

# DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY



## ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017

### DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY

Registered Non-Profit Organization. Reg Nr: 089 -552-NPO

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Web: [www.darkroomcontemporary.com](http://www.darkroomcontemporary.com)

Managing Committee: Louise Coetzer (Artistic Director), Oscar O' Ryan ( Co- founder), Klaus Warschkow (Chairperson), Noel Daniels (Treasurer), Naren Sewpaul (Secretary), Auriol Hays, Mbovu Malinga, Nicolette Moses, Bridgette Brukman, Undere Deglon

# **ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION**

## **FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:**

Louise Coetzer

## **FOUNDER & PROJECT MANAGER:**

Oscar O’Ryan

## **PERFORMING ARTISTS 2016/2017:**

Aviwe November, Vuyo Mahashe, Kristy Brown, Teagan de Marigny, Che Milani, Joy Millar, Bathembu Myira, Mbulelo Ngubombini, Anderson Carvalho, Kristen Wilson, Danielle Wagner, Cilna Katzke

## **COLLABORATING ARTISTS 2016/2017:**

Dean Henning & Mark van Niekerk -Sound Artist ( Without Eyes), Mischa Mathys - Sound Artist, Mthuthuzeli November (Performing Artist), Unmute Dance Company, Figure of Eight Dance Collective, Underground Dance Theatre, New World Dance Theatre, Yaotl Physical Art Company, Helo Samo & Caitlin Mkhasibe  
Oscar O’ Ryan Photography

## **MANAGING COMMITTEE:**

Louise Coetzer (Artistic Director), Oscar O’Ryan (Project Manager), Klaus Warschkow (Chairperson), Noel Daniels (Treasurer), Naren Sewpaul (Secretary), Mbovu Malinga, Auriol Hays, Nicolette Moses, Bridgette Brukmann, Undere Deglon

Darkroom Contemporary Dance Theatre exists as a vehicle to reimagine dance within contemporary society, through innovation & interdisciplinary collaboration. The company produces works that delight, excite, engage and inspire.

Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Darkroom Contemporary was founded in 2010 by Louise Coetzer and Oscar O’Ryan, with the aim to develop work opportunities for the multitude of talented dancers produced by local training institutions. Coetzer, a dancer and choreographer, and O’Ryan, a photographer and filmmaker, bring together expertise from their respective fields to form a dynamic partnership. Darkroom Contemporary is recognized for delivering innovative, unexpected works of the highest artistic standard, simultaneously creating unique audience experiences and new ways of appreciating dance. The company regularly stages works in unexpected performance areas, transforming ordinary spaces into intriguing, multi-faceted arenas. Darkroom Contemporary’s dance film works sits alongside its performance projects, making the work accessible to a larger global audience through the medium of film and digital media.

Projects spearheaded by the founders provide platforms and creates opportunities for skills development and exchange among all artists involved. Project collaborators include dancers, physical performers, visual artists, sound designers, photographers, filmmakers and digital artists. Darkroom Contemporary has implemented a wide range of performance, film, developmental and educational projects in the Western Cape and Gauteng. The company operates as a non profit organization with the objectives to promote dance, theatre, and dance film through a variety of projects.

**VISION:** To present dance theatre in ways that are current, relevant, innovative and accessible. To use movement as a tool to communicate ideas, create unique audience experiences, open up dialogue and initiate collaboration across multiple creative disciplines. To provide opportunities for trained performers and arts practitioners through dance performance and film projects while encouraging audiences to appreciate and support the art of dance.

**MISSION:** Darkroom Contemporary is dedicated to actively promoting and exploring dance theatre as art form, through performance, dance film, and education. Creating opportunities for performers, fostering collaboration between various creative disciplines, opening up dialogue between these creative practitioners, and offering opportunities for skills exchange, Darkroom Contemporary seeks to be a catalyst for innovation and preservation within the contemporary South African performing arts landscape.

**OBJECTIVES :** *Darkroom Contemporary implements a wide range of Performance, Film and Development projects which achieve a very unique set of outcomes:*

- Adding value to the existing performing arts landscape, through presenting new dance theatre works of the highest standard.
- Acting as an incubator for ideas, experimentation and collaboration.
- Creating opportunities and platforms for performing artists.
- Promoting artistic collaboration among professionals working in all genres.
- Making dance theatre accessible to various audience demographics.
- Creating unique audience experiences through interactive performance works.
- Developing a new generation of audience support for the art of dance.



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2016/2017

*by Klaus Warschkow*

During 2016 Darkroom Contemporary had probably their most successful year yet. It started off with a performance of *We, the Transposed*, that was *Thundafund* and Department of Arts & Culture funded at the very end of the previous year, at Youngblood Africa in March 2016. This work was also included in the Cape Town Fringe Festival in September/October 2016 albeit without funding. The biggest success of the year was the production of *In C*, the commissioned work for the Baxter Dance Festival 2016 in October 2016. In February 2017 Louise Coetzer was commissioned to create *SUSPEND* for Puncture Points at the Cape Town harbor.

The short film *fanática* was shot on 25 March 2016 and is now submitted for inclusion in film festivals. A still untitled film shoot with Mthuthuzeli November followed on 28 August 2016. Neither of the dance film projects received any funding.

Darkroom Contemporary facilitated a number of development projects. In August 2016 Louise held four workshops for MOVEcorps. Gallery MOMO served as venue for the very successful *Unfinished Vol 1 and 2* in August and November 2016. A project bringing together different musicians and numerous dance companies in new ways. The project was well received and will be continued. In November 2016 a Collaboration with Unmute Dance Company started with a photo shoot and resulted in a photo exhibition and performance in early March 2017 titled *Access Me*.

**Klaus Warschkow**

*Chairperson: Darkroom Contemporary*  
May 2017

# PERFORMANCE PROJECTS



## 1. WE, THE TRANSPOSED

DATE: 3, 4 & 5 MARCH 2016

VENUE: YOUNGBLOOD ARTS & CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

COLLABORATIONS: Mischa Mathys ( Sound Design), Helo Samo (Installation Design)

CHOREOGRAPHY: Louise Coetzer

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHY: Oscar O’Ryan

PERFORMERS: Aviwe November, Teagan de Marigny, Kristy Brown, Vuyo Mahashe

PROJECT FUNDING: Thundafund Crowd Funding Campaign with match funding from the Department of Arts & Culture

### PROJECT MEASURE:

- Acting as an incubator for ideas, experimentation and collaboration
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Performers & Creative Team: 8

Audience Count: 68

School’s Performance Beneficiaries: 80

*We, the transposed* is a unique installation work, created in collaboration with Swiss-South African Sound Artist Mischa Mathys. Inspired by the truly multicultural community of peoples settled in Johannesburg, as cultures are transposed from their origins to the city limits, the work questions what it means to “be from” any given place. The sound installation attempts

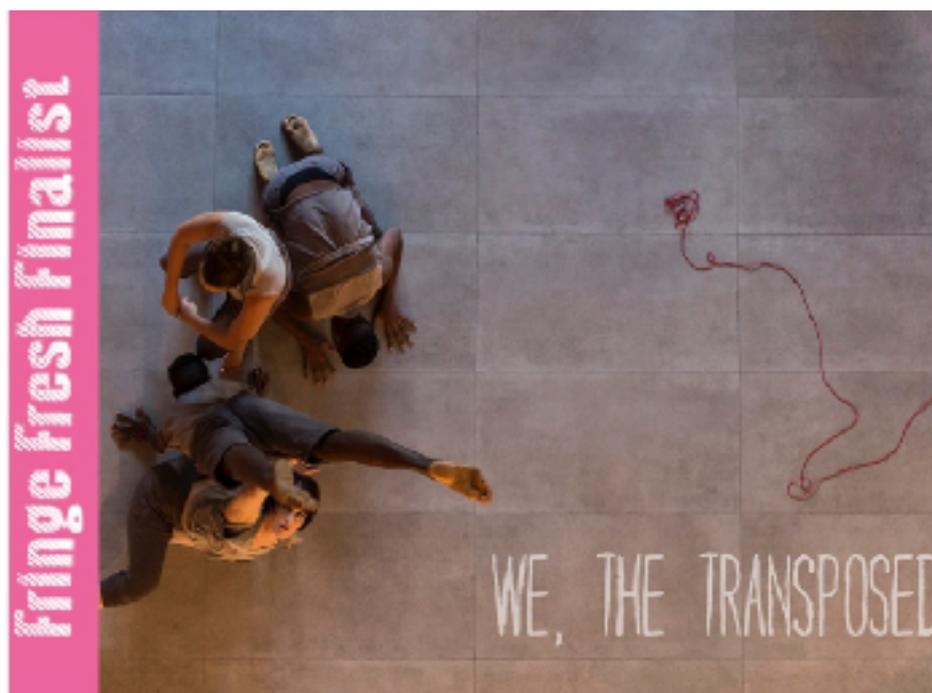
to reconstruct the divergent cultures as they come together to form the single cultural identity that is the City of Johannesburg. As a result *We, the transposed* indirectly joins in the dialogue that has been raised often in the preceding months around the xenophobic attacks around South Africa, and a question that can easily incorporate Europe in the wake of the Mediterranean disaster and recent refugee crisis.

By placing this work against the sonic backdrop of the City of Cape Town, the artists hope to initiate a conversation amongst the listeners, about the cultural diversity of the host city against that of Johannesburg, a city where no person can truly claim to be native.

The work premiered with excerpts staged as part of the hugely popular First Thursdays event at Youngblood Gallery. This was followed by two successful performances and a special School's Performance matinee. This educational initiative invited students and young people from iThemba Labantu, Jazzart Dance Theatre, and Dance For All to attend the performance followed by a group discussion and Q&A session with the cast and creative team.



## 2. FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION: CAPE TOWN FRINGE FESTIVAL



DATE: 30 September, 1 & 2 October 2016

VENUE: Cape Town City Hall

COLLABORATIONS: Mischa Mathys - Sound Artist, Oscar O’Ryan Photography

PERFORMERS: Aviwe November, Mbulelo Ngubombini, Kristy Brown, Teagan de Marigny

PROJECT FUNDING: Not funded. Income through ticket sales are shared between the Fringe Festival and performing companies.

### PROJECT MEASURE:

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Performers & Creative Team: 8

Audience Count: 38

We, the transposed was recreated as part of the Cape Town Fringe Festival 2016. Participation in this festival allowed for reaching a new audience demographic. We, the transposed received a Fringe FRESH CREATIVE Award Nomination. These awards announce daily nominees for the inaugural Fringe Fresh Awards, which aim to recognise outstanding creativity and stand-out performances at the Cape Town Fringe. Each day, a panel of judges announced nominees – with the winners across five different categories announced at the end of the Fringe.



### 3. IN C

BAXTER  
DANCE  
FESTIVAL



DATE: 10 -16 October 2016

VENUE: Baxter Theatre Centre, as part of the Baxter Dance Festival

COLLABORATIONS: Without Eyes - Sound Artist

CHOREOGRAPHY: Louise Coetzer

PERFORMERS: Mbulelo Ngubombini, Kristen Wilson, Joy Millar, Bathembu Miyra, Danielle Wagner

PROJECT FUNDING: In C was commissioned & produced by the Baxter Theatre Centre for the 2016 Baxter Dance Festival.

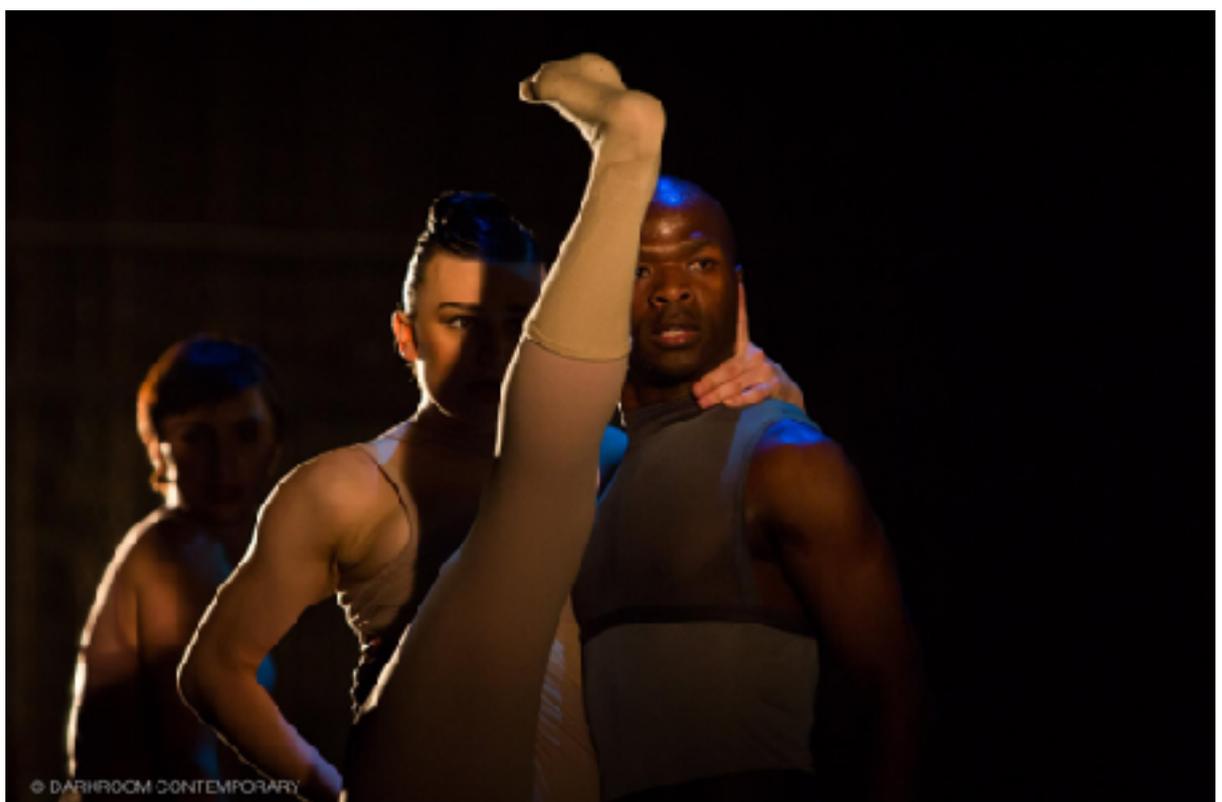
#### PROJECT MEASURE:

- Adding value to the existing performing arts landscape, through presenting new dance theatre works of the highest standard
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Performers & Creative Team: 9

Audience Count: 1 127

*In C* recreates Terry Riley's landmark composition through sound and motion. Iconic of early minimalist music, Riley's *In C* has endless possibilities to be reimagined as the orchestra plays its way through 53 musical patterns. Its intertwining rhythms and constantly evolving polyrhythms are simultaneously exhilarating and evanescent, its outcome individual to each performance. Bringing this seminal work firmly into the 21st century, music duo Without Eyes adapts and performs *In C for two laptops*, employing electronic sound to replace traditional orchestral instruments. The movement design takes its cue from the composition's 53 phrases as they pass through, catch up and occasionally find a meeting point, focusing on these fleeting moments of connect and disconnect. Even though *In C* appears fixed, the decisions, responses, and interplay between the musicians and dancers shapes its outcome, making each performance unique.



## 4. SUSPEND



DATE: 7 February 2017 (Rehearsals commence)

VENUE: Cape Town Harbor

COLLABORATIONS: Without Eyes - Sound Artist, Oscar O’Ryan - Visual Design

CHOREOGRAPHY: Louise Coetzer

PERFORMERS: Anderson Carvalho, Cilna Katzke

PROJECT FUNDING: The project was commissioned by Burgan Cape Terminals supported by Gulfstream Energy and exhibited at the port of Cape Town.

### PROJECT MEASURE:

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Performers & Creative Team: 6  
 Audience Count: 120

Commissioned for *Puncture Points - where energy meets the everyday*. SUSPEND focuses on the local transportation systems, and the areas of waiting within terminals and stations - unavoidable points of suspension as part of every journey.

Puncture Points is an interdisciplinary art project that interrogates the nexus between energy and society in the context of the city of Cape Town. Departure points of inquiry are premised on the cause and effect relationship between energy and society as well as how to critically conceptualize intersections of energy and the everyday. Puncture Points speaks across disciplines in response to these questions in the form of an art project that seeks to creatively capture practices and processes around the coalescence of energy and the everyday in Cape Town.

Puncture Points commissioned 15 artists to create works based on their research. Louise Coetzer's SUSPEND is an interdisciplinary installation work incorporating movement, sound and visual design to portray energy as suspended motion.

**Official opening**  
 For an exciting weekend of opening events  
**PUNCTURE POINTS** - Where energy meets the everyday  
**Saturday 11 March 2017**

**PUNCTURE POINTS**  
 "Where energy meets the everyday"  
 An exhibition showcasing 15 artists  
 from across the country, exploring the  
 relationship between energy and society

**Exhibition curator**  
 Stephanie Morgan

**Artists**  
 Raymond Swan  
 Brett Gossard  
 David Nelson  
 Farouk Muhammadkhan  
 Pravin Kumbhar & Lorna Mankie  
 David Mchale  
 Alan Kuperstein  
 Louise Coetzer  
 Magpies Singh  
 Muzibha Chikanda  
 Noman Sakhai  
 Ananya Mahesh  
 Isaac Olyan  
 Sarah West  
 Lisa Coetzer

**Date:**  
 Saturday  
 11 March 2017

**Time:**  
 14:00  
 Welcome party  
 16:00  
 Official opening  
 with an art performance  
 19:00  
 Opening reception  
 19:00  
 Exhibition including  
 welcome art performance  
 18:00  
 End of the exhibition event

**Location:**  
 4th floor, South Gate Rd, Cape Town Harbour

For more information visit  
[www.puncturepoints.co.za](http://www.puncturepoints.co.za)  
 #puncturepoints

# PUNCTURE POINTS

Where energy meets the everyday

**PUNCTURE POINTS** - Where energy meets the everyday is an interdisciplinary art project that explores the intersection of energy and everyday life in the Western Cape.

The philosophy of PUNCTURE POINTS - Where energy meets the everyday is an interdisciplinary art project that explores the intersection of energy and everyday life in the Western Cape. The philosophy of PUNCTURE POINTS - Where energy meets the everyday is an interdisciplinary art project that explores the intersection of energy and everyday life in the Western Cape.

**Artists:**  
 Farouk Muhammadkhan, Pravin Kumbhar & Lorna Mankie, David Mchale, Alan Kuperstein, Louise Coetzer, Magpies Singh, Muzibha Chikanda, Noman Sakhai, Ananya Mahesh, Isaac Olyan, Sarah West, Lisa Coetzer

Created by Stephanie Morgan

**PUNCTURE POINTS** - Where energy meets the everyday is commissioned by Turpin Cooper Terminal and supported by the Western Cape Government.

The associated programme is funded by the Western Cape Government, National Arts Fund, National Lottery and the Department of Education of the Western Cape.

THANK YOU TO SPONSORS AND PARTNERS WHO MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE - YOUR ENERGY AND PASSION



# FILM PROJECTS

## 1. *fanática*



DATE: 25 March 2016

VENUE: Filmed on location at the Joseph Stone Auditorium

COLLABORATIONS: Embassy ( Sound Design) Hello Samo (Camera Assistant)

Jenine Lindeque (Editor) Dale Titus (Hair/Make up)

CHOREOGRAPHY: Louise Coetzer

Cinematography: Oscar O’Ryan

PERFORMERS: Che Milani

PROJECT FUNDING: Not funded

### PROJECT MEASURE:

- Creating opportunities and platforms for performing artists
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- Making dance theatre accessible to various audience demographics
- Developing a new generation of audience support for the art of dance
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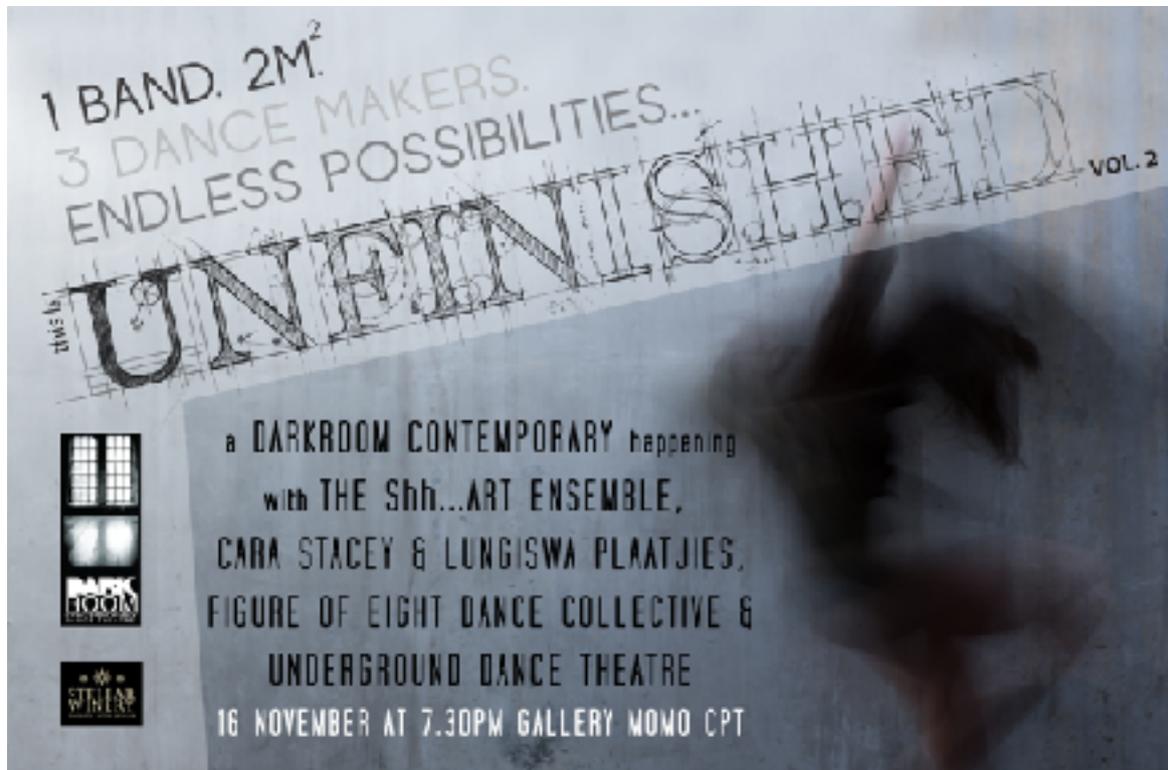
Performers & Creative Team: 7

*fanática* employs movement design and visual effects to portray its musical soundtrack. The choreography created for a solo dancer takes its inspiration from the Techno style track by producer Embassy, while the visual style and editing emphasise the musical score. Now being submitted for dance film festival inclusion.



# DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

## 1. UNFINISHED VOLUMES 1 & 2



DATE: 16 August & 16 November 2016

VENUE: Gallery MOMO

COLLABORATIONS: City Soiree, Benguela (Musicians), Shh..Art Ensemble (Musicians), Figure of Eight Dance Collective, Underground Dance Theatre, New World Dance Theatre, Yaotl Physical Art Project

PROJECT FUNDING: Not funded. Event specific sponsorship by Stellar Organic Winery.

### PROJECT MEASURE:

- To create opportunities and platforms for performing artists
  - Promoting artistic collaboration among professionals working in all genres
  - To add value to the existing performing arts landscape, through presenting new dance theatre works of the highest standard
  - Acting as an incubator for ideas, experimentation and collaboration
  - To create opportunities and platforms for performing artists
  - Making dance theatre accessible to various audience demographics
  - Creating unique experiences through interactive performance works
  - Developing a new generation of audience support for the art of dance

Performers & Creative Team: 24

Audience Count: 140

A platform to share and connect people through dance and music, **UNFINISHED** brings together Cape Town's independent dance companies and a selection of classical and experimental musicians. This Darkroom Contemporary initiative invites dance makers to create short works outside of their comfort zones, in a short space of time, and using a small space to perform them in, while the musical input acts as the catalyst and driving force behind the performance.

- The dance is always performed to live music accompaniment
- The dance is adaptable to a small performance area of 2 square meters- ideally solo or duet format
- The dance is created in a maximum of 4 rehearsal sessions - hence "unfinished" to a certain degree.

*Dancers and musicians never meet before the performance - everything comes together on the night. Expect the unexpected.*





## 2. Masterclass Series - MOVEcorps



**MOVECORPS**

DATE: Series of 4 classes, August 2016

VENUE: Paradiso Studios/MOVEcorps

COLLABORATIONS: MOVEcorps

### PROJECT MEASURE:

- Promoting artistic collaboration among professionals working in all genres
  - Making dance theatre accessible to various audience demographics
    - Developing a new generation of audience support for the art of dance
- Audience Development, Skills Exchange, Fundraising

Creative Team: 1

Class Attendance: 12

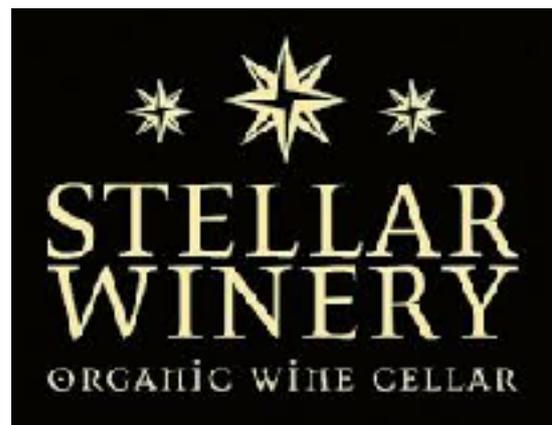
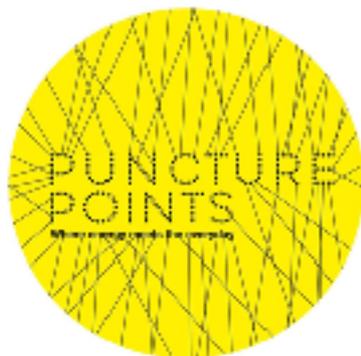


## PROJECT SPONSORS & FUNDERS



arts and culture

Department:  
Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE BAXTER THEATRE CENTRE  
PUNCTURE POINTS  
(BURGAN CAPE TERMINALS/ GULFSTREAM ENERGY)  
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURE  
YOUNGBLOOD ARTS & CULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
BASIER DRAMAT & ASSOCIATES  
STELLAR ORGANIC WINERY



## 2015 THUNDAFUND BACKERS (*We, the transposed*):

Richard Walker, Duane Howard, Oscar O’Ryan, Christy & Daniel Morcos, Klaus Warschkow, Vuyo Mahashe, Sunel Haasbroek, Tegan Heneke, Zee Hartmann, Ida Taraldsen, Mischa Mathys, Lindsey Appolis, Chelsea Adams, Mamela Nyamza, Mthuthuzeli November, Seugnet Esterhuyse, Heather Dreyer, Deborah McFadden, Tessa Adams, Naren Sewpaul, Debbie Turner, GT Draisma, Nicolette Moses, Contemporary Dance Classes Cape Town : Leilah Kirsten, Chloe Perling, Christelle Dreyer, Cilna Katzke, Claire Schrickker, Danielle Scheepers, Dunty La Trobe, Fiona Du Plooy, Jessica Williams, Katherine Carey, Lauren Hambly-Wise, Mariaan Akers, Monique Mouissie, Nicole Van Den Berg and Tamryn Pelser

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