

SUNDUZA

Dance Theatre

Company Profile

Sunduza music and dance theatre is
an arts group that is registered under
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL.



Background

Sunduza in Ndebele means 'let us push'. We come from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Founded in 1985 and led by the late Simon Banda, the group in the early years was better known as the High Stars Sunduza Boys. Since 1992 when the company started touring internationally and recording, it became a full dance theatre company incorporating women.

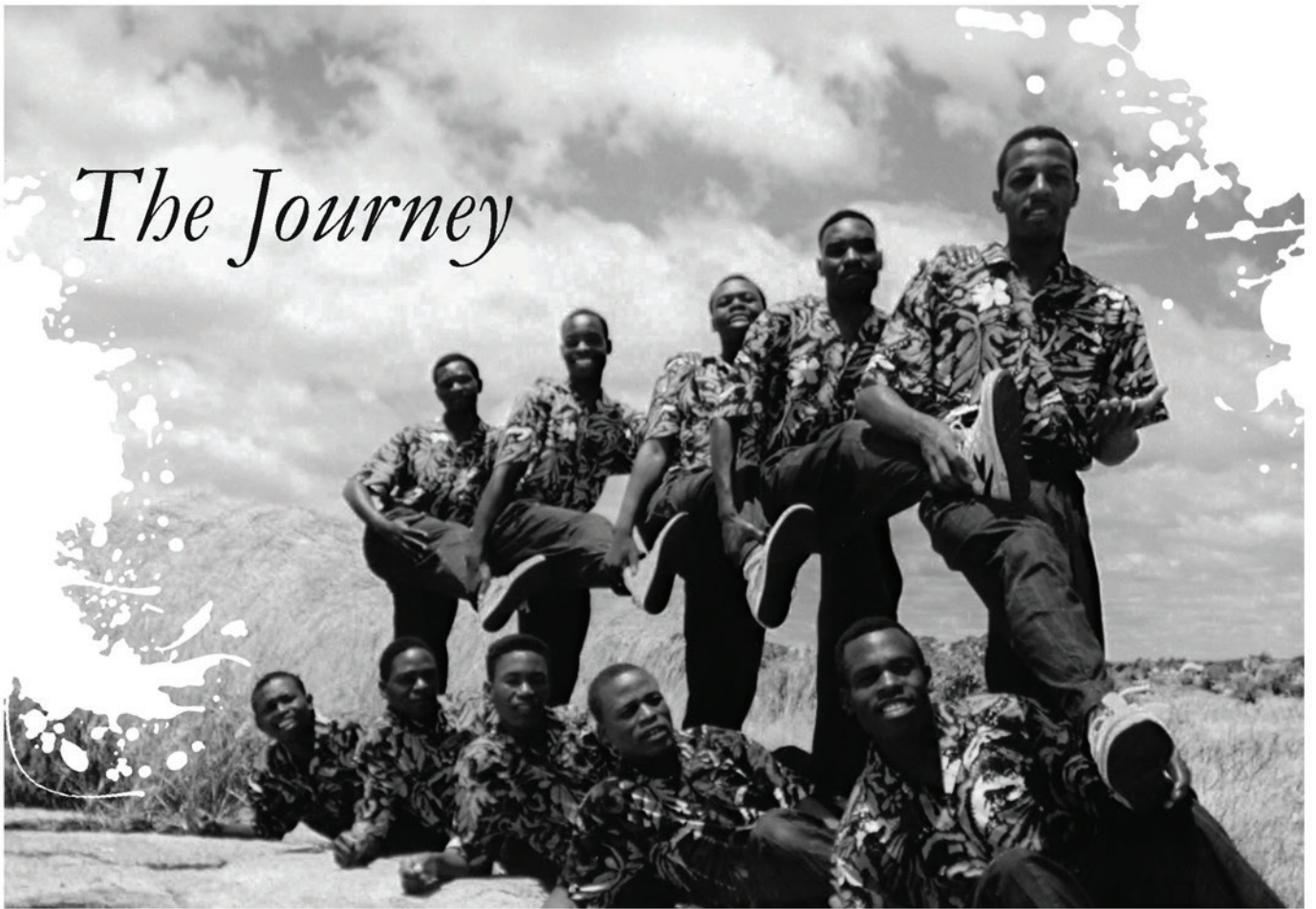
Mission

Our mission is to educate our students and our audiences about the performing arts, and about the social issues and human emotions the arts speak to so powerfully. We are committed to realizing this mission by creating, producing and studying works of theatre and dance, and performing them publicly for diverse audiences drawn from both the University and the community at large.

Theatre Arts programs at the Esphakeni Centre offers a variety of perspectives to students and the community. Students become part of a community of artists and learn collaboratively through production opportunities, internships, leadership roles, apprenticeships, classroom work, and one-to-one projects with faculty and guest artists. Sunduza's Dance Program is committed to teaching versatile, thinking dancers and visionaries who are ready to take on several different types of challenges. At the centre of the program is a modern and global contemporary-based dance curriculum that fosters an intensive creative process, offers extensive performance experience, and promotes rigorous intellectual practices. Students join a program that believes embracing difference is essential to the free exchange of creative and intellectual ideas and building a truly diverse community.



The Journey



Still rooted in the isicathamiya 'acappella' tradition even today, we have taken our productions to UK Canada, the far east , Switzerland , Ireland, South Africa, in collaboration with our UK production house Matopos Music. We have also supported a twelve year programme in Sheffield UK in which two principal artists have been leading a rich programme of activities in Yorkshire schools through Southern E media Education & arts-our local partner.

Sunduza have been pushing their beautiful scintillating harmonies, percussive rhythms and high energy dances internationally. The productions reflect a wide range of Southern African dance normally displayed in a context to which international audiences can relate.

Sunduza's stage productions are adaptable to different venues depending on the kind of venue. The full stage productions support drama, dance, music and commentary on social issues in Southern Africa. They also include a multimedia element.

For outdoor stages the productions include complex drum sequences, harmony and dance and can be divided into convenient sets for festival stages and may include masked dances.

Sunduza also deliver shorter sets of electric imbube harmonies as a "concert" performance in well choreographed performance incorporating street styles from the townships.

Tragically both original music and dance directors , Simon Banda and Mandla Sibanda passed away in 2012 but the young generation have come forward and revived three of our main productions, extracts can be found on YouTube (SunduzaTv).

Nomination

Bulawayo Arts Awards(BAA)
Zimbabwe Music Awards (ZIMA)

Productions

INJABULO – a production for young people through music and dance tells the story of a young musician looking for work in the mines of Southern Africa, It employs a large range of dances, colourful costumes, masks and scintillating harmonies.

MATATA / ADVENTURES OF ROBERT MOFFAT

– draws closely from the diaries of Scottish Missionary Robert Moffat in the nineteenth century and published by the national archives. It tells of the meeting he had with King Mzilikazi on his journey through Matabeleland . It also reflects on the difficult problems faced by the youth today many of which are a product of history. It uses football as a metaphor for aids awareness as one problem.

VOICES FROM THE ROCKS

– The story of the Matopos, based on the book of the same name researched by the late professor Terence Ranger from Oxford University , the production uses his beautifully researched oral history transporting the audience through the story of the Matopos National Park, now it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the story of the land in microcosm, a story of changing land use, dispossession and intertwined colonial and local histories , All of it is set to beautiful song, dance and multimedia.



SUNDUZA BUYA

– 2023/14 initiated by musician and choral director Janet Wood to celebrate the life of Simon Banda encompassing a new recording with support from Arts council England.

Sunduza have several recordings available online as well as archival DVDs of their live shows that include David Franshawe's much celebrated African Sanctus performed in cooperation with the Sheffield Oratorio Chorus



SUNDUZA @ 35

– musical concert that celebrated the journey of Sunduza through performance of the old and new songs.

THE OTHER CECIL

– The lion has been a symbol of empire and power for hundreds of years. Zimbabwe is a final refuge of Africa's lions. Who is more dangerous the hunter or poacher? Sunduza through song, dance and colourful masks take a journey through time and savannah. The multi-talented cast draw on truly international experience as several members have performed on tour with other companies as well as with Sunduza. The cast includes Charlie Banda, Khaliphani Ndlovu, Lyndah (SONKOMOSE) Sibanda, Baphi (FAFAZA) Madladla, Mkhululi (MKHUX) Khanye, Brilliant N Sithole, Clan Moyo, Kwanele Ndlovu, Makula Moyo, Leeroy Sibanda, Memory Moyo, Progress Kheswa. They are supported by international producer Phillip Weiss who devised the production concepts. The stage productions have largely been adapted for the stage by the late Mandla Sibanda as writer and Simon Banda (composer, musician and choreographer). Productions have been at Glastonbury, Womad, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Goerge Sqaure Theatre, Fringe club), London South bank, Crucible theatre (Sheffield), Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Aberdeen children's festival, The West Yorkshire playhouse, Singapore International arts festival, Belfast folk week, Kwamashu(cultural exchange programme), Makhanda National Arts festival (Grahams town).





Community Events

Sunduza uses its knowledge resources to build strong connections to its local community, co-creating performances with the students in local schools, community based organisations and holding monthly Open Trainings that offer a low-commitment.

Why It's Important

The unique synergy between our professionals and students not only fosters an atmosphere where both can achieve their full artistic and creative potential in a nurturing, non-competitive environment; but also endows students with the vital life skills of mutual respect, self-confidence, problem solving, socialization, and collaboration which provide fundamentals of success in all professional and personal life paths. Our educational focus is on each student's individual growth and development through sequential training, multiple performance opportunities, and mentoring by our full-time professional faculty and Main Stage Artists-in-residence; so that continuity of a vibrant legacy of the art and craft of musical performance is ensured for ensuing generations.

Ownership

Charles Banda manages the group after the death of his father Simon (Rainbow Mahlaba) Banda who founded the group in 1985



Staffing

The group has engaged in the training of the working committee that comprises of the marketing team ,public relations officer ,accountant ,and a secretary so as to build a customer driven group. The group also functions with artistic directors that include the dance choreographer , music and theatre director and the cast .

Trade References

The following are some of the organisations

And schools that SUNDUZA has worked with up to the present moment

- ZHRC (ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION)
- Local and international schools
- Sanganai Hlanganani World Tourism EXPO
- Alliance française
- (UNESCO)AMAGUGU HERITAGE CENTRE
- NAC (NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL)
- ZTA (Zimbabwe tourism Authority)



Gallery





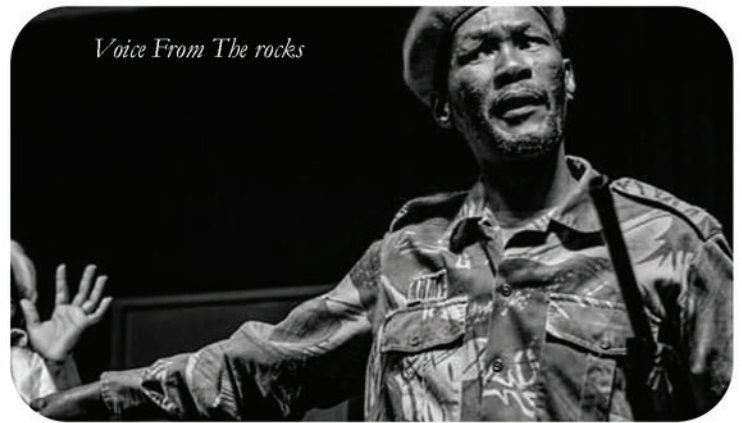
Dance Workshops



Jikinya Dance Workshops



Voice From The rocks



Voice From The rocks



Music Video features.



Adventures of Robert Moffat



Sundusa @ 35



Online Imbube Show



Current Members

For bookings contact
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 Philip Weiss : +447530070946
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SUNDUZA DANCE THEATRE



Here Below Our Links to Our Work.