilitation, social research and project management.

### COMMUNITY ARTS GROUPS

Performers from Tumbuka Dance Company and theatre groups on the Arts Lab programme lead weekly community groups in high densities around Harare. These use dance and drama process to explore social, personal, political, ethical, developmental issues, working in partnership with human rights groups.

### MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The programme is founded upon the belief that no artistic vision can be fully realised without sound management structures and no artist can realise their full potential if consistently struggling to make ends meet. A core strand of the Arts Lab's work is to provide arts management training to artists and groups.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through programme and proposal development, strategic planning and a training in residency model the Arts Lab facilitates organisational growth of arts groups. The programme brings arts professionals with internationally renowned professional experience, whose work and track record is outstanding, to build capacity in arts management and artistic leadership for each sub-sector in Zimbabwe. Consultative, needs-based and relevant, the Arts Lab concept was developed alongside The Culture Fund and The British Council after extensive consultation and research within the Arts and Culture sector.

## QUOTE

**Its all about playing it to the audience!**

Tinashe Michael Muza







## PERFORMANCE TRAINING

In October 2011 60 performers presented audition pieces to a panel of 5 to participate in the pilot Arts Lab training programme. Following an initiation week for a group of 30, 14 Arts Lab participants, and 10 Tumbuka Dance Company members then embarked on 4 weeks of intensive training starting mid October 2011.

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The initial four week training workshop has taken participants through a process of training and creating new work in both comic and tragic territories. Training exercises are then used as the basis for developing performances – these are shown back to the group for discussion –

in this way training is consistently linked to creating, constructing, and performing.

The Arts Lab encourages acute observation of real life and in so doing, results in the creation of work which embodies issues, stories, behaviour, forces, plays of sincere relevance to contemporary society. The Arts Lab's process involves the study of the self, relationships, society through intense physical levels of play and critical thinking. This results in performers reaching their optimum levels of possible expression, and enables the ability to encourage playfulness and creativity in others.



**QUOTE**

**great and awesome  
experience**

*Simbarashe Joseph*

## The initial 4 week pilot training explored:

### TRAINING 01

**Observation:** character development through observation of animals. Observation and embodiment of nature, places and people. Points of departure for creating work included: structuring 'the world' being thrown off balance - with 'the world' being internal or external; structuring the performance of 'an event' and 'a place' through essentialised image.

### TRAINING 03

**Comic territories:** this included basic clown, exploration of human desires at play, mask, news review, bouffon, the surreal. Points of departure for creating work included reflecting current news, playing at adult 'activity' whilst being a child, reversing logic, playing the 'game' whilst conducting serious business, competing for attention.

Exploration in each of these areas crossed between contemporary dance, theatre and music.

### TRAINING 04

**Friday sharings:** at the end of each week, the group presented pieces that were created through improvisation – this has become a weekly ritual for the Arts Lab workshop and aims to be a space where groups outside and from within the lab, can share new work, test and discuss performance ideas.

### TRAINING 02

**Tragic territories:** basic training and exploration in this territory focussed on expression epic landscapes and emotions in contained space, a journey through the elements -fire, water, air, earth melodrama, tragic chorus, and the condition of the tragic hero. Provocation for creating work included: a departure, a tragic chorus warns society, a heroic choice.

### THANKS

Special thanks to Walter Mparutsa and Peter Churu who have been at every Friday sharing offering advice and mentorship. Their support has been invaluable. 5



## THE LAB SHOW!

The collection of short sketches and performance pieces represent the fruits of the 4 week workshop, intercut with pieces from Tumbuka Dance Company's new repertoire, Building a house which was created for this year's National Arts and Culture Policy Dialogue and the Protest Arts Festival and The Bed in her Head which is part of the Flame Festival 2011. The full show is 2 hours with an interval.

### PART 01

- ▶ The rehearsal
- ▶ Watching a match
- ▶ Olay!
- ▶ A job interview
- ▶ A world without Cellphones
- ▶ A church service
- ▶ James Bond
- ▶ Excerpt from Procession  
by Tumbuka Dance Company

### PART 02

- ▶ Building a house
- ▶ Wafa
- ▶ Grandmotherly love
- ▶ The funeral
- ▶ The cake
- ▶ Kung Fu
- ▶ A Classical Folly  
by Tumbuka Dance Company

### QUOTE

A result of great minds put together to create a splendid production!

Joshua Bhima



## PART 03

- ▶ The Bed in her Head
- ▶ An NGO meeting
- ▶ A Murderous marriage
- ▶ Children in Chitungwiza
- ▶ Doctors at work
- ▶ An important ministerial meeting
- ▶ Fashion show
- ▶ Swaziland riches

## PART 04

- ▶ Magic misused
- ▶ A family watch a wrestling match
- ▶ Religious leaders discuss how to cook meat
- ▶ World leaders discuss reducing emissions
- ▶ Mbuyahe by Tumbuka Dance Company



TE

s Lab we play  
e state and the  
emotion

Samantha Ndlovu

QUOTE

The definition of  
incandescence and  
brilliance in creation

John Pfumojena



## PERFORMERS

## WHO'S WHO ON THE PROGRAMME



**CHARMAINE FRANCIS-  
PICARDO, 19**

A TV presenter for the programme, 'ndeipi gen'a'. She is currently the chairperson of CHIPAWO youth council as well as the CHIPAWO 'new horizon' theatre company. She is an ambassador for sexual and reproductive health rights at 'the right squad'.



**EDITH KATITI, 32**

She pursued music with the Army School of Music. Toured the country and the region with Amakhosi Edith had leading roles in Wonder Guchu's Alone But Together, and Tawanda Kanengoni's HIFA Debut of Silent Words. A lead vocalist for the group Edith WeUtonga. Zimbabwe's only female Bass guitarist!



**EVE KAWADZA**

Her budding talent has seen her performing in UMOJA a cultural exchange programme which draws its participants from Mozambique, South Africa, Norway and Zimbabwe. A member of CHIPAWO Youth programme. She has also worked with New Horizon Arts Theatre Company performing in

a Zimbabwe version of a Spanish play called "Mutambo Wapanyika".



**MONALISA KALUBI**

A graduate of the Dance Foundation Course (DFC). She has performed twice at the HIFA and has performed a piece called 'tempered souls' from a South African choreographer called Itumelang. Currently working under the auspices of Tumbuka Dance Company.



**SAMANTHA NDLOVU,  
24**

Writer, actress and dancer with a certificate



of playmaking from the university of Zimbabwe. She has done numerous stage and on screen productions which include; 'I want a wedding dress 2 and 3', 'the team', 'new dawn', 'shades', 'sacrifices', and 'the jackal'.



**TECLAH MATARE**

Teclah has a diploma in secretarial studies and also a diploma in performing arts with ZAED. Works at CHIPAWO as a performing artist. Her productions include; 'soul sister comes to Africa', 'vicious circle', 'waiting for the rain' and 'jari mukaranga'. she has toured Denmark in performance and is currently touring with the play, 'mutambo wepanyika'.



**TINASHE MASAWI, 20**

A singer who has received high grades at the Eisteddfod. She came coming 2nd at the Sing your way to Paris competition and the Harare's got talent competition in 2011. Has performed in productions which include; Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Killer Queen - We Will Rock you, Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat, Rent, Motown.



**ALEXIO MATAMBO, 26**

Holds a diploma in the Dance Foundation Course and holder of a Karate

Kyokushinkan black belt. has competed in music crossroads competition. Was a part of HIFA between 2009-2011.



**ANTHONY MAZHETE, 26**

An actor, poet and director. Has an honours degree in theatre arts at the university of Zimbabwe including the commemoration of Doug Hamershaalt at Africa university. His appearances include a play on the effects of Murambatsvina, a production by Theory X called, 'Disco inferno', 'Heartless'. Anthony has also worked with the Born Free Crew which has staged some productions for the British council.

## PERFORMERS

## WHO'S WHO ON THE PROGRAMME



**BLESSED RUKWERA**

A musician, Junior Arts Educator and dancer/performer. Completed his Dance Foundation Course with the Dance Trust. He joined CHIPAWO in 1997 and Harare Junior theatre then later the Harare Youth Theatre. He was part of the UMOJA Flying Carpet which toured between 2003 and 2007. As part of CHIPAWO New Horizon Theatre Company, he has toured Zimbabwe and the world. He is currently working with the Tumbuka Dance Company.



**JOHN PFUMOJENA, 22**

Actor and musician. Has performed for HRH Queen of England alongside other choirs at Christmas 2000. Started acting in 2008 with a play at Harare International Festival of the Arts called "Loupe". He has toured Africa and Europe. Other plays include: "Waiting for Constitution"; "Wedding Night"; "Oedipus"; "GPA". On screen has starred in "The Best country"; "New Dawn" "8-3-1"; and, "Playing Warriors". John is the current champion of the Chibuku Road to Fame music competition. He is currently a music teacher at Arundel School, Hellenic and CHIPAWO



**SIMBRASHE G. JOSEPH, 23**

Performer who began his artistic endeavour in primary school where he was involved in a number of productions as a script writer or director. During his time in junior school he also received an award for the best actor. Simbabrashe joined CHIPAWO in 2000 and is the current director of one of their plays called, Mutambo Wepanyika'.



**TINASHE LAWRENCE CHIKU**

A performer and trainer who has done work for the Dance Foundation course at the Dance Trust of Zimbabwe training hip

## QUOTE

**What a great way of art exploration!**

*Monalisa Kalubi*

hop dance. He has also worked at the Harare college of Music as a member of the dance group. Currently working for CHIPAWO as an arts educator and has performed on the play, Mutambo Wepanyika. He also consistently works with the dance group Shaback which has choreographed dances for numerous high profile artist videos.

drummer for Macintosh Jerahuni and the Guests. He is a full time artist, winning modelling



TINEVIMO CHIMBETETE

on children, world summit in south Africa and is a marimba player, mbira player and dancer. Was a TV presenter for 'star kidz' and works for the CHIPAWO media centre as well as being part of the new horizon theatre company and having made it into the UMOJA performance group. He is assistant director for the TV show, 'ndeipi gen'a'.



TINASHE MICHAEL MUZA

He is a performing artist in music, acting and dance and is a recent graduate of the Dance foundation course where he was trained in a myriad of dance styles and technique. He formerly worked for CHIPAWO media centre and has toured Europe and Africa with UMOJA. He has graced the HIFA stage over many years. He is a

competitions at the age of 4 to joining CHIPAWO at the age of 6. Has attended United Nations General Assembly special session

**QUOTE**

A result of great minds put together to create a splendid production!

Joshua Bhima

**QUOTE**

Arts Lab was a stimulating and an intense experience of edutainment

Anthony Mazhetese

**QUOTE**

Different tribes, different languages but at Arts Lab we speak the same language, the arts

Blessed Rukweza

## PERFORMERS

## WHO'S WHO ON THE PROGRAMME



**MAYLENE CHENTERAYI**

Started dancing young through a scholarship with the Dawn Saunders School of Ballet. She has done Grade, elementary and advanced ballet exams. She joined Tumbuka Dance Company in 1999 and has toured extensively with the Company. She got a one year scholarship with Decidedly Jazz in Canada. Also worked with Pascal Montrouge in a collaboration of 8 women called "Superman and I" in Reunion.



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**CATHRINE DOUGLAS**

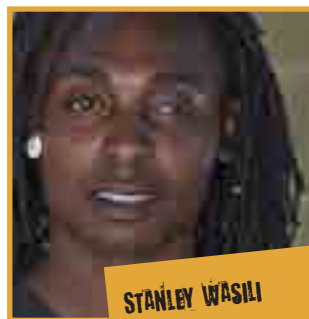
Inspired by watching Tumbuka perform Cathrine started dancing in the Tumbuka Outreach programme. She was then invited to the Dance foundation Course which paved way to be the only female dancer in Tumbuka currently. Cathrine has been furthering her training with Ecole des Sables – Senegal, and recently returned from a female project which she was collaborating 4 women from 4 different countries in the continent. She has toured extensively with the Company.



**MCINTOSH TERAHUNI**

A composer, musician, dancer and a choreographer trained at Savannah Arts, Zvishamiso Arts and at the Dance Foundation Course - the 3 year dance training of the DanceTrust of Zimbabwe. He recently graduated from DFC and is currently working as a junior member of

Tumbuka Dance Company, also a singer/ composer/ band leader. He plays Mbira and have launched his debut music album, the second is currently in production.



**STANLEY WASILI**

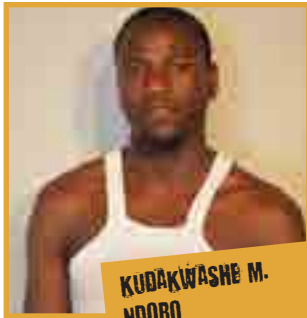
Started dancing with Zvishamiso Arts before auditioning for the DFC where he trained for 3 years in different discipline of dance. He is a musician as well as an aspiring choreographer who have created works that have been performed on international stages while he was still a student in the DFC. Tumbuka recruited Stanley to become a junior member of their ensemble



**CHALEEN CHIMARA**



Started dance through Children's Performing Arts Workshop (Chipawo) before she joined Umoja. She has performed for Uchi Uluji, Shabark, Essence of women, Fulukia Arts amount others. She recently was invited to become a junior member of Tumbuka and is currently participating in the Arts Lab Tumbuka collaboration.



**KUDAKWASHE M. NGORO**

Currently dances with Tumbuka Dance Company Kudakwashe has always had a passion for dance, the first time he saw a Performance by Tumbuka he knew immediately that's what he wanted to do. He did the one year of Dance Foundation Course and was invited to dance with Tumbuka.



**CHIDO F. MUKUNDWA**

A former student of Lord Malvern High Chido started dance with a community group Shabark where he was inspired and found out about DFC. He joined the course in its second year and was amongst the best students in the group of 2011 which is why she is currently a junior member of Tumbuka Dance Company.



**PETER LENSO**

Was inspired by his uncle to be a dancer and realised once he started the Dance Foundation Course that he was extremely talented. He graduated as the best overall student and has joined Tumbuka as a junior dancer. An accomplished percussionist who performed with well know musicians in Zimbabwe.

#### **GILBERT DOUGLAS**

A dancer, dance teacher and choreographer who currently work the Artistic Director of Zimbabwe's only professional Contemporary dance company Tumbuka. He

is one of the founder members of the world renowned Tumbuka Dance Company. Originally from Malawi



**JOSHUA C.J. BHIMA**

Joshua started acting in 2010 and joined theatre lab which was joined by Nanzikambe Arts in Malawi. He has toured to perform in Festivals and further his training to countries including Scotland for the Edinburgh Festival, Grahamstown South Africa, HIFA Zimbabwe and BAF in Malawi. He recently completed a one year Dance Foundation Course in Harare

#### **SNODEN FILIMON**

A graphic designer, Started his career in 1992 by dancing as a student with Children performing Arts Workshop (CHIPAWO). He trained with the Dance Trust of Zimbabwe's Dance Foundation Course in 2003. Currently is dancing with Tumbuka Dance Company and Kompani Raande-Vo Sweden.



## THE ARTS LAB TEAM

**CALVIN CHIMUTUWAH**  
Associate Visual Artist

**MELODY ZAMBUKO**  
Programme Manager

### QUOTE

This was a refreshing theatrical experience. I would do it all over again!

Tinashe Masawi





EMBRAAVE COLLEGE  
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CULTURE FUND  
supporting excellence  
in the arts



**THANK YOU!**

ZITA, Mitsy's studio, DTZ

