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Local and international bands for Parklife Festival – page 8



Will Ferrell & Kevin Hart team up in new comedy – page 12



Holi One Colour Festival to take over Huddle Park - page 15

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Travelling & Living with the stars

In this fortnightly column, we chat to some of SA's premier personalities about their travel experiences and favourite local pastimes and haunts. This week we catch up with presenter, actress and media personality SHASHI NAIDOO.

What is your favourite travel destination, and why?
Sometimes all you need is a little Vitamin Sea to relax and recharge your batteries and the white sand and turquoise waters of the Maldives makes it the perfect choice. However, if I am in the mood for fine dining, shopping and general gallivanting, London is definitely the place.

What was your first international trip, and what do you remember most vividly about the experience?
My first trip abroad was when I was 15 years old to Europe with my parents and my sister Anthosh. I remember doing a lot of churches, museums and cathedrals. My parents love jam packing everything there is to possibly see into a holiday and even as a teenager it was exhausting. The main reason I love travelling so much now is the element of escapism. I spend the first few days sightseeing and learning about the history and culture, but I also leave enough time to do absolutely nothing.

What is the first thing you usually do when you arrive at your destination and you're trying to get acclimated?
Whether I am at a hotel for two days or ten days, the very first things I do is unpack my suitcase. I travel so often and can't bare the idea of living out of a suitcase.

What for you is usually the best way to soak up the culture you're in?
To interact with locals. I make a point of asking the concierge what the non-tourist places to visit are. The locals are a wealth of knowledge and give you true insight as to what a city really is.

Flying – love it, or hate it?
It all depends if I'm turning right or left when I get onto the plane.


Shashi Naidoo

What has been your favourite cuisine that you have discovered on your travels?
There's nothing more delicious than authentic Thai food.

You've got exactly R48 in your wallet. Where do you go for lunch when visiting the original home of The Next 48hOURS – the one, the only, Cape Town - and what do you have?
"Life is short, eat dessert first" - I would skip lunch and go to my favourite gelato spot on Victoria Road and jump across the street to enjoy my treat while wave watching on Camps Bay beach.

What is your speciality in the kitchen?
I can make a mean mutton curry.

Describe your ideal night in, and out.
My ideal night in is pretty much what I do every night when I am not working. My boyfriend and I do a braai and chat about our day over a glass of wine. I think maybe I'm getting older, or should I say wiser, because the thought of clubbing exhausts me. You know you're getting old when you ask your friend, "does the music have to be so loud in here?"
My perfect night out would be a boozy dinner with friends, or a romantic candle lit dinner with my man.

What makes life worth living?
Friends, travel, champagne, chocolate and Chanel.

Joburg through the eyes of...

Robby Collins

I moved up to Joburg on a bus in the beginning of January 2010. I didn't know what I was getting into.

The only thing I had was a dream and a couple of jokes that I had been performing in and around Durban.

The first night I spent in Joburg I ended up at a strip club in Hillbrow. One of the scariest moments of my life! But since then it's become one of my favourite stories to tell on stage.

Joburg can be a scary and overwhelming experience for some visitors and I'm not talking about the crime. I'm talking about the possibilities and opportunities this city has to offer.

My favourite thing about performing in this city is the diversity of the people you get to perform for. I've performed to all types of audiences in Johannesburg. The BEE crowd, the old Afrikaans crowd, the coloured crowd, the Afrikaans coloured speaking crowd, the jocks, and the hipsters.


Robby Collins

Every audience takes you to a different and new environment. Some places ask for entry, some places are free, but every venue I have performed at all I've ask for was an open mind.

I really do believe that the people drive this beautiful city. Many people I have met aren't from here, and like myself have moved here just to create a better life for themselves and their families. And the folks I have met that are from Johannesburg are so proud to be from here.

One thing that surprised me about this city is that you could do something on any given day. I was so shocked the first time I did a show on a Monday. Where I'm from, Mondays are seen as another day of rest.

In Durban people only start going out from Thursday. So our stand up shows usually ran from a Thursday to Saturday.

Stand up comedy is my life! But since I have been here I have and been part of so many different things.

Once I found myself in Melville doing yoga on a Saturday morning. And no, I wasn't hungover. I just saw a group of people doing it in the park so I thought I'd join in. And to be honest the eye candy wasn't too bad.

I love Durban and it will always, always hold a special place in my heart. But it is a nice feeling knowing that I have another home.

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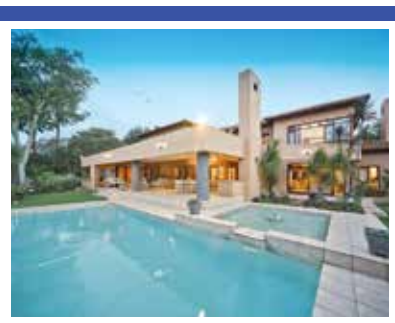
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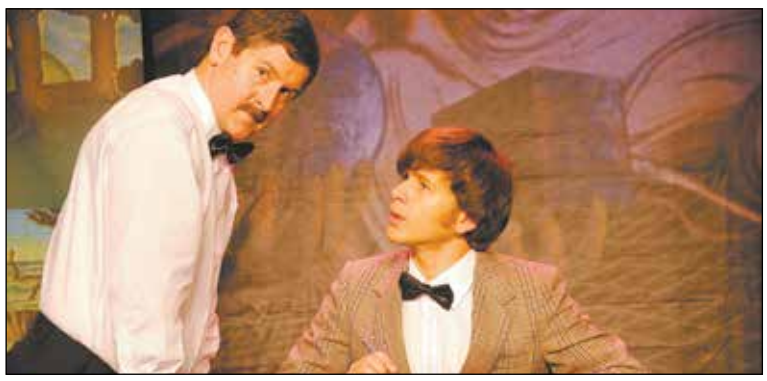
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Stellar SA cast puts spin on Monty Python

SHOW: PYTHONESQUE
DIRECTOR: ALAN SWERDLOW
CAST: RUSSEL SAVADIER, GRAHAM HOPKINS, ROBERT FRIDJHON, THEO LANDEY
VENUE: PIETER TOERIEN'S MONTECASINO THEATRE, FOURWAYS UNTIL MAY 17
REVIEW: PETER FELDMAN



Graham Hopkins & Theo Landey in 'Pythonesque'

The first time I experienced the wonders of 'Monty Python's Flying Circus' was in a London hotel in 1971 and I watched their bizarre antics on television with amazement and was transfixed by the images. I had never seen anything like it in my life.
I have been a fan ever since – and even have a T-shirt to prove it.
'Pythonesque' is written by Roy Smiles and what makes this hilarious production different from a previous one staged in Johannesburg in 2008 is that it's not purely an assemblage of funny sketches, but gives a history of the six characters that made up the famous team.

One of them, Graham Chapman (played by Russel Savadier), has passed on and a running sketch throughout has Chapman (with his trademark pipe in hand) facing various difficulties in attempting to enter the Pearly Gates. The sketch is awash with witty exchanges between Savadier and Robert Fridjhon, as an angel.

There are loads of clever, verbally-driven sketches in 'Pythonesque' and these are skilfully woven into the fabric of the story, helped along by a proudly South African cast that sparkles. Each individual imbues his role with comic invention and a gift for bringing the character traits to life. A more consummate cast would be difficult to find.

Graham Hopkins as John Cleese, Robert Fridjhon as Terry Jones, and Michael Palin and Theo Landey as Terry Gilliam and Eric Idle, switch characters in a blink of an eye and before you realise it another sketch is being rolled out.

The play outlines how they all met, how they conceived some of their more famous parodies and what they did with their lives, including a few local references (the 'Spud' movie) for good measure.

Michael Palin is ridiculed for a career that later moved into travel television.

The sketches, which are never overdone, embrace antics such as Hopkins executing a lively moment from 'The Ministry of Silly Walks', a brilliant monologue by Landey (as Idle) who lambasts the state of English theatre with a torrent of descriptive words, and a Dead Parrot sketch revitalised by using a dead budgie instead. The Mountie sketch, too, topped an evening of unbridled merriment and laughter.

The stage has a simple backdrop of lurid art work in keeping with some of Terry Gilliam's more inspiring illustrations.

The verbal dexterity of the players, the spot-on timing and the sheer good cheer raised by the team as they unwrapped Monty Python's funniest moments all contribute towards making this production a veritable riot of fun.

Director Alan Swerdlow keeps the pace flowing and the actors nicely in check, though there was an occasion or two when some "corpsing" did occur. But who really cares if you're having this much fun?

** Book at Computicket.*

'Singin' in the Rain' to make a splash in Joburg

'Singin' in the Rain', another critically acclaimed award-winning production direct from London's West End, will be produced and presented in South Africa by Pieter Toerien at the Teatro at Montecasino between December 2015 and January 2016, immediately after its international tour to New Zealand, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore.

Making a splash from the moment it premiered in the UK, this production of 'Singin' in the Rain' extended its run in Chichester due to unprecedented public demand before transferring to the famous Palace Theatre in London. Now, after a sell-out West End season, praise from critics, four Olivier Award nominations, and a major UK tour, 'Singin' in the Rain' is set to delight audiences in Johannesburg.

Set in 1927, 'Singin' in the Rain' tells the story, made famous by Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds in the iconic 1952 MGM movie, of the first Hollywood musical, when the silver screen found its voice and left the silent movies and some of its stars behind.

The production is packed full of the charm, romance, comedy and tinsel town glamour of one of the world's best-loved films and features a famous tap dancing sequences and all the well known songs from the MGM score, including 'Good Morning', 'Make 'em Laugh', 'Moses Supposes' and the classic, 'Singin' in the Rain'. The enchanting 'Singin' In The Rain' scene "rains" (and recycles) over 12000 litres of water per performance. This famous part of the show is one of its big highlights, leaving audiences in the front rows a little wetter than when they first arrived.



A scene from 'Singin' in the Rain'

Musical star Bethany Dickson, who hails from Cape Town and was nominated this year for a Fleur du Cap Theatre Award for her performance as Maria in 'The Sound Of Music', will star as aspiring actress Kathy Selden, opposite Grant Almirall as the charming Don Lockwood. Almirall triumphed last year as Frankie Valli in 'Jersey Boys', a role for which he was also nominated for a Fleur du Cap Theatre Award. The cast of 27 includes Steven van Wyk as Cosmo Brown, Taryn-Lee Hudson as Lina Lamont, James Borthwick as RF Simpson, Mark Richardson as Roscoe Dexter and Anne Power as Dora.

** The production will run from January 15 to March 13.*
Bookings are already open at Computicket.

Emotional triumph for director of 'Marikana – The Musical'

By Peter Feldman



Naledi Best Director winner Aubrey Sekhabi

"We deserved to win Naledi Theatre Awards because we worked so hard." These were the words of winning director Aubrey Sekhabi whose production of 'Marikana – The Musical' walked away with no fewer than six awards at the prestigious ceremony, which took place mid-April. He said that before they launched the production they hoped it would be "respectable, truthful and honest," adding that he was truly amazed by the reception it received.

"I turned it into a musical because I felt that was the way it should be told."

The emotive musical received 13 nominations in all and had created enormous interest because of its controversial subject matter and the manner in which it was depicted.

'Marikana – The Musical' was a heartfelt tribute to those who lost their lives during the mining strike at Lonmin.

It took six awards in the categories Best Production of a Musical (the South African State Theatre), Best Director (Aubrey Sekhabi), Best Performance in a Musical: Female (Emma Mmekwa), Best Set Design (Wilhelm Disbergen), Best Score (McKenzie Matone, Zakele Mabena and Aubrey Sekhabi) and Best original Choreography (Thabo Rapoo).

Asked how he felt, Sekhabi said: "It is always good to receive some sort of recognition for your contribution. I am excited to be among the leading practitioners and given that there were so many amazing productions last year."

Describing the challenges he faced in mounting the work, he said: "Working on 'Marikana - The Musical' was a challenge on its own. This is living history and it has affected so many lives.

"The fact that the Marikana Commission of Inquiry is still on attests to the nature of challenges I faced as a theatre maker. To top it all, I choose the musical genre to tell the story. But what was more challenging was dealing with the visuals, the emotions carried in the book, listening to the songs and knowing that 34 of those men would never sing again.

"Emotionally, it was tough. I had an amazing cast that had a spirit of camaraderie and together we understood the importance of this story. We understood our responsibilities as story tellers."

Sekhabi, whose many works over the years has been showcased at the State Theatre in Pretoria, where he is resident artistic director, talked about the "exciting" programme which lay ahead for 2015. "We are working with diverse artists, the best in the land, young and old. It is a truly South African Programme. 'Marikana' will also be returning in July and August due to popular demand."

Sekhabi believes that theatre in South Africa today remains vibrant. "The artists are out there creating the work. We need to support them more and increase access to state funded institutions.

We also need to engage in funding discussions to see how we can create more jobs, and sustain them though touring and partnerships. I am also glad that at least three of the State Theatre productions have had three extended runs."

Roxmouth takes audiences on a trip through musical theatre

Jonathan Roxmouth, multi-award winning singer, musician, actor and darling of the South African stage, released his debut album 'Stage by Stage' last year. It's a broad collection of songs from shows he has appeared in; upcoming shows that he has been cast in and shows that he would love to sing in one day. And now Jonathan has brought this selection to the Montecasino Theatre & Studio to take audiences on a showbiz ride unlike anything he has done before.



Jonathan Roxmouth in 'Stage By Stage'

The world of Musical Theatre has long been a source of great tunes, catchy lyrics and iconic characters. From the twinkling lights of Broadway to the hallowed streets of London's West End, there are many songs to be sung and stories to be told. In 'Stage By Stage', Jonathan adds his own backstage stories and personal anecdotes and creates a warm, relaxed atmosphere in which to showcase musical highlights such as the raucous 'Broadway Baby'; the swinging 'Luck Be A Lady Tonight'; the grooving 'Beauty School Dropout' and a gutsy Gaston singing 'Me'. Love songs abound as well. There's the beautiful 'I Have Dreamed' from the 'King and I'; the lyrical 'If I Loved You' from 'Carousel'; and 'This is the Moment' from 'Jekyll and Hyde'.

Then the mood is broken with such lively niceties as 'Have Some Madeira, M'Dear!', complete with eloquent eyebrows, nifty voice changes and a lively sense of humour, and 'Something's Coming' from 'West Side Story', in which Roxmouth manages all the swells and tricky sustained notes. And of course... from 'Les Misérables' there is 'Bring Him Home'; and 'Music of the Night' from 'The Phantom of The Opera', which no musical showcase worth its salt would be complete without.

** Performance Times: Sundays at 6pm: May 3, May 10, May 17*
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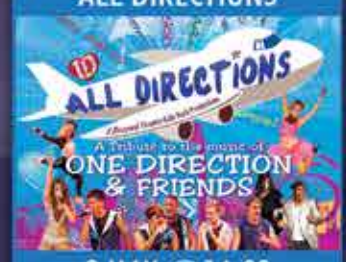
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The future looks bright for Naledi Best Newcomer

By Peter Feldman

A rising star in the theatre firmament is Zethu Dlomo. She recently walked off with The Brett Goldin Award at the Naledi Theatre Awards for Best Newcomer or Breakthrough Artist for her impressive performance in 'Have you seen Zandile'?

This was Dlomo's first ever award and she says she feels it was "an honour" and "a real surprise."

"I was hoping to win but I wasn't expecting to take it. My fellow nominees were also really brilliant performers."

This Dobsonville-born actress played three roles; Gogo, Lulama (Zandile's mother), her best friend Lindiwe, and in the last scene she played an aunt who cleaned the house.

She admitted that she found it most challenging to play four different roles. "They are unique characters in the story," she says, "and are different ages. Shaping and creating the characteristics of each character was hard work, and I couldn't have done it had it not been for my director Khutjo Green, and my co-actor MoMo Matsunyane."

Dlomo attended the National School of the Arts where she did her schooling, from Grade 9 to Matric. She then studied for a BA (Dramatic Arts) honours degree at Wits University. "I have had the desire to act since I was 10 years old when I joined my primary school's drama club in Grade 5. It was then that I found out about this thing called drama and I was hooked! So when I found out about NSA I knew that I wanted to go to that school and study drama. There I learnt the basics of drama, but it was in university where I got to really learn about the performing arts," she says.

Her career has had a steady trajectory so far and she's learnt a great deal by working with innovative directors. She performed in 'Melusi's Specials', an industrial theatre piece staged for miners in Mtubatuba, which was directed by James Ngcobo, the Market Theatre's artistic director.

She was also in a play, 'Revolution Between My Thighs', written and directed by the award winning, Khutjo Green. In 2012 and last year she featured in the Anton Checkov Festival in a production of 'The Proposal', directed by Lebogang Mphahlele.

Dlomo is also proud of the drama group in which she is involved. Called "Thenx", it stages satirical plays dealing with social issues and current affairs. "We hold a critical mirror to society and voice important issues through the use of comedy. We have performed at the Joburg Theatre, Soweto Theatre, the Plat4orm, Pop Art and Wits Theatre."



Zethu Dlomo

She is currently working on three plays; 'The Triple Mammmas' with the Thenx group which ran at Pop Art at the end of April, Anton Checkov's 'The Proposal' and 'The Bear' (Joburg Theatre in May) and is currently shooting season three of the international television series 'Black Sails'.

Asked what advice she would give young people wanting to enter the business, she says: "The first and most important advice I can think of is to get educated about the profession. When you study with a passion, you will discover skills and techniques which will make you better at your craft.

"You need to know and understand what performance is, how much hard work it requires to create wonderful pieces and performances. Going to school polishes your talent and equips you with knowledge that can open you up to many more possibilities. You could even discover other talents you didn't think you had, like writing or directing.

"Fame comes with the hard work, but don't be set on seeking fame. If you want to be in this industry just to be famous and for the glamorous life, you had better check yourself. It isn't easy this acting business, a lot of hard work goes into acting. But if you've got the passion for it and work hard, and constantly perfect your craft by getting educated and learning through practical experience, you can succeed. Never give up. It's a cliché, but it's true."

When not on stage, Dlamo finds peace and solitude in religion. "I am a born again Christian. I enjoy watching and listening to sermons and reading God's Word for myself. Spiritual growth in my relationship with God is a constant everyday thing, not a once a week affair. I really want to create work which furthers the Gospel and gives glory to the Creator of all things.

"I want to do work which promotes enlightenment, love and peace and hopefully make a positive impact on society," she adds.

Dlomo believes that South African theatre is strong and growing rapidly. "Work is always being created and many local theatre productions are taking shows all over the world. It is encouraging and exciting to see our plays being seen by international audiences, but it would be great if our audiences also came in their numbers to support our theatre. Audience development is something we need to deal with in the future."

Paarl Coldset congratulates
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The Guide

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'Alice in Wonderland' re-imagined in belly dancing form

Bellydance Evolution will showcase their unique take on 'Alice in Wonderland' at The Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City on Friday, May 1, at 8pm.

Director Jillina has taken a revolutionary approach to this whimsical tale, re-imagining the colorful, iconic and "mad" characters through the language of world fusion dance. Audiences are invited to be inspired and journey deep into the mysterious world of Wonderland to the original sounds of composer Paul Dinletir.

Bellydance Evolution explores, celebrates and re-imagines Middle Eastern dance for the 21st century. By fusing bellydance with dance forms more specific to the West, the organisation is intent on providing spectacular journeys that appeal to both mainstream audiences and bellydance enthusiasts.

The mission – bringing awareness of Middle Eastern dance's rich diversity and artistic validity – unfolds in the work of the company and its Education and Residency programs.

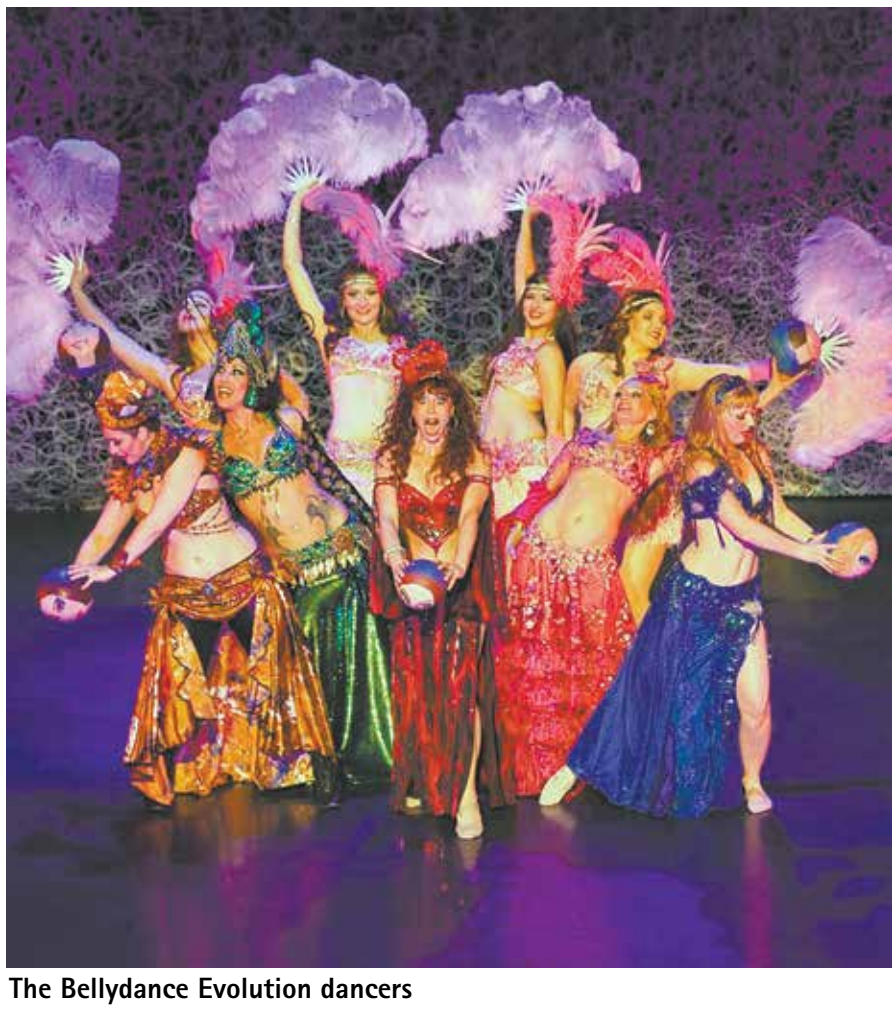
Together, these initiatives celebrate the dynamic aesthetic of Middle Eastern dance, culture and creativity. And in so doing, Bellydance Evolution shares the joy of dance with all communities.

Created in August 2009 by choreographer Jillina, BDE has performed to sold out crowds in over twenty (20) different countries spanning North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Bellydance Evolution residency and festival program is designed to give dancers and the community the opportunity to not only study and train with the cast of master dancers, but a chance to be cast in the Bellydance Evolution Show.

For each Festival/Tour BDE casts up to 12 cabaret and up to four Tribal Fusion dancers to perform in the BDE Show. Local dancers are selected via an online casting competition. Chosen dancers are then sent videos of their parts to learn one month prior to the show. They then participate in an intense one-week training session to prepare them to perform on stage with the full cast of Bellydance Evolution. This is a great and unique opportunity for dancers to get extended training and experience that they can then share with their students to raise the level of art in their community.

** Tickets are priced between R280 and R465.*
Book at Computicket.
For more information, call 011 248 5168; send an email to Goldreef.BoxOffice@tsogosun.com; or visit www.bellydanceevolution.com.



The Bellydance Evolution dancers

Des and Dawn celebrate 50 years of showbiz magic

By Peter Feldman



Des and Dawn on stage

It was just like old times.
Folk troubadours Des and Dawn Lindberg are on stage, the bearded Des embracing his guitar like a long lost friend, singing their popular folk ditties to the rapturous applause of a full-house audience.

No, this soiree is not at their magnificent Victorian home on Houghton Ridge, where it had been hosted for decades, but at the equally impressive palatial residence of a Sandhurst friend, Dori Weil.

It's a special gathering, you see, where family, relatives and special friends (many of them well-known names in entertainment and theatre) have gathered for what the Lindberg's have labelled the "Triple Whammy!"

The soiree was staged to celebrate three milestones in the lives of this celebrated family; the couple's 50 years of marriage, their 50 years in show business and, to top it all, Dawn's 70th birthday.

So they gathered some of their musical friends, people who once graced the stage at their memorable Houghton soirees, and they put on a show.

Videos highlighting some of the couple's past glories, both in performances and relaxing with their children and grand-children were on screens, reminding the audience what this occasion was all about.

The opening act was the Bonegio Family, those spirited Flamenco dancers, who are so highly regarded within their field, fired up the night. Guitarist father Raul, son of the late radio hostess Esme Euvrard, beamed proudly as he watched his daughters performing.

Tessa Ziegler, once a regular at the Sunday Soirees, provided her special classical magic, and then later singer Timothy Moloi showed his vocal prowess on The Prayer and the smooth The Way You Look Tonight that had this select audience shouting for more.

Son Adam, a genuine rapper, did a track from his debut album called Calm Up, for the younger brigade.

Moloi performed an emotive Day By Day from Godspell, one of the Lindberg productions that had to negotiate a political mine field in the 70s. Musician Bryan Schimmel, whose arm had been freed from a plaster cast, accompanied him on keyboards.

Comedian Mark Banks was in fine fettle, too, keeping us amused with his brand of stand-up comedy, dressed in a dark cloak and hood, a sort of Trappist Monk.

The night belonged to the Lindbergs, though. They sang lustily from their famous songbook that included those gems, The Seagull's Name Was Nelson and Die Gezoem van Die Bye. They told tales about their lives on the road, bringing up their sons Josh and Adam, and their constant battles with the censors over their work.

And Des surprised his wife with a love song at the end; a piece he had composed just hours before the event.

The evening brought back vivid memories for me. When I worked on The Star I would cover many of the Sunday soirees that the Lindberg's mounted and these featured such diverse names as Johnny Clegg and Sipho Mchunu (who were just starting out) actors John Kani and Winston Ntshona and classical guitarist Tess Ziegler.

The soiree was staged five days after the Naledi Theatre Awards at the Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, of which Dawn is executive director.

THEATRE

Pythonesque
A hilarious production based on the sketches made famous by Monty Python's Flying Circus.
Until 17 May @ 8pm (Tues-Sat), 5pm, 8pm (Sat), 3pm (Sun)
R100-R170
Montecasino Theatre & Studio, Corner William Nicol Drive & Witkoppen Road, Forways, (Tel) 011-511-1988

Swan Lake - Joburg Ballet
A classic ballet produced by Joburg Ballet and Liaoning Ballet.
1- 3 May @ 7:30pm (Fri)3pm, 7:30pm (Sat)3pm (Sun) R50 - R450
Joburg Theatre, CnrSimonds Street & Stiemens Road, Braamfontein, (Tel) 011-877-6800

Snow Geese
A play based on the original Paul Gallico Story by Jenine Coolcott, JAmes Cairns and Taryn Bennett.
Until 16 May @ 8:15pm
R140
Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square, Cnr Rivonia & West Street, (Tel) 011-883-8606

ART

Drawing Horses
A solo exhibition by Rhett Martyn of his works depicting Horses.
Until 3 May @ 9am-5pm
NiROXProjects, 249 Cnr Fox Street &Main Road. Arts on Main, Maboneng Precinct, (Tel) 072-350-4326

Facets
A solo exhibition of photography by David Epstein. Consisting of old media and digital prints.
Until 27 June @ 10am-6pm (Mon-Fri), 9am-5pm(Sat)
Grahams Fine Art Gallery, 68 on Hobart, Cnr Hobart & Dover Road, Bryanston, (Tel) 011-463-7869

Fresh Young Talent
Featuring works by young and upcoming artists.
Until 11 May
@ 6pm
In Toto Gallery, 6 Birdhaven Centre, 66 St. Andrew Street, Birdhaven, (Tel) 011-447-6543

New Works by Nelson Makamo
The opening of Nelson Makamo's latest body of work.
Until 9 May
@ 9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri) 9am-1pm(Sat)
Circa on Jwllicoe Gallery, 2 Jellicoe RoaD, Rosebank, (Tel) 011-788-4805

NOT X Chris Saunders
An exhibition of work from Chris Saunders, Jenny Lai and 4 local Creatives.
Until 28 June
@ 11am - 8pm (Wed),11am - 5pm (Thurs-Sun)
Museum of African Design, 281 Commissioner Street, Maboneng Precinct.

Ransome Stanley: Close Distance
Solo Exhibition by Ransome Stanley.
Until 25 May
@ 9am-6pm (Mon-Fri)
Gallery Momo, 52 7th Avenue, Parktown North, Johannesburg,
(Tel) 011-327-3247

Out of Context
Featuring a variety of disciplines from various artists, including Dirk Bahmann.
Until 20 May
@ 6:30pm
UJ Art Gallery, UJ APK Campus, Cnr Kingsway & University Road,
Auckland Park, (Tel) 011-559-2099

MARKETS

Bryanston Organic & Natural Market
A well established marketin Bryanston with a varietyof food, organic produce, natural fibres and unique art.
2 May @ 9am-3pm
Clucross Road, Bryanston, (Tel) 011-706-3671

Crafters Market
More than 100 exhibitors stocking special items for your Mothers Day gifts.
2 May @ 9am-3pm
Key West Shopping, Centre, Cnr Paardekraal, Road and Viljoen Street, Krugersdorp, (Tel) 011-273-0400



International and local bands at Parklife Festival this weekend

Marks Park will be hosting the next Parklife Festival on Sunday, March 3, from 10am onwards.

Parklife Gourmet Food and Music Festival has arguably become Joburg's favourite inner-city festival, with live entertainment hosted across three stages, as well as a vast gourmet food village, all taking place in a relaxed environment.

Two international acts and four big local names have already been announced. International alt-rock outfits Modest Mouse and American Authors will feature on the day, as well as French producer and DJ, Klingande.

They will share the bill along with mega local acts like Prime Circle, Kahn, Jeremy Loops, Jimmy Nevis and Jesse Clegg.

Picnic baskets are welcome but unfortunately you cannot bring drinks.

** This is an all ages event.*
Tickets from R195 per person can be booked at www.parklifefestival.co.za. For more information, call 011 486 6011; or send an email to markspark1@mweb.co.za.
Marks Park is situated on Judith Rd, Emmarentia.



Jesse Clegg





Modest Mouse

Gospel stars to record live DVD

Spirit Music will host a recording session for Neyi and Omega's Live DVD at The Lyric at Gold Reef City on Saturday, May 2.

This project will feature the gospel stars Neyi Zimu and Omega Khonou, both of whom have paid their dues in the music industry featuring in performances with the likes of Spirit of Praise, Family Factory, Benjamin Dube, Solly Mahlangu, the late Vuyo Mokoena and Rebecca Malope, to name a few.

** Tickets range from R200 to R250, and can be booked at Computicket, or The Lyric Box Office on 011 248 5000; or at www.goldreefcity.co.za.*



Neyi and Omega

MARKETS

Fourways Farmers Market
Enjoy fresh goodies and organic produce. More than 50 stalls, 3 seating areas and childrens play area.
3 May @ 10am-3pm
Fourways Farmers Market, Cnr William Nicol Drive & Monte Casino Boulervard, Fourways, (Tel) 011-465-5276

Jozi Real Food Market
A place for local foods to satisfy anyones pallet.
3 May @ 10am-3pm
Northcliff Country Club, 1 Fir Drive, Northcliff, Randburg, (Tel) 083-532-2992

EVENTS

Lusito Land Festival 2015
The 34th annual Lusito Land Festival takes place this weekend. This Portuguese themed festival
Offers something for everyone to enjoy.
2, 3 May @10am-11pm (Sat),10am-7pm (Sun)
Pioneer Park, Rossettenville Road, La Rochelle, (Tel) 011-435-0425

6th Miss Belly Dance South Africa 2015
A festival of Belly Dance ranging from modern Egyptian to fusion, solo's and groups.
3 May @ 10am
Northern Park Way, Ormonde, Johannesburg, (Tel) 011-248-5000

Sebokeng Wedding Expo
This is an event for young couples who are in the process of getting married.
2, 3 May @ 9am-6pm (Sat), 10am-4pm (Sun), Complex 2111, Zone 14,
Sebokeng, 1982, (Tel) 084-521-7806

Parklife Gourmet Food & Music Festival
This years festival promises to be bigger and better with a stellar music line-up: Prime Circle, Jeremy
Loops and more. There will also be a Gourmet Food Village.
3 May @ 10am
R395
Judith Road, Emmarantia, (Tel) 011-486-6011

Wild West Country Fest
Experience the Wild West of the late 1800's when the West Rand was a mining town. Enjoy a variety of biltong, chutneys, bransdy's and wines.
2, 3 May @ 11am-10pm (Sat) 11am-6pm (Sun)
Silverstar Casino, Pinehaven Intersection, R28,
KrugersdorD,
(Tel) 011-662-7300

Autumn food festival
Autumn is upon us and what better way to celebrate than visit the Autumn Food Festival.
Until 2 May
@ 9am - 3pm
Culcross Road,
Off Main Road,
Bryanston,
(Tel) 011-706-3671

MUSIC

99 Hits
One show filled with 99 of the biggest hits from the past 60 years. Featuring a full 11 piece cast of singers, musicians and dancers. Book now!
Until 31 May @ 8pm (Tues-Sat),2pm (Sun)
R165, R100
Barnyard Theatre, Cresta Shopping Centre, Beyers Naude Drive, Randurg.
(Tel) 011-478-5300

Her Rock Fest
Featuring some of SA's top female musicians in various genres. A mix of Rock, Acoustic and
Alternative.
1 May @ 3pm
R100
Rumours Lounge, Shop 20 Cornelius Street, Weltevreden ParK, (Tel) 082-098-3305

Bonfire Hearts
A tribute to acoustic, unplugged and Celtic Rock. Hear songs from artists like Neil Diamond, The Lumineers, James Blunt and Bruno Mars.
Until 31 May @ 8pm & 1:30pm (Sun)
R100-R170
Barnyard Theatre, Cnr Witkoppen Road and Rivonia Road. Sunninghill, Rivonia, (Tel) 011-467-6983

The Soil
Their music is described as 'Kasi Soul' and they stive to deliver uplifting messages through their music. Join them for an intimate concert this weekend.
1 May @ 7pm
R120
Winnies Sould & Jazz Restaurant, 1 Daphny Street, Cnr Wendy Street, Wendywood Shopping Centre.
(Tel) 073-828-8888

Wendy Oldfield and Lionel Basto
Book your table as seats are limited to watch Wendy Oldfield and Lionel Basto perform together. Join in for a fun filled day for the entire family at Riversands Farm.
3 May @ 2pm
Riversands Farm, Fourways, (Tel) 083-633-8686

Temple of Doom IV
Listen to a variety of Rock, Funk, Metal and more! Featuring a hot lineup of local talent.
2 May @ 2:30pm
R40
Rumours Lounge, Shop 20 Cornelius Street, Weltevreden Park, (Tel) 082-098-3305

Neyi and Omega Live Recording
Go on a musical journey with Neyi Zimu & Omega this weekend and be part of their live DVD recording.
2 May @ 8:30pm
R200-R385
The Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, (Tel) 011-248-5168

Goldfish Submerged Sundays Finale
Zoo Lake will be rocking this weekend to the sounds of Goldfish, part of their Submerged Sundays Performances. This is the last concert so don't miss out!
2 May @ 12pm
R150-R250
Zoo Lake, Cnr Jan Smuts Avenue & Westwold Way, Saxonwold, (Tel) 011-483-1017

The Warm Up Jozi
Celebrate the re-urbanisation of Johannesburg through food, music and fashion.
2 May @ 4pm R100
Alexander Theatre, 36 Stiemens Street, Braamfontein, (Tel) 011-403-0413

KIDS FUN

Gold Reef City Theme Park
Gold Reef City Theme Park has an abundance of adventures, it won't be long before you'll be drawn to the squeals of delight! Also the only place in Southern Africa where you can enjoy a 4D movie!
9:30am-5pm
R100-R175
Cnr Northern Parkway & Data Crescent, Ormonde,
,(Tel) 011-248-6800

Laser Battle Zone
An advanced form of entertainment that is fun and safe. Wear a laser pack and walk around a darkened maize, battling your opponents by shooting laser beams.
11:30am - 8pm (Tues-Thurs), 9:30am - 11pm (Fri)
R40-R100
Brightwater Commons, Republic Road, Randburg, (Tel) 011-789-3036

The fun company
A family entertainment centre that will have your blood racing and leave you with
smile. Bumper Cars, Tenpin Bowling, Games Arcade and more.
9am (Mon-Sat), 10am (Sun)
The Grove Shopping Centre, Simon Vermooten Road, Pretoria, (Tel) 011-447-4099

Kids Traffic Land
A fun way for kids to learn the rules of the road while having fun.
9am-5pm (Sat-Sun), 1pm-5pm (Mon-Fri)
R30
Balfour Park Shopping Centre, Highlands North, Johannesburg, (Tel) 082-459-2074

Yeesh! Fun for kids
Children can enjoy an obstacle course, jumping castles, trampolines, ball ponds, pottery and sand art.
9am-5pm (Tue-Sun)
R75
Woodmead Commercial Park, Waterval Crescent, (Tel) 011-656-9669

Swartkrans go-karts
Go-kart racing for kids and adults in a safe environment with a 700 metre track.
9am-5pm (Sat, Sun, Public Holidays). R100-R350
R563 to Hartbeespoort Dam, Opposite Greensleeves Restaurant, Swartkrans, (Tel) 072-308-3034

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Gadget Buddies



The Fitbit range of Fitness Trackers

By Imran Khan
Twitter: @ImranK_o
Email: info@gadgetbuddies.com

Fitness Trackers

The trend to become healthy and fit is taking South Africa by storm. From the beginning of 2015 we have noticed a variety of products in shops that promise to assist you in living healthier. What is even more bizarre is that these products are not only available in Sports stores, but computer shops as well. We are talking about a new breed of smart watches called 'fitness trackers'. These trackers assist you by tracking your sleep patterns, counting your calorie consumption, counting your steps or tracking your heart rate 24 hours, seven days a week.

So why do we need them? The data collected is done in real time and can be uploaded to your computer or laptop. You can then view this data and use the software included to suggest ways that you can improve the data and ultimately your health. This is like having a personal trainer on your wrist 24 hours a day. We found a few products in store but the most popular ones are made by Jawborn, Fitbit and Garmin.

Oculus for SA Tourism

South African Tourism has officially adopted virtual reality as one of its methods to promote South Africa as a tourist destination abroad. They will soon install virtual reality pods in specific areas around London and Manchester.

At these pods, users can go on a five minute virtual reality trip around South Afrca, learning about South African food, Wine, attractions and music.

SA Tourism has partnered with Oculus Rift and is the first country to be involved with this form of tourism. We are pleased to hear that SA Tourism is heading the revolution for virtual reality tourism and can't wait to see it at our local travel shows.

GPS revolution

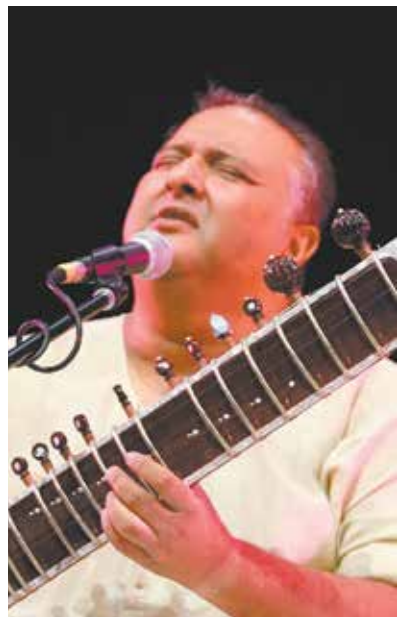
We remember the year when GPS (Global Positioning Units) came to South Africa. They were all very expensive and companies that sold you the hardware also sold you a subscription to their map services. However, that has changed ever since the invention of Google maps and Android smart phones. Most Android users are not aware of it but their smart phones can actually be used as a full GPS unit, though slightly limited.

As Android grew more popular, GPS companies started moving away from hardware to Android Applications. You can now download GPS applications to your phone from companies like TomTom and Garmin.

These apps give you the entire GPS service straight to your smartphone. From the few that we tried, the TomTom GO app stood out for us. TomTom offers free download of their application for a limited time and will cost R250 for a full year's subscription for the unlimited version.

Despite the cost, this app does offer more features like Live Traffic, advanced maps covering more of SA and still comes in cheaper than buying a standalone GPS unit.

Sitar maestro Ustad Shujaat Khan to headline inaugural Ghazal festival



Ustad Shujaat Khan

Lovers of the Ghazal, one of the lighter forms of Indian Classical Music, will be treated to a feast of stellar performances in the inaugural edition of Ehsaas - The Ghazal Festival, set to take place in Johannesburg on Sunday, May 24, at The Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City. "Ehsaas" is an Urdu word literally translated as "feelings" or "emotions".

The ghazal is a poetic form consisting of rhyming couplets and a refrain, with each line sharing the same meter.

The form of the ghazal originated in Iran in the 10th century A.D. The ghazal travelled to India from the 12th century onwards. The Moghuls brought along with them Iranian culture and civilisation, including poetry and literature. When Persian gave way to Urdu as the language of poetry and culture in India, the ghazal, the fruit of Indo-Iranian culture found its opportunity to grow and develop.

Although the ghazal deals with the whole spectrum of human experience, its central concern is love. A ghazal may be understood as a poetic expression of both the pain of loss or separation and the beauty of love in spite of that pain.

The musical performance of ghazal was popularised over the last century by artists such as Begum Akhtar, Mehdi Hassan, Ghulam Ali, and the legendary Jagjit Singh. Inner Circle Entertainment produced the last South African tour of Jagjit Singh (2006). The live performance style of ghazal is similar to jazz, with vocal as a central feature yet creating sufficient space for the accompanying musicians to improvise (typically in the raga in which the song is composed).

The Festival will be headlined by the sitar maestro and vocalist Ustad Shujaat Khan, son of the legendary sitarist Ustad Vilayat Khan. Shujaat Khan has developed his own unique style of playing Indian classical music. His approach to rhythm is largely intuitive, fresh and spontaneous. Known for his exceptional voice, Shujaat is one of the very few artists who plays the sitar and sings simultaneously. His noted vocal albums include 'Lajo Lajo' and 'Hazaron Kwaishen'. His successful collaboration with different genres of music is evidenced by the enormously successful Indo-Persian venture, the Ghazal Ensemble with Kayhan Kalhor. Their album 'The Rain' on the ECM label received a Grammy nomination. His album 'Strings Tradition' with kora player Mamadou Diabate from Mali broke new ground in bridging the musical traditions of India and Africa.

The other artist who will be featured on the bill is Surinder Khan, who hails from Punjab, India and has been trained in vocal music in the Patiala Gharana (style/tradition/school of music).

These artists will be accompanied by some of the finest performers from India on tabla, sarangi, flute, acoustic guitar, and dholak.

** Tickets are available from Computicket.*

The IMAX experience is coming west of Joburg

Ster-Kinekor, Southern Africa's largest cinema chain, is bringing the IMAX experience back to Joburg. Following the current success of The IMAX Experience at three Ster-Kinekor locations – Gateway in Durban, The Grove Mall in Pretoria and the recently opened Cape Gate in Cape Town – the cinema chain has announced that it will open a new IMAX theatre in Joburg towards the middle of June this year.

One of the theatres will be installed within a refurbished cinema at Cradlestone Mall in Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg.

With the installation of the theatre expected to begin shortly, Johannesburg audiences will soon be able to enjoy the world's most immersive cinematic experience when the new cinema open.

IMAX's cutting-edge projection system – which delivers crystal-clear images – coupled with its customised theatre design and powerful digital sound system, create a unique environment that will make audiences feel as if they are in the film.



In terms of the cinema-going experience, bigger is definitely better

Fans of IMAX who are based in the east of Johannesburg are next in line to enjoy this immersive cinema experience. Ster-Kinekor and IMAX confirmed last year that an IMAX theatre would be installed at the revamped Ster-Kinekor site at Eastgate shopping mall, which is expected to open in late September this year. This latest deal brings Ster-Kinekor's IMAX commitment to six theatres in under two years.

"We are delighted at the IMAX success that Ster-Kinekor has achieved in just 15 months after opening its first IMAX location, which underscores the growing demand for IMAX in South Africa," says Andrew Cripps, President, IMAX EMEA.

"There are a number of big blockbusters scheduled for IMAX release this year, and we are confident that audiences that have not yet experienced a film in IMAX will be amazed at the quality of the picture and the clarity of the surround sound in this most exciting and immersive theatre environment," says Doug Place, Marketing Executive of Ster-Kinekor Theatres..

** For more information about Ster-Kinekor and IMAX, download the Ster-Kinekor app on any Nokia, Samsung Android, iPhone or BlackBerry smart phone for the latest information and to make bookings. To find out about other exciting offerings and promotions, visit www.sterkinekor.com or sterkinekor.mobi, or follow @sterkinekor on Twitter or on Facebook at Ster-Kinekor Theatres. For queries, call Ticketline on 0861 Movies (668437).*

Style and craftsmanship of brandy set to intersect in Sandton

The dates for one of the most stylish series of events of the year have been announced. Fine Brandy Fusion is the premier showcase of South Africa's world-class brandies, providing all lovers of the good life with an opportunity to rub shoulders with celebrities; learn from esteemed brandy masters; and taste their chart-topping creations.

The event takes place this year on June 4 and 5 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

"We are very excited about this year's programme," says SA Brandy Foundation director Christelle Reade-Jahn. "Brandy is made around the world, but South African quality is a recognised champion in this arena. In fact, this year Fine Brandy Fusion showcases International Wine & Spirit Challenge (IWSC) winners of the World's Best Brandy title of the past 20 years and almost all are South African.



The Fine Brandy Fusion is set to convert a whole new generation

"If you enjoy a good time, appreciate quality brandy or want to know more about it, then you simply can't afford to miss the occasion," says Reade-Jahn.

Celebrating "The Spirit of Craftsmanship" – the theme for Fine Brandy Fusion 2015 – the skill of the brandy master is put on display. The focus will be the craft of brandy blending by expert brandy masters. Through a series of master classes, you'll learn first-hand about the art of blending and the building blocks that make an award-winning brandy.

Take your brandy appreciation to a whole new level with Fine Brandy Fusion where you will discover how to identify and savour the natural aromas prevalent in the spirit, and have the opportunity to experience them too.

Interact with makers of small batch brandies and taste brandies from off the beaten track that are only available at the show.

The road to greatness has been ages in the making – much like brandy that develops as it matures over time.

If you're new to brandy, this is the perfect chance to learn about the fascinating history of the spirit since it was first distilled on board a Dutch ship in Cape Town harbour in 1672.

Displaying how craftsmanship extends to the barrel in which the liquid is required to rest for years, a cooper from Stellenbosch's Van Ryn's brandy distillery – the only active cooperage in Africa – will give a series of live demonstrations.

Having re-discovered your passion for South African brandy, you'll be very tempted to take something home. Shop@Show will be on hand to facilitate purchases of these exclusive offerings as well as unique brandy-related gifts.

To ensure that you arrive home safely, there will be various transport services available, spearheaded by UBER. Breathalysers will be available for peace of mind and to ensure responsible enjoyment. No-one under 18 years will be permitted entrance to the event.

** Cost: R195 for entry, which includes a crystal brandy snifter, a booklet with 15 brandy taster coupons, three cocktail coupons, and two coffee coupons.*
Tickets are available from Computicket, or at the door.
For the latest news and information, visit www.brandyfusion.co.za; or send an email to info@brandyfusion.co.za.

Make it a family outing at Lusito Land Festival

Lusito Land, one of Joburg's hottest family festivals, is back with some of the finest South African musicians and bands taking to the stage as well some of the city's tastiest Portuguese cuisine sizzling on the grills. The festival is entering its final weekend at Wemmer Pan at Pioneer Park in La Rochelle in the south of Johannesburg, and will come to a close on Sunday, May 3.

"We have gone all out to make sure that all our visitors have a great time that exceeds all expectations," says Noemia Contente, spokesperson from the Lusito Association for the Physically and Mentally Challenged.

Lusito Land first opened its doors in 1981 as a festival that celebrated the Portuguese tradition and culture. Over the last 34 years, it has evolved into a festival celebrated by the many cultures that make up Johannesburg and Gauteng. The Portuguese tradition has however been sustained in the traditional flavours of the fine cuisine that is an important facet in the Portuguese heritage.

Lusito Land has proven to be a crowd-pleaser and was voted no fewer than 11 times as "Best Festival" by Leisure Options Magazine readers. 160000 visitors annually walk through the gates and proving it to be the ideal family day out ahead of Gauteng's winter months.

Lusito Land is at Wemmer Pan, Pioneers Park, corner of 11th Street and Turf Road, La Rochelle.

** Times: Open from 10am to 10pm on weekdays; 10am to 11pm on weekends and public holidays; and 10am to 7pm on Sunday, May 3.*
Cost: Free - R80 per person
For more information on the festival, visit www.lusitoland.co.za.
All proceeds from Lusito Land go to the Lusito Association for the Physically and Mentally Challenged. The Lusito Land festival is an important part of the Lusito Association as it is the primary fundraiser for the organization. 100% of all funds raised from the Lusito Land Festival go directly to the maintenance and building of the Lusito School for the Challenged. (Visit www.lusitoassociation.org.za.)



Crowds will be buzzing

Lavish SA and Chinese production of 'Swan Lake' at Joburg Theatre



Expect an enchanting ballet spectacle

'Swan Lake', as presented by Joburg Ballet and the Liaoning Ballet of China, is currently wowing culture buffs at the Joburg Theatre. The production has hit the home stretch, with its last few performances taking place during the next couple of days. Catch the show until Sunday, May 3.

Joburg Ballet will also be welcoming prima ballerina Viengsay Valdés from Cuba and US ballet star Brooklyn Mack from the Washington Ballet to Johannesburg for 'Swan Lake'. They will form part of a cast of 80 dancers, who will be enlivening this absorbing tale of love triumphant over the forces of evil.

Reciprocating Joburg Ballet's visit to China for the Year of South Africa in China in 2014, 21 dancers from the Liaoning Ballet of China arrived in Johannesburg early in April to join forces with Joburg Ballet for the grandest production of 'Swan Lake' yet seen in South Africa.

Show times:

01 May 19:30
02 May 15:00 & 19:30
03 May 15:00

** Cost: R50 to R450 per person.*
For bookings and more information, send an email to info@joburgtheatre.com; or visit www.joburgtheatre.com.
Joburg Theatre is situated on Cnr Simmonds Street & Stiemens Road, Braamfontein.

Movies

FILM: GET HARD
CAST: WILL FERRELL, KEVIN HART, ALISON BRIE, CRAIG T. NELSON, TIP 'T.I.' HARRIS
DIRECTOR: ETAN COHEN

When millionaire hedge fund manager James (Will Ferrell) is nailed for fraud and bound for a stretch in San Quentin, the judge gives him 30 days to get his affairs in order.

Desperate, he turns to Darnell (Kevin Hart) to prep him for a life behind bars. But despite James' one-percenter assumptions, Darnell is a hard-working small business owner who has never received a parking ticket, let alone been to prison.

Together, the two men do whatever it takes for James to "get hard" and, in the process, discover how wrong they were about a lot of things – including each other.

The idea for 'Get Hard' originated with producing partners Will Ferrell and Adam McKay imagining what the average person might do if suddenly seized from a nice, comfortable life and confronted with the prospect of a 10-year stretch behind bars. Ferrell, who stars as a man in exactly that situation, recalls them "spitballing about what that moment would be like, if, for whatever reason, you found out that you were going to prison. What would be your thought process? How would you prepare? Would you immediately try to flee the country?



Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell in 'Get Hard'

"It's one of those nightmares you have about how you might survive," Ferrell continues. "You think, 'I'd have to learn how to fight, or how to perform sexual favours. I'd probably have to join a gang' – all those things you get from watching prison shows on TV where you realize, 'I'd be killed immediately. Or I'd be someone's bitch.'"

He gets no argument there from Kevin Hart. "I'd give him seven minutes," jokes Hart, who stars opposite Ferrell in this outrageous and satirical comedy about two guys who work in the same building but live in different worlds, until they strike an unusual and potentially life-changing deal that challenges their most basic – and hilariously off-base – preconceptions about so many things.

Ferrell and Hart's was a welcome camaraderie in that 'Get Hard' develops into a kind of buddy movie. Or, says director Etan Cohen, "It's about two people who make a lot of assumptions about each other and who would just go on their way and never have those assumptions challenged if not for the situation they get into. It's a two-way street.

James has never encountered anyone outside of the Ivy League or the world of high finance, so when he meets Darnell he sees a potential gang-banger.

And Darnell takes James for a racist jerk who's had everything handed to him – and to some extent that's true, but, once he gets to know him, he realizes James is trying to be a good guy, in his own weird way.

Conversely, James comes to understand that Darnell isn't necessarily struggling because of a character failure but because of his circumstances."

FILM: THE DUFF
CAST: MAE WHITMAN, ROBBIE AMELL, BELLA THORNE, BIANCA SANTOS, KEN JEONG
DIRECTOR: ARI SANDEL

Bianca (Mae Whitman) is a content high school senior whose world is shattered when she learns the student body refers to her as 'The Duff' (Designated Ugly Fat Friend) to her prettier, more popular friends (Skyler Samuels and Bianca Santos). With her universe turned upside down, she ignores words of wisdom from her favourite teacher (Ken Jeong) and enlists Wesley (Robbie Amell), a slick but charming jock, to help set her apart from the pack and erase her label forever. In doing so, she hopes to land her crush Toby (Nick Eversman), and find the confidence to overthrow the school's ruthless label maker Madison (Bella Thorne) by reminding everyone that no matter what people look or act like, we are all someone's DUFF...and that's totally fine.

Executive Producer Lane Shefter Bishop first learned of the novel 'The Duff' when she saw the partially written book in the office of Joanna Stampfel-Volpe, a book agent in New York. Bishop instantly loved the title and the idea, and read the book that night. The next day, she called Stampfel-Volpe and asked for the chance to secure a movie deal. Bishop immediately sent the project to producers McG and Mary Viola of Wonderland Sound and Vision and said, "You have to read this now!"

"We got about 100 pages of the book in manuscript form" says Viola. "Lane emphasized that the book was very special." Like Bishop, Viola read the pages overnight.

"I called Lane the next day and said 'This is amazing. The voice is so original. We have to get this book,'" she says. McG agreed. "I just thought it was something that was 'zeitgeisty', of-the-moment – so relatable and just true to life," he says.

The producers were soon surprised to find that the original voice belonged to author Kody Keplinger, who wrote the book titled 'The Duff' when she was just 17 years-old.

Bishop says, "I thought, 'This cannot be a 17-year-old. She has the high school voices down, but this is someone who knows how to write because the emotion woven throughout is dead on.' There's a lot going on (in the book) and a lot of complexity underneath it all." For director Ari Sandel, the opportunity to make a teen comedy (a genre that he has long admired) was one he couldn't pass up. "I think any comedy director is excited at the opportunity of doing a high school film because we all grew up with iconic high school films, whether it's John Hughes' films or 'Mean Girls' or 'Superbad'. Those movies really stick with you through your teenage years."


Mae Whitman in 'The Duff'

Still in cinemas – 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' #AvengersJozi

In January 2014, Marvel's 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' descended upon the Johannesburg CBD – so be sure to look out for the Johannesburg skyline as well as amazing inner-city action in key sequences.

With the storyline for the film decided, the filmmakers felt it was important to inject a global relevance into the story for the film as well. "We've always considered The Avengers to be sort of the world's heroes," says producer Kevin Feige. "Not just America, not just any particular region, but globally and certainly the results of the first movie proved that. When we started developing the story we knew we wanted to take it out of New York. Some of the movie does take place in New York, but we wanted to send The Avengers to the far reaches of the globe so it's legitimately a globe-trotting adventure."

"The balance of these movies has always been big, huge beautiful stage sets, but then you also have to go outside and see the world," says executive producer Jeremy Latcham. "You have to open up the scope, which is one of the things we've really tried to do on 'Avengers: Age of Ultron.' We wanted to go to new locations that haven't been seen on film as much, like Seoul, South Korea, downtown Johannesburg, South Africa and the Aosta Valley in Northern Italy. The new locations really add a fresh feeling to the film and show that The Avengers really do protect the world."


Iron Man and Hulk butt heads in 'Avengers: Age Of Ultron'

"We wanted the first Avengers film to be big, but for this film I wanted it to bigger, but I also wanted it to be broader and more global," says director Joss Whedon. "We wanted to look at The Avengers and see the effect they have on the whole world. We got the team together in the first film, which seemed sort of an impossible task. But then the question becomes 'Well, once they're together are they compatible and are they useful and how does the world perceive them?' And how does that affect their perception of each other? So it's great to open it up and instead of trying to recreate places on stage, actually go to places go to get the local feel and architecture, which gives the film a real veracity. When you have several main characters that are CGI, you really need to ground the film with practical locations."

With the production in pre-production in London, the first order of business was a three-week shoot in Johannesburg, South Africa. The cityscape and surrounding areas would provide the backdrop for one of the biggest action sequences in the film involving Iron Man and The Hulk.

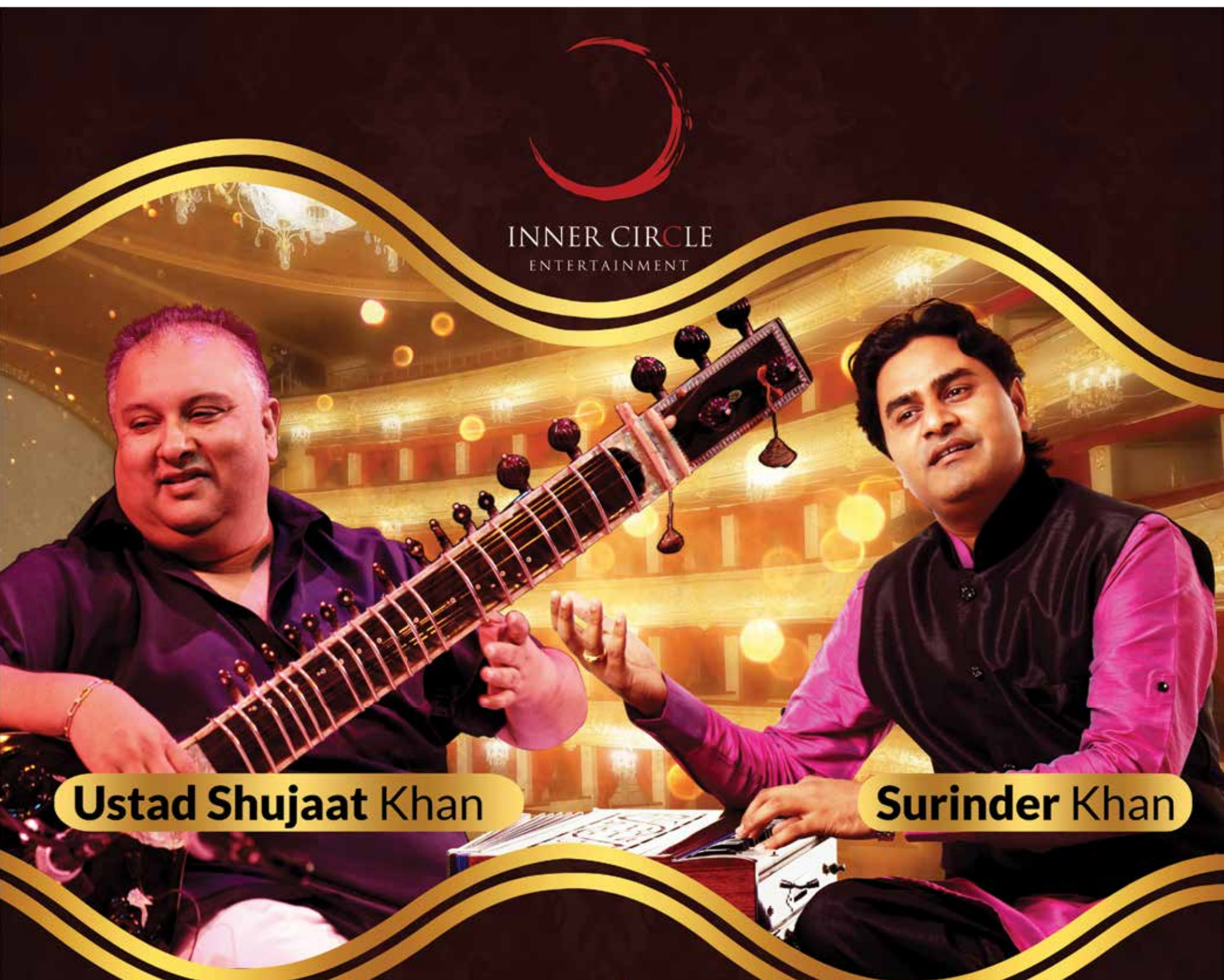
"Johannesburg has a very particular look and style to its architecture that I really liked," says Whedon. "It has very much its own rhythm, its own feel, its own tones, and there's an earthiness to the way it looks. It is very different from the other locations we shot. You know immediately you're not in North America."

Setting up the sequence in the film, director Whedon relates, "The team has come to the coast of Africa to find Ultron and Scarlet Witch who has gotten to Banner and basically given him a nightmare experience so overwhelming that he becomes not just The Hulk but The Hulk Hulking out. He is completely out of control and he comes to the middle of the city almost by accident and then he's just overwhelmed by noise, the lights and so many people. It's not Super Hero Hulk; it's a really scary version and as much as he's fighting him, Iron Man is also making an effort to just get him out of the city and away from populated areas so he can put him down long enough to get Bruce back."

Needing more firepower then just his usual Iron Man Armor, Tony arrives in his newest piece of technology, aptly called the Hulkbuster suit. "The Hulkbuster is an iconic piece of Iron Man tech and it was always something that we would talk about for each 'Iron Man' film," says Feige. "In 'Iron Man 3' our amazing team designed dozens of suits of armour and a few of them they designed as sort of an homage to the Hulkbuster suit, and at a certain point Joss said, 'Forget the homage to the Hulkbuster suit, we're going to do it in 'Age of Ultron.'"

"The idea of Tony Stark in the Hulkbuster suit is a conflict that is fun for fans," says Whedon. "It's just a 'duke-'em-out,' like you don't care situation, which is juxtaposed against the deep friendship between Tony and Banner. We learn in the movie that they built the Hulkbuster armour together in case something goes really wrong. So you have two guys who love each other, but have to just beat the crap out of each other and that's what makes it such a unique sequence and not your typical ride. You know this is going to change their lives and the way they behave around each other. That's the key through all of this because you always have to keep track of how does this make them different? Where is the emotional thread?"

INNER CIRCLE
ENTERTAINMENT



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A double bill Concert of Ghazals

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JOHANNESBURG
Sunday 24 May 2015, 4.00PM
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InnerCircleEntertainment @InnerCircleLive

Fifty shades of green – avocados hit the spot

Fooding around with Jenny Morris



@jennymorrischef

Move over Christian Grey. There's a new "passionista" in town; one whose velvety flesh is firing up the fantasies of lovers all over South Africa. Lovers of good food and good health, that is. I'm of course talking about delicious, locally grown avocados, which are in season right now.
Go on, shake off your inhibitions this winter and experiment with some exciting new avo-nues of taste and texture by adding an avo to any meal, any time of the day.

What about spicing up your breakfast with chorizo, goat's cheese and avo on toast; or adding an avo to your power smoothie, for a creamy healthy kick?

Give lunchtime routines an exciting twist with mini chicken and avo sliders; or devilled eggs with smashed avo guacamole. You could whip up something fresh and tasty for dinner by adding some avo to your old favourites - think spicy Asian beef stir fry with coriander and sesame seeds; smoked salmon and avo salad with pink grapefruit and radishes; or zucchini noodles with a creamy avo pasta sauce. The versatility of avocados creates endless tasty combinations - so go on, add an avo today.

Avos are also the perfect partners for a low carb lifestyle and with recipe ideas like avo coconut bread, avo hummus and avo and turmeric lassi, there's every reason to add an avo to your healthy meal or snack.

Incorporating avocado into a meal is also great way of boosting your daily intake of monounsaturated fats and essential nutrients such as potassium, folic acid and vitamin C - and the good news is that while avos are rich and creamy, they're proven to be heart-healthy and effective fighters against "bad" LDL cholesterol.

Who hasn't snuck a slice of avo from the top of the salad? Or hunted for a piece of green deliciousness hidden under the lettuce? Well, say goodbye to guilty secrets. The experts say that eating avocados may be associated with better diet quality and beneficial nutrient intakes*, so you can happily eat avos and your body will thank you for it. And when it comes to testing for ripeness, the fruit should yield to a gentle squeeze in the palm of the hand.

Alternatively, give the fruit stalk a gentle nudge with your thumb and if it comes off easily, the Avo is almost ripe but if it's still firmly attached, you'll need to wait a few days. Testing the Hass variety is even easier as its green skin changes to purple/black as it ripens.

So go on, satisfy your hunger and add some delicious, versatile and healthy home-grown avos to your daily shopping basket today. Look good and feel good with fifty shades of green!

Ripening and storage of the avocado

The avocado does not ripen on the tree, even when it is ready to be picked.
Once picked it usually begins to soften at the round end of the fruit then continues up to the stem end.

Storage of avocados

Hard, unripe avocados can be kept in refrigeration for a few days to prevent ripening
The best temperature is 6 - 7°C (normal household fridge temperature). Lower temperatures should be avoided.

Moving avocados in and out of cold storage repeatedly is very bad for fruit quality.

When avocados are ripe, they can be stored at 4 °C without damage occurring.

If avocados are stored for too long at low temperatures (below 5 °C) they will show typical signs of chilling injury. (Blacking of the skin and internal grey or brown discoloration).

How to tell if an avocado is ripe

Don't squeeze an avocado to find out if it is ripe, because you will just bruise it.

When an avocado is approaching eating ripeness, the short fruit stalk comes off easily when touched gently.

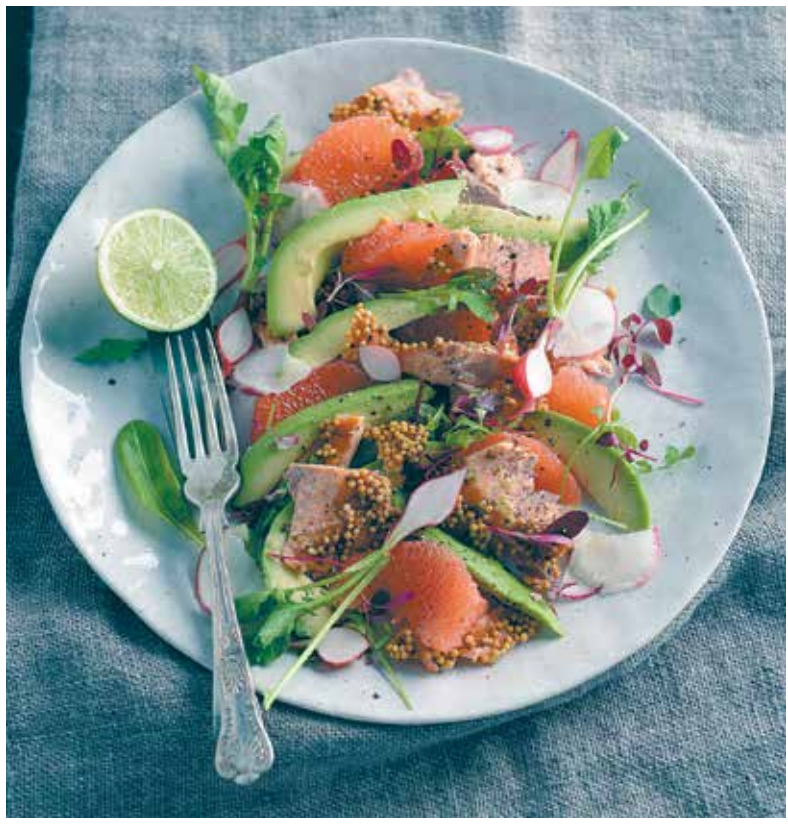
In a hard, unripe avocado the fruit stalk is still firmly attached and it will take days to ripen.

Hass fruits are usually picked without stems, but the ripeness is easy to determine because the fruit skin changes its colour from green to purple/black as it ripens.

In any box of avocados the fruits will ripen at different times.

Avocados should not be stored for any length of time with bananas, apples or cabbages, as the ethylene gas given off by these fruits can have a bad effect on the avocados, causing internal discoloration.

Avocados that start turning grey on the inside have either been picked too late in the season, or have been stored for too long.



Avo Smoked Salmon Salad

How to ripen avocados

To ripen avocados at home, keep them at room temperature until they are ripe.
To speed this up, place avocados in the fruit bowl with other fruit (especially bananas), or better still, put them into a brown paper bag with the bananas.

Avocado, smoked salmon, pink grapefruit and radish salad

Arrange slices of buttery ripe avocado with pink grapefruit segments, radishes and sliced smoked salmon. Garnish with microgreens and serve with a grinding of black pepper
Avocado salad with seeds and sprouts
Peel and quarter 4 - 6 avocados depending on their size. Toss with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice, a handful of sprouts, 2 tablespoons mixed seeds and a handful of chopped Italian parsley and serve immediately.

Avocado Potato Salad

No mayo, only avow
Toss 1-2 large avocados with 500 g boiled new potatoes, 1- 2 tablespoons of white vinegar and garnish with chopped chives and freshly ground black pepper.

Health & Beauty

Nature's bounty

By RoxyK

Skincare is an investment, so if you follow the right routine and use the proper products, you can be guaranteed a cleaner, refreshed skin tone. The beauty industry has become so bombarded with so many skincare products that it has become difficult to choose the perfect product for one's skin. Then there's the matter of some beauty brands trying to up sell their products to you, which might end up with you buying products that you do not need, or would really not work for your skin.

So why not try a natural skincare range, one that should be made from plants and natural resource products, and that is allergen free and contain no parabens or preservatives. Many women are changing over to products that are chemical free, with a recent survey showing that almost 60% are now using organic products. A good organic choice would be the Esse range, which is endorsed by the vegan society, which means that these products are 100% natural. They have a range suitable for sensitive skins and a unique anti-aging range with active ingredients that target the problem areas like fine lines and wrinkles.



The Esse range of products

Aging is inevitable. Although this might not be what you want to hear, it is unfortunately true. You can however delay the onset of aging in your skin by making sensible lifestyle decisions and by using products that deliver meaningful quantities of anti-oxidants and other actives. Some diagnostic clues to aging would be horizontal lines around the eyes, reduction in skin elasticity, muscle atrophy or loss of muscle tone and uneven pigmentation. Esse has introduced a range that targets the areas of your skin where fine lines and wrinkles appear and the active ingredients in all their products work deep down to repair the skin Oily skin resists the signs of aging for longer, but excessive oil can impact on skin health. Harsh gel washes and chemicals used to get rid of oiliness is not always the best option. These tend to strip off excess oil, making the skin dry and susceptible to blackheads and blemishes. Esse has introduced a refining cleanser, which cleans without drying out the skin. The effective cocoa exfoliator has delicate fine granules that gently polish and refine the skin's surface, leaving it soft and smooth.

If you are certain that you are ready to change your products and want to try something different, make sure that you buy the correct products. Start with a mild cleanser and gradually introduce other products to avoid irritation of your skin. If you do notice redness or a rash, stop the products immediately and allow the skin to heal by using mild skin oil. Avoid non-drying masks and dry air-conditioned atmospheres that could affect the skin. Minimise sun exposure with physical sun protection at all times by using a mineral sun block.

The best solution is always to know your skin type and what it would react to. \Read labels of all products that you buy, which will give you a clear indication of ingredients you may be allergic to.

WIN!

Win a trial pack of ESSE products by emailing your details to roxyk@48hours.co.za.



Say farewell to summer in Nietgedacht with a picnic

Kiss the last days of summer goodbye this weekend at the Personal Picnic Festival, set to be held at The River Cabin on Saturday, May 2.

The event kicks off at 11am, so attendees can start getting personal and mellow out whilst listening to the sounds of the finest deep house artists from around SA.

The organisers reserve the right to restrict the age limit of people attending the event as the get-together caters to a more mature crowd. Entry will be restricted to guys: 21; and ladies: 21. While there, revellers will be able to take in the beauty of the location, including wildlife, a flowing river and of course, beautiful people. No drinks will be allowed into the festival!

** Cost is R210 per person.*
For more information and bookings, call 082 261 4689; send an email to therivercabin@gmail.com; or visit www.therivercabin.co.za.
The River Cabin is situated on Plot 35 R114, Nietgedacht.

Crazy colour fest magic set to possess Jozi

The Holi One Colour Festival – SA's first colour festival - is once again set to have Joburg awash in colour when it takes place at Huddle Park on Friday, May 1.

In April 2013 tens of thousands of colour-crazy revellers covered in a kaleidoscope of green, orange, pink, yellow and blue partook in the original Holi One - We Are One Colour Festivals.

Holi One - We Are One will set forth once again to cement its status as South Africa's largest Colour Festival party experience.

To meet demand, Holi One - We Are One will be bigger and better: capacity has been increased; a great line-up of international and local artists will perform on the day; plus there will be a new 'Colour Day & Neon Night' theme to add to the usual white dress.

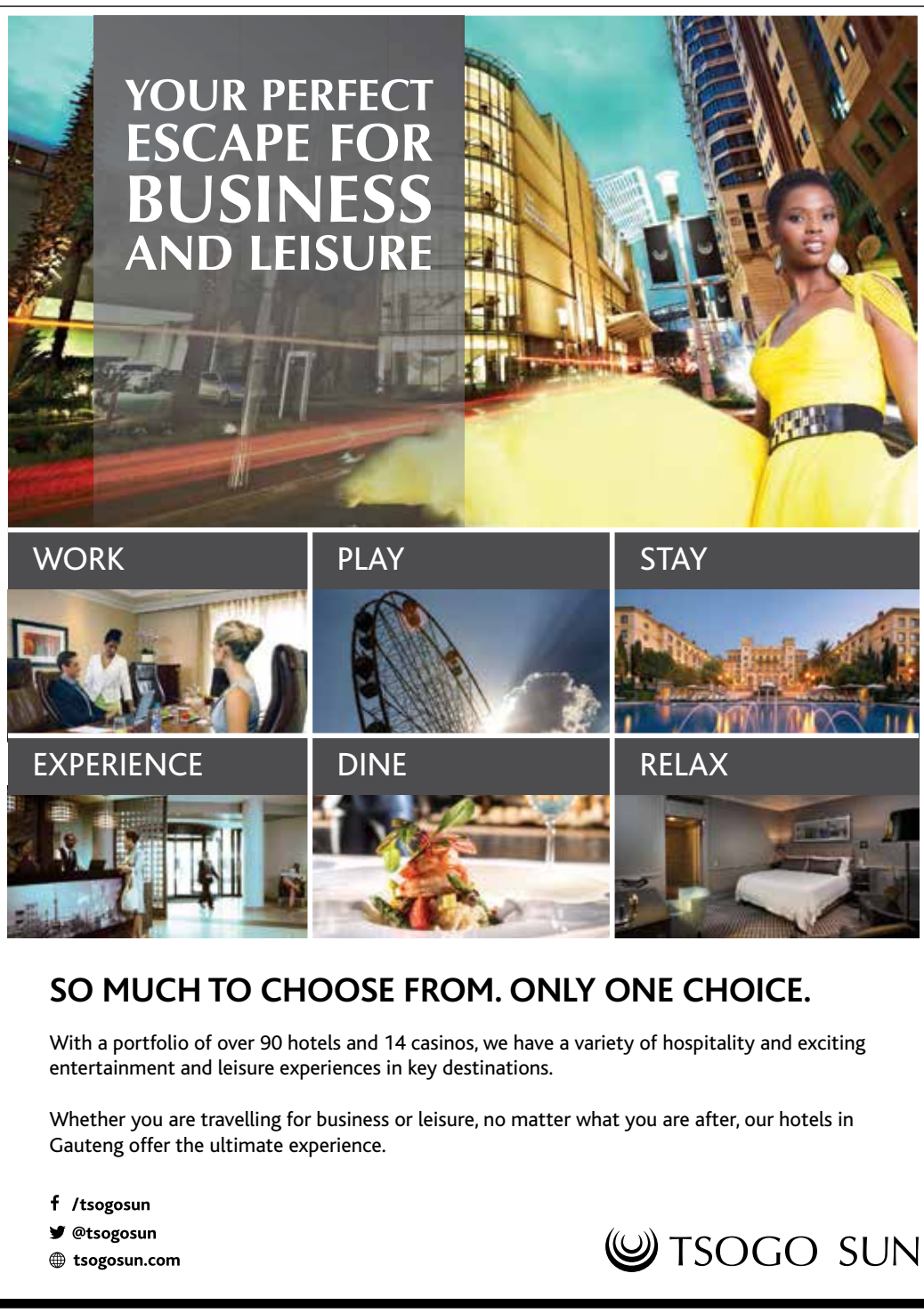
The music line-up will include the likes of:

- DJ Fresh
- Mark Stent
- Ricardo Da Costa
- Houseshaker
- Vin Groovin
- Household Funk
- Essential Groove
- Royal K

** The party will kick off at midday.*
Tickets are R190 - R290 per person and can be booked at Computicket, or at www.holione.com.
For more information, call 011 640 4456, or 011 640 6693; send an email to info@huddlepark.com; or visit www.huddlepark.com.



Get colourful this weekend



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TSOGO SUN

Experience a world of fine wine at the 10th TOPS at SPAR Wine Show

Life is too short to drink bad wine. Which is why the TOPS at SPAR Wine Show is returning to Joburg for the 10th consecutive year from Thursday to Saturday, May 7 to 9, at the Sandton Convention Centre. Now a must-go event on the city's social calendar, this milestone year invites wine connoisseurs and everyday drinkers to come and try and buy quality South African wines direct from producers while soaking up the celebratory atmosphere at one of the show's pop-up experiences.

"Ten years is not too shabby for a show that started with just a handful of exhibitors. Since then we've sold over R24million worth of fine wine straight from the show's floor," says John Woodward, The TOPS at SPAR Wine Show's founder. "But that's so last decade. Now we're looking forward to the next ten and - having partnered with the experienced event team from the national TOPS at SPAR Bierfest festivals - aim to grow the show into an interactive wine experience bar none."

Elevating the event this year are the popular Wine Extra Theatre – a series of interactive talks and edu-tainment sessions hosted by wine buffs and industry personalities – a special Bubbly Bar as well as ensemble of street performers and modern musicians. Décor and design will also be suitably dressed-up to mark the occasion.

Hundreds of exhibitors will be on show at this year's event, among them some of South Africa's most-awarded. "We're proud to partner with names of this standard as it exposes visitors outside of the Western Cape to the high-calibre of wine that South Africa produces," explains Woodward.

Responsible consumption is also front and centre this year: its #Drinksmart initiative is spearheaded by TOPS at SPAR's mobile phone app DRYVER. It provides visitors with a range of safe and affordable choices to drink responsibly and get home safely. Rehydration stations and a Designated Driver Rewards Program, Good Fellas memberships and preferred rates with taxi services and UBER have seen the TOPS at SPAR Wine Show #DrinkSmart initiative be officially endorsed by the Industry Association for Responsible Alcohol Use (the ARA).

"This year marks the start of a new chapter in the show's history," says Woodward. "We're excited to welcome Jozi wine lovers to experience the world of fine wine in an atmospheric setting designed to entertain."

** Tickets can be purchased pre-show for R140 from www.wineshow.co.za, or at the door for R160. It includes a 10th year crystal tasting glass, all tastings, access to The Wine Extra Theatre and a map to help navigate the show.*



The Wine Show 10th year Bubbly Bar









City Buzz

f /goldreefcity @GoldReefCitySA
For more information and bookings visit goldreefcity.co.za

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