



**MARCH  
2022**

DARKROOM  
CONTEMPORARY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2021/2022

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

# ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Louise Coetzer

FOUNDER & COMPANY MANAGER: Oscar O’Ryan

PERFORMING ARTISTS 2021/ 2022

Mukovhe Monyai, Emily Isted, Tania Mteto, Christopher Sherwood Adcock, Farnel Smart

APPRENTICE DANCERS:

Angelique Du Plessis, Julio Jantjies, Kholekile Biyongo, Bronwyn Craddock

COLLABORATING ARTISTS 2021/ 2022

Matthijs van Dijk - Sound Artist, Luca Ciarla - Musician

MANAGING COMMITTEE:

Louise Coetzer (Artistic Director), Oscar O’Ryan (Project Manager), Nicolette Moses (Chairperson), Basier Dramat (Treasurer), Atiyah Khan (Secretary), Caroline Sohie

REGISTERED NON - PROFIT ORGANISATION

REG NR 089 - 552 - NPO

REGISTERED PUBLIC BENEFIT

ORGANISATION

PBO NR 930043891

B - BBEE LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED

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



# REPORT CONTENTS

**1 / ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE**

**2 / FUNDERS**

**3 / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**4 / CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**5 / MANAGEMENT, ARTISTIC STAFF**

**6 / IMPACT & ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW**

**7 / PERFORMANCE PROJECTS**

**8 / FILM PROJECTS**

**9 / DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS**

# ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

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 & MISSION

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 to achieve a unique set of outcomes, including :**

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.

# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. JOB CREATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ARTS PRACTITIONERS
2. APPRENTICESHIP / TRAINING / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
3. ARTS EDUCATION / WORKSHOPS/ SCHOOLS PERFORMANCES
4. PROMOTION OF DANCE / CULTURAL AWARENESS/ PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALISED GROUPS

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Skills development and personal growth define our development initiatives.

Programmes aimed specifically at youth development through arts education include:

- Apprentice Programmes
- Arts Education Workshops
- Schools Performances
- STUDIO SESSIONS Classes

## AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

We believe in making the arts accessible to all. Our audience development initiatives work towards taking dance outside the theatre, to everybody. These include:

- Free Pop - Up Performance in Public Spaces
- Dance Film Screenings and Q&A Sessions
- Studio Performances and Artist Discussions

## INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Darkroom Contemporary provides platforms and opportunities for cross disciplinary exchange, in a bid to contribute to the existing performing arts landscape in a meaningful way. These programmes include:

- Job Creation
- UNFINISHED Performance Platform
- Professional Development Initiatives
- The MOTION PROJECT
- Membership Programme Benefits

## TECHNOLOGY


Darkroom Contemporary is an industry leader in the digital arts landscape. The company's artistic approach is driven by the exploration of new and digital technologies as contemporary performance medium. The company is doing extensive research through its artistic development processes, into this rapidly developing field. We are constantly seeking new ways to experience dance through:

- Virtual Reality
- Interactive Motion Sensor
- Dome Projection
- Data Visualisation
- Artificial Intelligence



TO DATE  
**1 040**  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE

HAVE ATTENDED A WORKSHOP OR  
SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE



**60 %**

OF COMPANY DANCER  
POSITIONS ARE  
AWARDED TO DANCERS  
IN THE  
FIRST 2 YEARS OF THEIR  
PROFESSIONAL CAREERS



OUR APPRENTICE  
PROGRAMME HAS  
MENTORED

**20**

RECENT GRADUATES

# FUNDERS & SPONSORS

We thank Darkroom Contemporary's 2021/2022 Season Funders and Sponsors, for their investment that enables the development of the South African dance industry, its artists and practitioners.



**sport, arts & culture**

Department:  
Sport, Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# ARTISTIC DIRECTORS REPORT

DARKROOM // a space for developing

CONTEMPORARY // of the times

During 2021, the global arts community still dealt extensively with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdown regulations eased but venue and events capacities were still heavily affected. We continued placing our focus on interactive, online and digital projects, as well as projects designed for public spaces void of capacity limitations.

The timing for our major projects worked out well, and we were lucky to not have to issue any cancellations or postponements due to infections. These projects were specifically designed around the COVID limitations, and meant we were able to continue positively impacting beneficiaries through job creation, training, skills development and audience development.

As many arts organisations around the world, the pandemic meant that we needed to find new ways of moving forward in order to continue serving our beneficiaries. Some of the ways in which we overcame these challenges were:

- Focusing on creating dance works that could be presented digitally
- Maximising our existing body of dance film works to further distribute these
- Finding ways to offer educational and inspirational experiences to young people online
- Finding ways to rehearse and perform through online channels
- Connecting with arts festivals that were offering digital platforms for work and artistic discussion
- Connecting with our existing and new partnerships to support each other in this time

Darkroom Contemporary implemented a range of digital and live performance projects, educational workshops and developmental opportunities, and artist discussions.

The organisation's digital performance & film works were included in platforms including:

- Kucheza Afrika Festival (South Africa)
- Ubumuntu Arts Festival (Kigali, Rwanda)
- Infecting the City Festival ( South Africa)
- FESTV (Edinburgh, Scotland)
- STAND Summer School ( Sustaining Theatre & Dance Foundation)
- Denton Black Film Festival (Texas, USA)
- Woordfees TV (South Africa)
- Hangars Numériques (Saint-Denis / La Réunion)



Sharing our artistic output via online spaces, has enabled us to reach a far broader global audience, with online audience reach exceeding the projected number for live audience viewership. Notably, Darkroom Contemporary's dance film Des/Aria won the runner up Jury Award for best screen dance, at the Denton Black Film Festival in Texas, USA.

Of course this has also been a challenging time to implement new creative projects, and the health and safety of the artists involved was always a priority. I am also happy to report that through our strict adherence to safety protocols, our recent projects could be completed without interruptions from any COVID infections among the staff or artists.

During this trying time, supporting grants from National Lotteries Commission, The National Arts Council, SA State Theatre, and Western Cape Government's Department of Cultural Affairs & Sport, enabled Darkroom Contemporary to provide contract based employment opportunities within the arts sector, in a time when many arts jobs had been lost.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our immense gratitude to the Darkroom Contemporary funders and partners, whose support has been a vital lifeline to the artists and organisation during this challenging time.

With gratitude also, to our partner organisation Dance For All SA, who's contribution supported much of our youth development & job creation programmes this year.

We thank you for your investment towards a varied and resilient arts ecosystem !

LOUISE COETZER  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Still reeling from the aftermath of the pandemic, the global village of the creative sector continues to be in a state of uncertainty. Although productions can now perform to audiences at full capacity, promised funding remains elusive. Louise Coetzer and Oscar O'Ryan, despite all the challenges, continue to be an inspiration as trailblazers within the creative sector. They have seized opportunities where others saw none and continue to weave their special brand of magic around every turn.

Gatherings, up until very recently, remained limited because of the pandemic and restrictions continued to impact planning and the implementation of projects throughout the year. Darkroom seamlessly found new ways to service existing beneficiaries and entice new audiences into their world where they comfortably inhabit the virtual arena with presentations beguiling audiences locally, nationally, and internationally. As the Board, we remain proud of the passion, commitment, courage and tireless efforts of Louise, Oscar, the artists (performing, visual, filmmakers and others) and various collaborators in their boundless determination to present stellar dance theatre that is current, relevant, innovative, and accessible. As the Chairperson, I am in awe of it all.

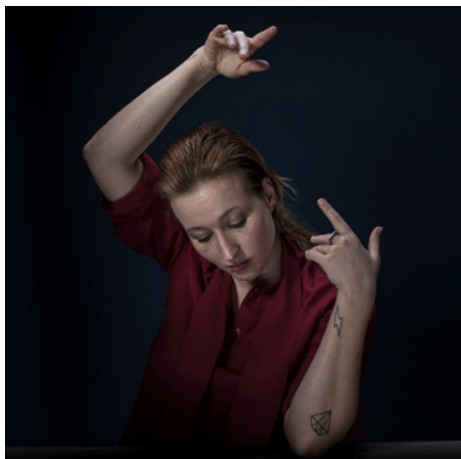
Despite all challenges, notably, the non-payment of funds pledged by Mzansi Golden Economy, Darkroom Contemporary has rallied, hustled, and remained true to its vision and mission. The list of works, collaborations, dance films, talk-shops, classes, job creation opportunities and skills development pay testimony to the unbridled work ethic promulgated by Darkroom. A big shout-out also goes to all collaborators who are always welcoming and supportive. As the Board, we remain painfully aware that the quest for self-sustainability. The need for financial stability is very real and often, is great cause for concern. The company, by virtue of how it operates and is managed, constantly seeks to find ways to minimise costs and maximise income.

To all at Darkroom, we commend you. During the forthcoming year, may you continue to display resilience, hope and steadfast belief in your capacity to persevere and grow for the survival of your art form.

**NICOLETTE J MOSES**  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

## FOUNDERS & MANAGEMENT

Louise Coetzer, a dancer and choreographer, and Oscar O’Ryan, a photographer and filmmaker, bring together expertise from their respective fields to form a dynamic partnership. Together they manage, facilitate and implement all areas of organizational projects and activities.



### LOUISE COETZER

Artistic Director

LOUISE COETZER (b 1980, South Africa) is a dance artist & choreographer working within the genres of site-specific performance creation, dance choreography for the stage, and dance film. Her works are experiential, experimental and innovative, and often have interdisciplinary collaboration at their core.

Coetzer approaches dance making as a medium for narrative and connection - that of the bodies within space, but also with the aim of connecting dance as art form to the world outside the studio or theatre, and to other art forms. This act of connecting the dance making process to that of another artistic language has inspired, and often demanded constant new approaches to the work, and spills over into her site-specific performance and dance film projects.



### OSCAR O'RYAN

Company Manager

OSCAR O’RYAN (b 1978, South Africa) is a photographer and videographer specializing in capturing movement and dance as well as reportage style visual stories. He works with a range of theatre companies including The Baxter Theatre, The Cape Dance Company, Jazzart Dance Theatre, The Baxter Dance Festival, Infecting the City Festival, Dance For All, New Africa Theatre, and Skenkonst Sormland (Sweden), capturing rehearsal, performance, marketing and studio photography.

He has launched numerous personal projects which focus on storytelling through reportage style photography. He has shown solo exhibitions at Youngblood Gallery, Let There Be Light, City Hall and the Baxter Theatre Centre.

# MANAGING COMMITTEE



**Nicolette Moses**

*CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD*

*Theatre Producer, Consultant, Life Coach*



**Basier Dramat**

*TREASURER OF THE BOARD*

*AB Dramat Professional Accountants*



**Atiyah Khan**

*SECRETARY OF THE BOARD*

*Arts Journalist, Radio Presenter, DJ*



**Caroline Sohie**

*BOARD MEMBER*

*Architecture Director - Instinct London; Guest Lecturer*



**Noel Daniels**

*ADVISORY MEMBER*

*CEO - Cornerstone Institute*



**Naren Sewpaul**

*ADVISORY MEMBER*

*ED - Creative Futures*

# PERFORMING ARTISTS

2021 / 2022 SEASON

## PERFORMING ARTISTS



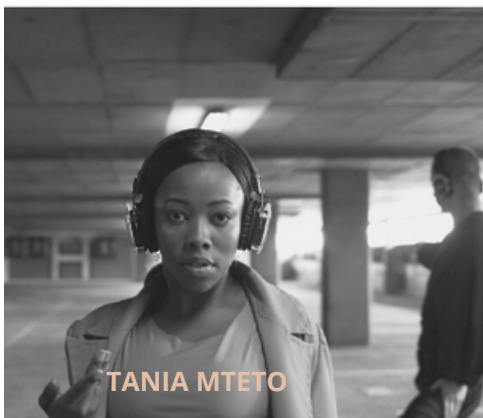
FARNEL SMART



CHRISTOPHER SHERWOOD - ADCOCK



EMILY ISTED



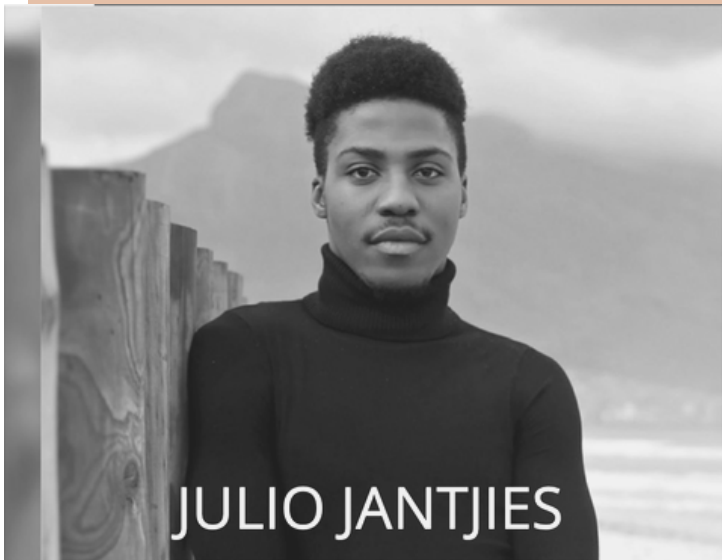
TANIA MTETO



MUKOVHE MONYAI

# APPRENTICES

2021 / 2022 SEASON



# IMPACT 2021

**R296 766**

IN REMUNERATION  
PAID TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN ARTISTS &  
TECHNICIANS

**83**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
YOUTH  
PARTICIPATED IN  
EDUCATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMMES

**5 840**

TOTAL WORLDWIDE  
AUDIENCE

**20**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTISTS EMPLOYED

# IMPACT 2020

**R347 730**

IN REMUNERATION  
PAID TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN ARTISTS &  
TECHNICIANS

**154**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
YOUTH  
PARTICIPATED IN  
EDUCATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMMES

**5 136**

TOTAL WORLDWIDE  
AUDIENCE

**52**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTISTS EMPLOYED



# IMPACT 2019

**R90 833**

IN REMUNERATION  
PAID TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN ARTISTS &  
TECHNICIANS

**136**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
YOUTH  
PARTICIPATED IN  
EDUCATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMMES

**907**

TOTAL  
COUNTRYWIDE  
AUDIENCE

**27**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTISTS EMPLOYED

# IMPACT 2018

**R180 600**

IN REMUNERATION  
PAID TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN ARTISTS &  
TECHNICIANS

**240**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
LEARNERS  
PARTICIPATED IN  
EDUCATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMMES

**2 150**

TOTAL  
COUNTRYWIDE  
AUDIENCE

**24**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTISTS EMPLOYED



# IMPACT 2017



**R340 600**

IN REMUNERATION  
PAID TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN ARTISTS &  
TECHNICIANS

**242**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
LEARNERS  
PARTICIPATED IN  
EDUCATIONAL &  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMMES

**2 435**

TOTAL  
COUNTRYWIDE  
AUDIENCE

**57**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTISTS EMPLOYED



# PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

During 2021/2022 Darkroom Contemporary implemented the following performance, film, developmental and educational projects in the Western Cape and internationally :

**PERFORMANCE**

**FILM**

**DEVELOPMENT**

# PERFORMANCE PROJECTS



SIMANGA ZON

**1 / MEMORYHOUSE AT KUCHEZA  
AFRIKA FESTIVAL**

**2 / SHIFTINGSANDS//  
SANDSSHIFTING EXHIBITION**

**3 / SHIFTINGSANDS//  
SANDSSHIFTINGAT INFECTING  
THE CITY**

**4 / META | MORPH SCREENING**

# MEMORYHOUSE AT KUCHEZA AFRIKA FESTIVAL

DATE : 6 & 7 APRIL 2021

VENUE: BAXTER THEATRE & ONLINE

**IMPACT: 12 BENEFICIARIES (ARTISTS, JOB CREATION)**

**AUDIENCE REACH: 145**

**OUTCOMES: JOB CREATION, INCREASED ARTISTIC EXPOSURE, AUDIENCE REACH THROUGH FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

MEMORYHOUSE is a physical exploration of the subconscious - seeking to connect the inner workings of memory and consciousness to the palpable realm. Memoryhouse visits these various 'sites' of memory, some dreamlike, others traumatic, many fractured - as if paging through layers of thought - archive - imprint - translucent pages bound by repetition. The work immerses the viewer in a dreamscape where the tension between reality and remembering collides in an infinite loop.

Commissioned by the South African State Theatre Kucheza Afrika Festival. Memoryhouse premiered as part of the hybrid Kucheza Afrika Festival, in partnership with the Baxter Theatre Centre. The project was supported by the National Lotteries Commission and the Kucheza Festival.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

# MEMORYHOUSE

by Louise Coetzer

with original score by Matthijs Van Dijk, Performed by Darkroom Contemporary Dance Theatre



**LIVE AT THE THEATRE**

**06 APRIL AT 19:30**

**07 APRIL AT 19:30**

**BAXTER THEATRE**

**TICKETS: R120**



an agency of the  
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

#Kucheza2021 #Dance@Sast #ChezaAfrika  
WEAR A MASK, AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

# KUCHEZA AFRIKA FESTIVAL 2021

01-11 APRIL

STATE THEATRE | BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE | web tickets | Kucheza Afrika Festival

#Kucheza2021 #Dance@Sast #ChezaAfrika

WEAR A MASK, AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY: LOUISE COETZER  
ORIGINAL SCORE BY MATTHIJS VAN DIJK  
PERFORMED BY TANIA MTETO & FARNEL SMART  
SET FABRICATION & VIDEO BY OSCAR O'RYAN











# SHIFTINGSANDS// SANDSSHIFTING EXHIBITION

DATE : 29 APRIL - 15 MAY 2021  
VENUE: ABC GALLERY

**IMPACT: 10 BENEFICIARIES (JOB CREATION)**

**AUDIENCE REACH:62**

**OUTCOMES:JOB CREATION FOR ARTISTS AND SUPPORT STAFF INVOLVED,  
INCREASED VISIBILITY THROUGH DIGITAL WORK INTENDED FOR PHYSICAL  
EXHIBITION AS WELL AS ONLINE**

shiftingsands//sandshifting is a video work drawing connection points between our frequently changing realities, the grasping for ritual in a search for familiarity, and a mirroring of time creeping onwards during this current collective moment of pause.

This video installation premiered at Act of Brutal Curation Gallery in Woodstock, on 29 April 2021.

Supported by the National Lotteries Commission, the Western Cape Government's Department of Cultural Affairs & Sport, and the National Arts Council. With thanks to Location Gallery, Pineapple Productions and ABC Gallery.



# SHIFTINGSANDS/\SANDSSHIFTING

A VIDEO INSTALLATION BY LOUISE COETZER & OSCAR O'RYAN

DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY



48 ALBERT RD  
WOODSTOCK

29 APRIL - 15 MAY

OPENING  
29 APRIL 6PM

## Art of Brutal Curation

Concept, Choreography and Direction by Louise Coetzer

Videography & Edit by Oscar O'Ryan

Performed by Darkroom Contemporary

Dancers: Farnel Smart, Bronwyn Craddock, Tania Mteto, Emily Isted

Music by Franco Prinsloo

Second Camera: Duane Howard

Camera Assistants: Marcel Maassen & John James Buttress

Colorist: Brett Rayner

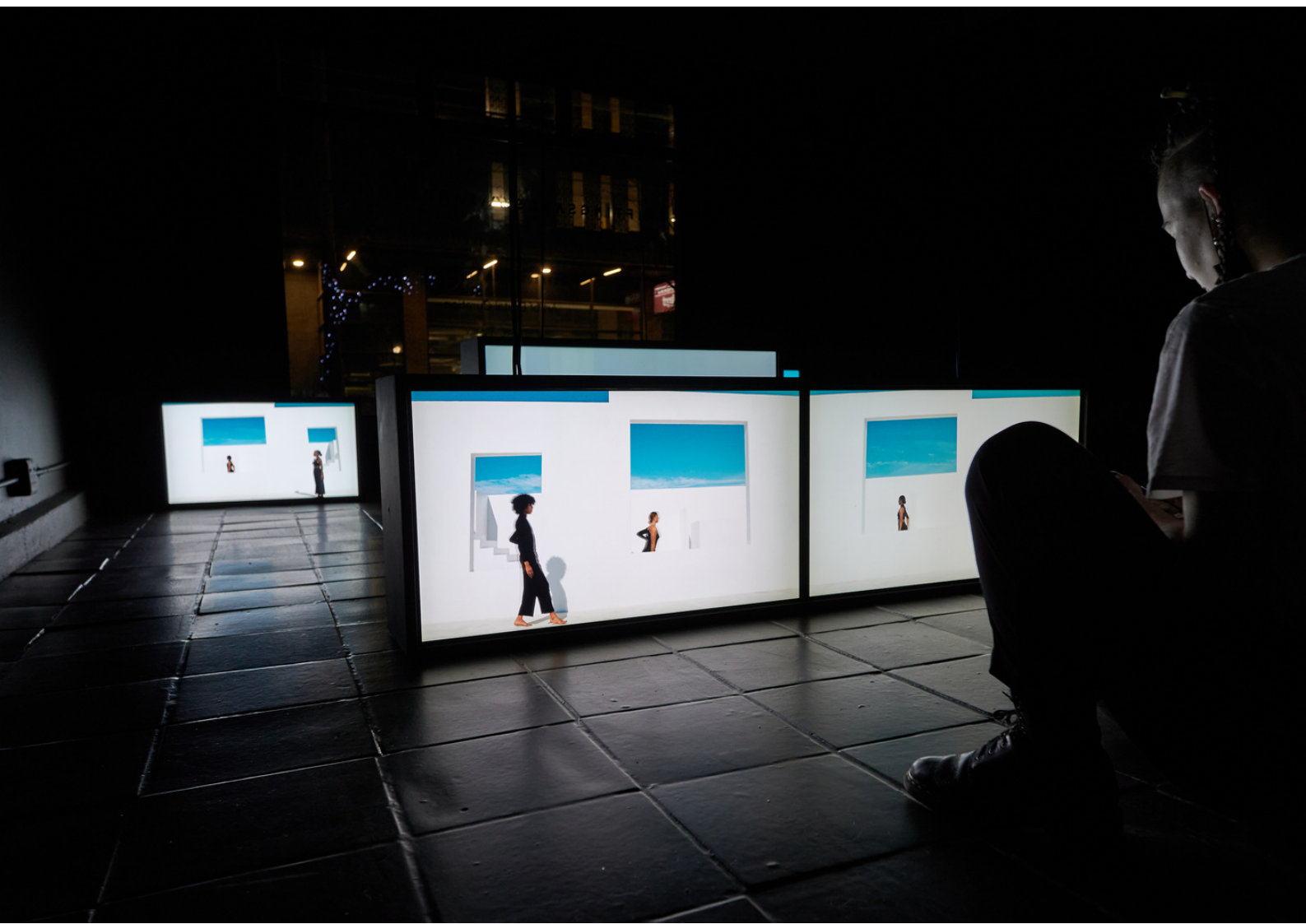
Hair & Make Up: Kelly Taylor

Production Assistant: Julio Jantjies

With thanks to Location Gallery, Pineapple Productions and ABC Gallery.

SHIFTINGSANDS/\ANDSSHIFTING

Art of Brutal Curation















# SHIFTINGSANDS// SANDSSHIFTING AT INFECTING THE CITY

DATE :11 & 12 MAY 2021  
VENUE: CAPE TOWN



**IMPACT: 120 AUDIENCE  
PUBLIC & AUDIENCE INTERACTING WITH FREE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION  
OUTCOMES: INCREASED ARTISTIC EXPOSURE, AUDIENCE REACH THROUGH  
FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

shiftingsands//sandshifting is a video work drawing connection points between our frequently changing realities, the grasping for ritual in a search for familiarity, and a mirroring of time creeping onwards during this current collective moment of pause.

The video installation was shown as part of Infecting the City's curated programme, as public installation in Long Street, Cape Town.



# UNINFECTING 20 THE 21 CITY



## PROGRAMME 2

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY  
11 & 12 MAY 2021

## LOCKED IN, LOOKING OUT

6.30PM – 7:30PM  
WALK ABOUT (FILMS ON A LOOP)  
CONSULT WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS

7:30 – 9:00PM  
SETTLE DOWN  
CHURCH SQUARE, C/O BUREAU  
& PARLIAMENT STREETS



PROGRAMME 2

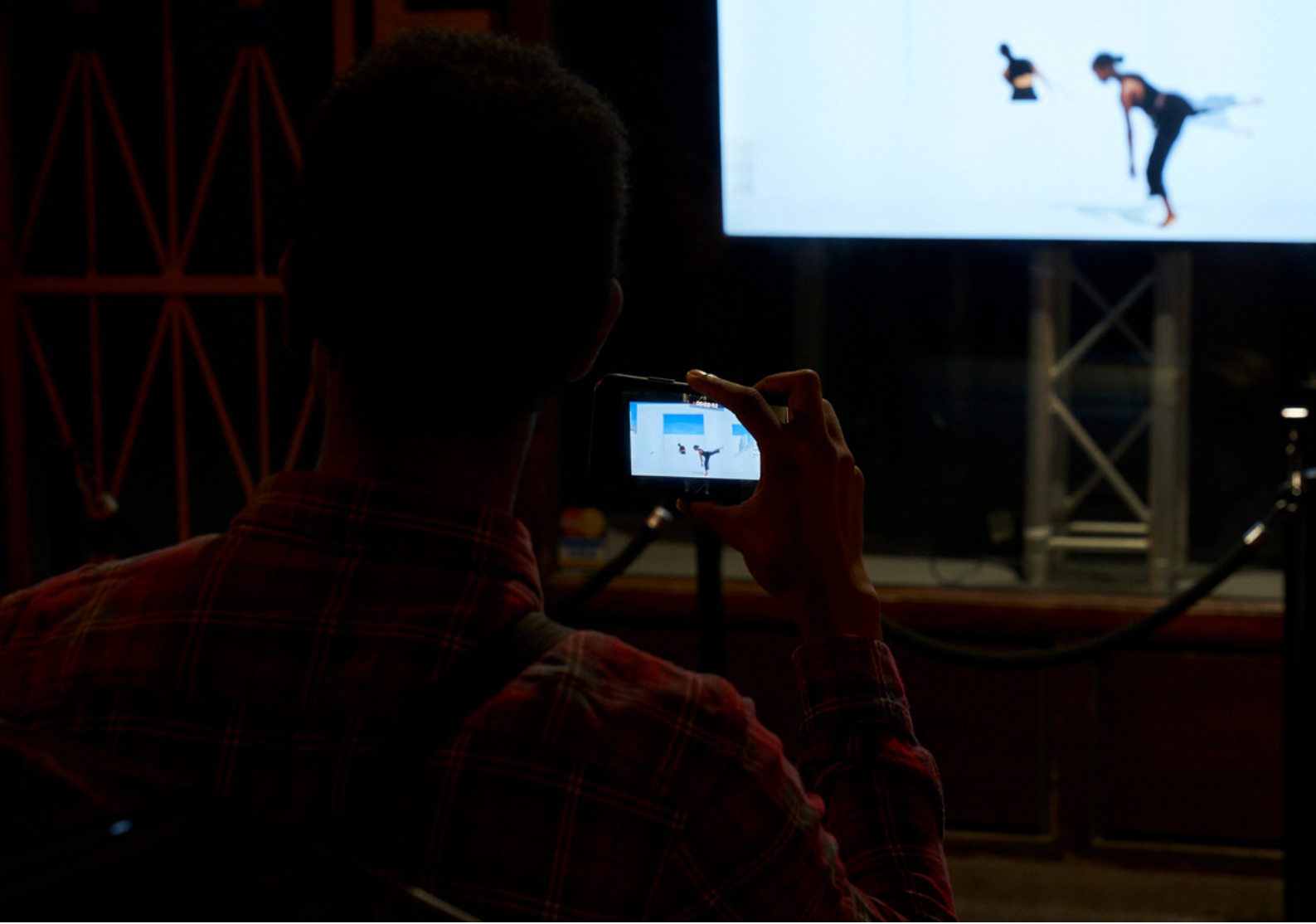
LOUISE COETZER

INGSANDS/SANDSSHIFTING



infectingthecity\_ica











# META | MORPH AT HANGARS NUMÉRIQUES

DATE : 5 - 12 DECEMBER 2021

VENUE: ONLINE, Hangars Numériques

Laboratoire de créations interdisciplinaires

Saint-Denis / La Réunion



**AUDIENCE REACH: UNKNOWN, ONLINE EVENT**

**OUTCOMES: INCREASED VISIBILITY, GLOBAL REPRESENTATION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

META| m o r p h is an interactive online experience fusing dance, music, projection art & animation, to ideate digital disruption of the human experience. At the intersection between art and technology, this production speaks to digital disruption and its effects on our human experience, today and in the near future. Digital and virtual connections weave us together, creating new modes for connection, while simultaneously causing isolation. The work immerses the viewer in a dreamscape where the dialogue between real and virtual, human and digital, collides indefinitely.

Presented as part of Hangars Numériques Interdisciplinary Laboratory (Saint-Denis / La Réunion) . META | m o r p h was made possible through support from the National Lotteries Commission and the National Arts Festival.



FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE DANSE ANIMÉE

Edition hybride 2021 du 05 au 12 décembre

FIDA#4



# HANGARS NUMERIQUES

Laboratoire de créations interdisciplinaires

Concept & Direction : Inka Kendzia & Louise Coetzer

Music : Brydon Bolton, Mr Sakitumi, Shane Cooper, Matthijs van Dijk Choreography: Louise Coetzer

Projection Art, Visual Effects & Compositing : Inka Kendzia

Performed by : Darkroom Contemporary

Dancers : Christopher Sherwood – Adcock, Farnel Smart, Mukovhe Monyai, Carla Scholtz, Gabriel Mehlomakhulu

Lidar Scan & 3D : Jason Stapleton

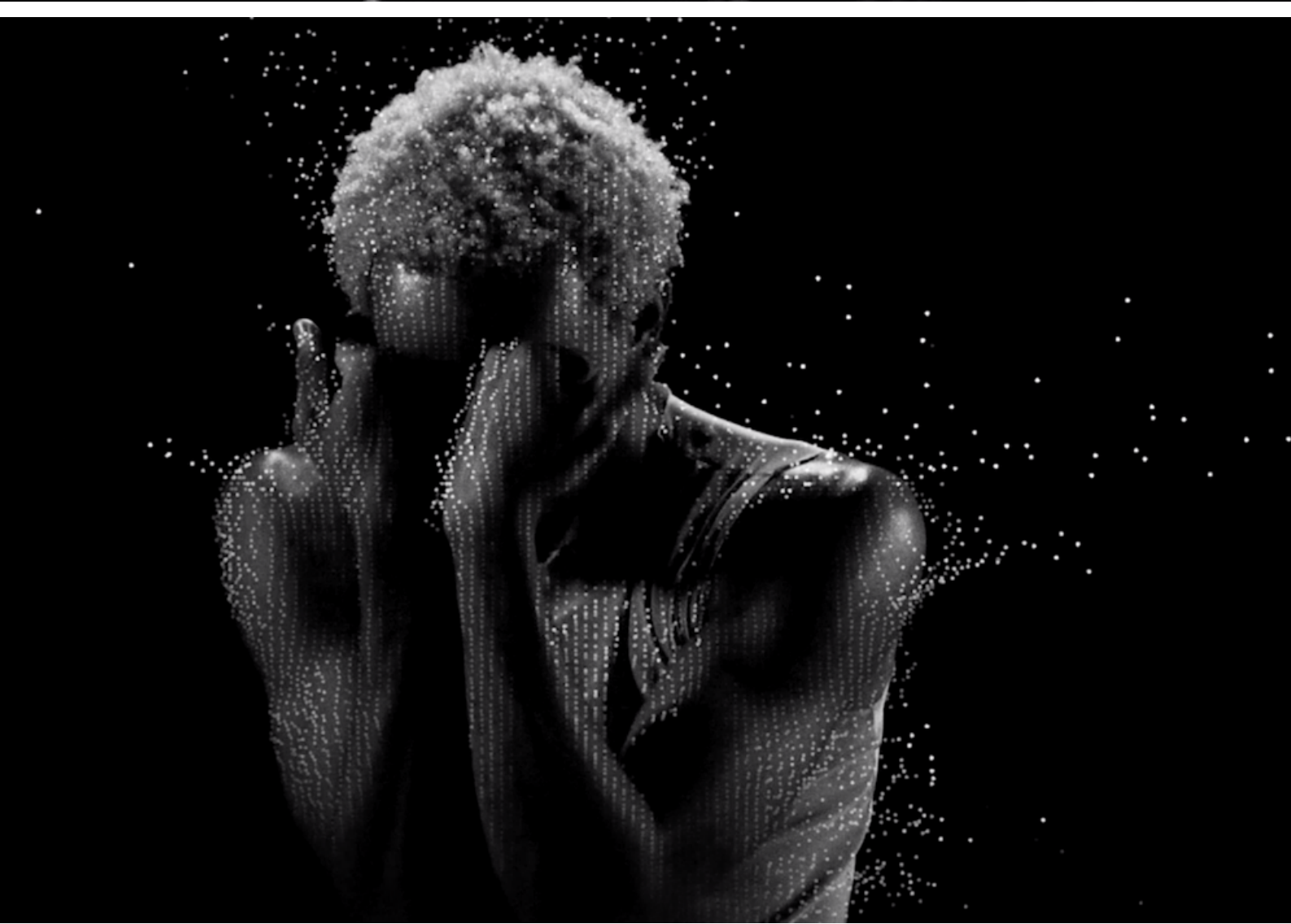
Videography : Oscar O’Ryan & Inka Kendzia

Edit : Oscar O’Ryan

Coding : Lasse Manson

Presented as part of Creativate Digital Arts Festival. META | m o r p h is made possible through support from the National Lotteries Commission and the National Arts Festival.







# FILM PROJECTS

**1 / DES/ARIA FILM LAUNCH**

**2 / UBUMUNTU ARTS FESTIVAL**

**3 / WOORDFEES TV ON DSTV**

**4 / DES/ARIA AT DENTON BLACK  
FILM FESTIVAL**

# DES/ARIA FILM LAUNCH

DATE : 14 JUNE 2021

VENUE: ONLINE

**IMPACT: 5 BENEFICIARIES - CONTRACT JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**AUDIENCE REACH: 5 000 ONLINE VIEWS**

**OUTCOMES: JOB CREATION FOR ARTISTS AND SUPPORT STAFF INVOLVED,  
INCREASED VISIBILITY THROUGH DIGITAL WORK INTENDED FOR  
INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE**

Luca Ciarla Volipiano in collaboration with Darkroom Contemporary premiered a new dance film on 14 June via their Youtube channel. Created via an online collaboration process between Italy and South Africa, and filmed in March 2021, Des/Aria is one musician and one dancer in conversation.

Des /Aria featured an original composition by Luca Ciarla, with choreography by Louise Coetzer, and was performed by dancer Tania Mteto with videography by Oscar O’Ryan. Made possible through support from the National Lotteries Commission and produced by Luca Ciarla Volipiano & Darkroom Contemporary.



Luca Ciarla | Louise Coetzer

# DES / ARIA



DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY

YouTube Premier

14 JUNE

Directed & Choreographed by Louise Coetzer

Music by Luca Ciarla

Performed by Tania Mteto

Videography & Edit by Oscar O’Ryan

Drone Photography & Assistance by Marcel Maassen

Hair & Make up by Farnel Smart

Wardrobe by Kat van Duinen

Filmed on location at Kersefontein Guest Farm

With thanks to Julian Melck

Produced by Darkroom Contemporary & Luca Ciarla Violipiano

With support from the National Lotteries Commission









# DES/ ARIA AT UBUMUNTU ARTS FESTIVAL

DATE : 17 JULY 2021

VENUE: ONLINE via Ubumuntu Arts Festival (Kigali,  
Rwanda)

**AUDIENCE REACH: 485 ONLINE VIEWERS**

**OUTCOMES: INCREASED VISIBILITY, GLOBAL REPRESENTATION THROUGH  
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS**

Ubumuntu Arts Festival is an art centric festival inspired by and created for the sake of humanity. Art has manifested itself world over as an efficient form of communicating, expressing opinions, airing issues and sharing values about all aspects of life that affect humanity. We are convinced that art as a forum for communication, expression, reflection, innovation and creativity is a key motor for social change.

The word Ubumuntu can be defined as „Being Human“. Our festival aims at creating an avenue where people from different walks of life can come together and speak to each other in the language of Art. As Desmond Tutu has said “My humanity is bound together in yours, for we can only be human together.” His profound words have been the inspiration behind the festival slogan: „I am because you are, you are because I am: we are human together“. Darkroom Contemporary formed part of the festival line up for the second year running, with Des/ Aria.



**Des/Aria**  
Darkroom Contemporary  
and Luca Ciarla

**REBIRTH**  
I Can, I Must, I Will 17th July 2021

**Ubumuntu**  
ARTS FESTIVAL  
CREATED FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY

**Day 2 PROGRAM LINEUP**  
ON THE UBUMUNTU AND HOWLROUND WEBSITES

**REBIRTH**  
I Can, I Must, I Will  
FROM 6PM CAT

**17th July 2021**

ACTIVITY/PERFORMANCE TITLE	COUNTRY
I Will Arise	Usa And Rwanda
Inzonzi Dreams	Rwanda
Found But Lost	Uganda, Israel And Rwanda
Dreams Never Die	Usa, Brazil And Rwanda
Des/aria	South Africa And Italy
V For Very Good Speech	Sri Lanka
Gravel: Red And Invisible Places To Exist	Brazil
Shared Stories	Rwanda, Bosnia And Germany
Tomorrow Is Now	Rwanda And Jordan
Time	Drc
Intore Dance	Rwanda
Ija-Mbo	Burundi

# DES/ARIA & LACUNA AT WOORDFEES TV ON DSTV

DATE : 04 & 05 October

VENUE: BROADCAST VIA DSTV

**AUDIENCE REACH: ONLINE VIEWS UNKNOWN**

**OUTCOMES: INCREASED ARTISTIC EXPOSURE, AUDIENCE REACH THROUGH  
FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT, AUDIENCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

Woordfees TV brings all the variety and vibrancy of one of South Africa's biggest arts festivals, the Toyota SU Woordfees, to television. The pop-up channel was available on DStv Premium and Compact Plus packages and screened on DStv channel 150 from 1 to 10 October 2021.

Darkroom Contemporary screened two film works as part of the festival, Lacuna and Des/ Aria.





# LACUNA

05 OCTOBER 20:39

DStv 150

07 OCTOBER 21:33



Forward together  
Building Africa's future  
One university

TOYOTA

KkykNET

MEDIA24

DStv



Luca Ciarla | Louise Coetzer

# DES/ARIA

DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY

04 OCTOBER 11:45

DStv 150

07 OCTOBER 22:44



Forward together  
Building Africa's future  
One university

TOYOTA

KkykNET

MEDIA24

DStv

# DES/ARIA AT DENTON BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

DATE : 29 January 2022

VENUE: Denton, Texas (USA)

**AUDIENCE REACH: ONLINE VIEWS UNKNOWN**

**OUTCOMES: INCREASED ARTISTIC EXPOSURE, AUDIENCE REACH THROUGH FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Denton Black Film Festival is the brainchild of Harry Eaddy, festival director, and is presented by the Denton African American Scholarship Foundation. In 2014, Harry Eaddy approached two staples of the Denton community – Cheylon Brown and Mesha George – with a unique idea to bring an event focused on Black cinema to the region. Together, the trio began dreaming up an event that would evolve into the festival thousands enjoy today. Not long after Eaddy and his fellow founding organizers began collaborating, the Denton African American Scholarship Foundation came onboard as the festival's founding sponsor.

Today, DBFF exists to address under-representation in film and media by giving Black stories an audience and Black creatives a platform. Sharing culture and building community are the goals of DBFF. Proceeds from the annual festival fund scholarships for African-American students in Denton.

Darkroom Contemporary's dance films *des/aria* and *Lacuna* screened as official selection at the Denton BFF. **Des/Aria won the Jury Award prize : Runner Up in the Screendance category.**







# 2022 DENTON BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

## FINALISTS



Watch & Vote!

### BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

Ben From Downstairs  
Blonde: Purple  
Cyril  
The Sleeping Negro

### BEST SHORT NARRATIVE

Blunt  
Checkout Time  
Chicago Guy  
DERRICK  
LORIKEET  
Queen Of The Desert  
SHE DREAMS AT SUNRISE  
The Nest  
Tucker's War  
United We Heal

### BEST WEB/EPISODIC SERIES

Mine  
The Revenge of the Snowflakes

### BEST TEXAS SHORT

Checkout Time  
Last Summer  
Tati the Great  
The Book of Kwoss

### BEST SCREENDANCE FILM

A'we deh ya (All of us are here)  
BLACK.ECO  
Des/Aria  
ÌBÀ OBÍN RIN

### BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Affirmations Documentary Project: Mom's Edition  
Finding Fellowship  
Grandma's Roses  
No Time To Waste: The Urgent Mission of Betty Reed Soskin  
One Pint at a Time  
What Do You Have To Lose?

### BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Becoming Black Lawyers  
Destinee's Letter  
MotherHOOD  
Reparations  
SHAGALI  
The End of Slavery: The Fight for Amendment C

### BEST COLLEGE SHORT

"Sellout"  
A Few Things I'm Beginning To Understand  
Glove  
Man Down  
OREO - A Short Film

### BEST TEXAS COLLEGE SHORT

A Few Things I'm Beginning To Understand  
Deborah Roberts' I'm  
OREO - A Short Film

### BEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHORT

I AM NOT THE NORM  
Red Rider  
Story Time

### BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC VIDEO

"A Little Love" Madukwu featuring Sy Smith  
Dancing in My Sadness  
Depression  
GEORGE FLOYD: SAY THEIR

#ExperienceCulture

WATCH AND VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S  
CHOICE AWARD

Virtual

DENTON BLACK FILM FESTIVAL



# DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

**1 / STAND SUMMER SCHOOL**

**2 / SHIFTINGSANDS//\  
SANDSSHIFTING ARTIST  
WALKABOUT**

**3 / BUSINESS ARTS  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP**

**4 / APPRENTICE PROGRAMME  
MARCH & APRIL 2021**

**5/ DFA WORKSHOPS & STUDIO  
PERFORMANCES**

**6 / CREATIVE PRACTICES LAB**

**7 / DANCE FOR ALL DANCE/FILM  
WORKSHOP**

# STAND SUMMER SCHOOL

DATE: 11 MARCH 2021

VENUE: ONLINE, VIA STAND



**IMPACT: 9 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: INCREASED ARTISTIC EXPOSURE, AUDIENCE REACH, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING**

Louise Coetzer was invited to be part of the presenting panel for the STAND Summer School. This course focused on Live, Interdisciplinary and Technology-focused Art, and for this reason we were invited to present on Darkroom Contemporary's Arts/Tech/ and Interdisciplinary Projects.

This course was facilitated by Dr Ricardo Peach, with presentations by Darkroom Contemporary with Wezile Mgibe, Dr Keith Armstrong, Siphumezi Khundayi and Wayne Reddiar.



**STAND** Sustaining Theatre  
and Dance  
Foundation

Sustaining Theatre And  
Dance (STAND) Foundation

# Summer School

2021



## Summer School

**Live, Interdisciplinary and  
Technology-focused art**

**Facilitator:** Ricardo Peach

**Length of course:** 3 sessions of 90 minutes each

**Venue:** Online, Zoom

**Number of participants:** 15

**Dates:** 11, 18, 25 March

**Times:** 10:00 to 11:30

**Fee:** R150

**STAND** Sustaining Theatre  
and Dance  
Foundation

# SHIFTINGSANDS// SANDSSHIFTING GROUP WALKABOUTS

DATE : 6 & 8 MAY 2021

VENUE: ABC GALLERY, CAPE TOWN

**AUDIENCE REACH:30**

**OUTCOMES:INCREASED AWARENESS, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT, INCREASED PARTICIPATION**

Louise Coetzer & Oscar O’Ryan led group walkabouts and open discussion sessions about the project, along with the dancers performing in the work. This walk through video installation invites viewers to experience dance through altered reality (XR) modes of ambisonics and an immersive viewing experience.

At the walkabout event, members of the public were invited to take in the exhibition and engage with the artistic team involved in the making of the video work.











# BUSINESS ARTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

DATE: 17, 23 February & 2 March 2021  
VENUE: ONLINE

**IMPACT: 9 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, YOUTH  
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

This workshop series provided the essential tools, techniques, and concepts needed to create, launch, and sustain a business as an independent artist in the creative sector.

The workshop provided a practical, action-oriented introduction to the business of art.

This was presented as online work sessions, to the bridging students at Dance For All.



# APPRENTICE PROGRAMME MARCH & APRIL 2021

DATE: 15 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2021

VENUE: BAXTER THEATRE, DANCE FOR ALL  
CAPE TOWN

**IMPACT: 2 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: TRAINING/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/ APPRENTICESHIP,  
INCREASED ACCESS TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES,  
PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

The new 2021 cohort of apprentices participated in the rehearsal and production processes for MEMORYHOUSE performance as part of the Kucheza Afrika Festival.

Apprentices receive a stipend to support their participation in this experiential learning opportunity. Apprentices also participated in the stage rehearsals at Baxter Theatre, and facilitated workshop processes with the Dance For All students.



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS //**

DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY

# APPRENTICE PROGRAMME

**APPLY NOW**

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS  
FROM RECENT DANCE  
GRADUATES.

PROGRAMME RUNS

15 FEBRUARY – 15 MARCH  
2021

**SEND CV & HEADSHOT TO  
ADMIN@DARKROOMCONTEMPORARY.COM**

**APPLY BEFORE 11 FEBRUARY**

DAR  
KRO  
OM

It's about the technology.

CONT  
EMP  
ORARY  
IT'S ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY







# DFA WORKSHOPS & STUDIO PERFORMANCES

DATE: 01, 02, 08, 09, 15, 18, 19 March  
VENUE: DANCE FOR ALL, CAPE TOWN

**IMPACT: 11 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: TRAINING/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, WORKSHOPS/SCHOOLS PERFORMANCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, INCREASED ACCESS, INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

Seven workshop sessions were presented at Dance For All, as part of Darkroom Contemporary's rehearsal process for its new digital work *shiftingsands/sandsshifting*.

Dance For All bridging students studied some of the company repertoire and participated in creative movement processes during the making of this new video work.

Students also watched a studio performance by the Darkroom Contemporary dancers, followed by a Q&A session about the work.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DANCE FOR ALL SA.











# PRESENTATION: CREATIVE PRACTICES LAB AT VRYSTAAT KUNSTEFEEES

DATE: 23 - 31 July 2021

VENUE: Bloemfontein, Free State

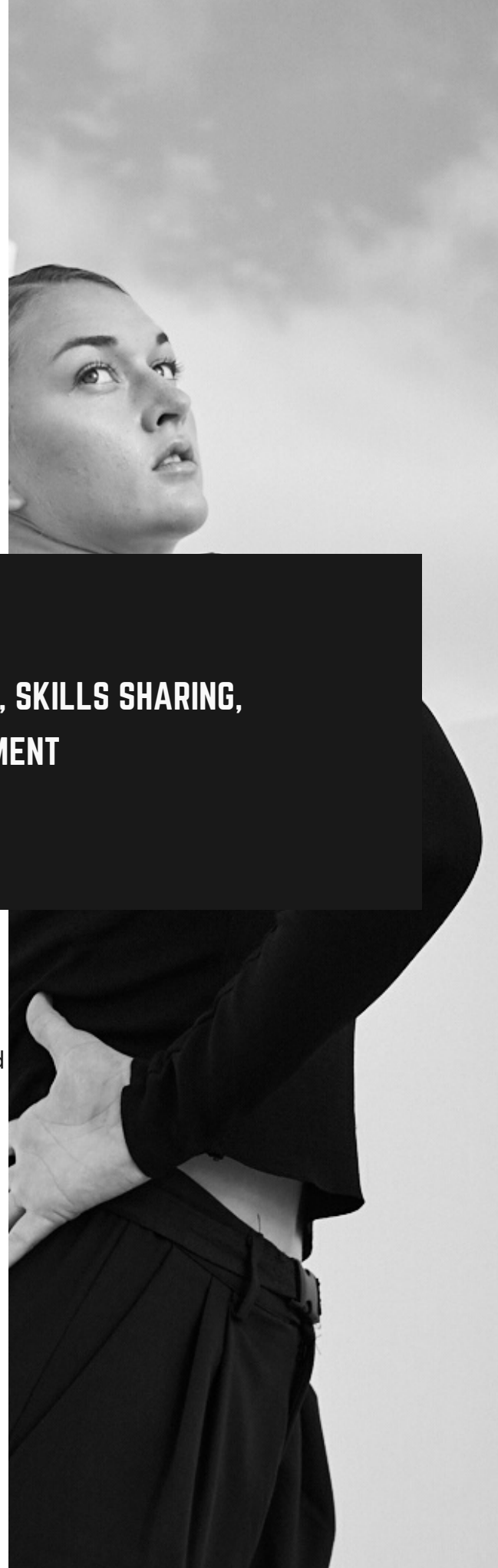
**IMPACT: 15 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING, SKILLS SHARING,  
INCREASED EXPOSURE & AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Creative Practices Lab is a platform for experimentation, exchange, reflection and community-building among artists. It is an open and intensive residency platform aimed to generate new strategies and ideas in experimental and interdisciplinary performance practice.

The CPLab engaged with 15 artists during a 10 - day facilitated process, guided by interdisciplinary artists Louise Coetzer, Marius Jansen van Vuuren, Obakeng Kgwasi, Gavin Krastin, and Alan Parker.

Louise Coetzer was the lead facilitator of the lab, and shared a presentation on Darkroom Contemporary's tech based & interdisciplinary work with the lab participants.



DARKROOM CONTEMPORARY

DANCE THEATRE

# Tech Based & Interdisciplinary Projects

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



## Why a Tech / Interdisciplinary Approach?

**Works for Darkroom Contemporary uses technology, digital arts & interdisciplinary approaches to :**

- Create unique experiences using different approaches and technologies, connecting dance with audiences and communities
- Break down barriers by taking dance out of its conventional theatre stage setting
- Reach new audiences that are wide ranging, youthful, diverse and representative of a public not frequently engaged in the arts or dance sector
- Build overall capacity within the arts sector, through creation of new work that offers development opportunities through workshops, apprenticeships, artistic contracts, as well as cross sectoral collaborations and strategic partnerships

# DANCE FOR ALL DANCE/FILM WORKSHOP

DATE: 16 August - 9 September 2021

VENUE: DANCE FOR ALL SA

**IMPACT: 7 YOUTH BENEFICIARIES**

**OUTCOMES: EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, YOUTH TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

The impacts of the COVID - 19 Pandemic has resulted in many live performances moving towards digital online spaces. Dance Film as a genre holds many possibilities for dance artists to present their work on screen, while live performance opportunities are limited. In this course, students investigated the medium of dance on film, exploring the impact of choreography, narrative, camera technology, editing styles, and music.

This task explored the choreographic and cinematic aspects of producing a dance for the camera. A dance for the camera is not a film/video document of a proscenium dance performance, but a synthesis between the various techniques of film/video and the act of choreography. This process encouraged students to expand the skills they developed in previous classes, and to focus on the difficult yet rewarding process of creative collaboration.

For their final project, students used personal media devices to make their own short dance film and reflect on the creative process. The final outcome of the workshop resulted in students reworking their solo performance material, towards the creation of a short dance film.











# THANK YOU!

**WITH GRATITUDE TO THE FUNDERS,  
SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO  
CONTINUE TO ENABLE OUR WORK. WE  
THANK THE PUBLIC WHO VALUE OUR  
ARTISTIC OUTPUT, AND THANK THE  
ARTISTS WHO WORK TIRELESSLY  
TOWARDS MAKING OUR ARTS  
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.**

*Contact us at [admin@darkroomcontemporary.com](mailto:admin@darkroomcontemporary.com)*