

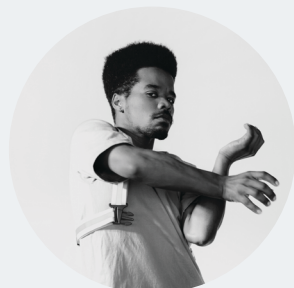
Dancers



Abigail Overmeyer



Chesney Stanfield



Emile Petersen



Lihle Mfene



Phikolwethu Luke



Rian Jansen



Savannah Petrus



Vuyelwa Phota



Founded in 1973, Jazzart Dance Theatre is acknowledged as one of South Africa's oldest contemporary dance theatre companies that has, and continues, to exert a powerful influence on the development of dance in South Africa. The Jazzart methodology ensures that strong technique is matched with a uniquely South African dance philosophy that is rooted in the diversity of the culture and traditions of our country. Its prodigious creative and critical output allows it to use dance as a transformative tool and to fully interrogate social awareness and cultural inclusiveness.

Jazzart's three-year dance training programme provides young adults with the opportunity to be trained in contemporary dance in a way that enables them to carve careers out of dance. The vision is grounded in the firm belief in the unbridled power and the creative potential of the human body and our natural connection with each other. The programme celebrates and integrates all movement styles and techniques that have evolved within the industry to give voice to and uplift a dance style that draws on local ways of moving and being, from a rural and urban context. Through the professional dance company, Jazzart continues to produce, collaborate and create work that challenges social boundaries, enhances critical Jazzart Dance Theatre thought, empowers creative voices and promotes excellence in performance. The company has toured nationally and internationally, performing in renowned festivals and theatres, and prides itself in its collaborative and interdisciplinary work, which has received numerous awards and accolades for its contributions to the South African arts industry.

The Outreach Programme is the embodiment of the Jazzart philosophy and commitment to social change through dance and it provides dance, performance, and creative interventions to communities each year. These interventions use the arts as an educational tool and enable children and youth people, mainly in historically disadvantaged communities, to express themselves creatively. Jazzart has made a significant contribution to arts and culture, heritage, youth development and job creation within South Africa for the past 50 years and aims to continue to challenge the dance status quo and social stereotypes through contemporary dance training and performances that celebrate the uniqueness of our bodies as creative instruments which give voice to our African stories.

Acknowledgements



National Arts Council
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JAZZART DANCE THEATRE



NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Welcome Note

Welcome and thank you for joining us for our '50 Years of Jazzart' programme of dance featuring works created by a stellar team of award-winning choreographers and creatives. This production, specially curated for the National Arts Festival showcases the creative talents of our exciting young company of dancers performing works by our Artistic Director, Dane Hurst, alongside UK based choreographers Nathan Bartman & Ciara Baldwin from the company Manacan, and Shaun Oelf & Grant Van Ster of Figure of 8 Dance Collective. We are proud to present this production as part of our year long series of activities and events to celebrate 50 Years of Dance for Jazzart which marks an important milestone for dance in South Africa. Jazzart have recently returned from a critically acclaimed tour of performances of Requiem: Journeys of the Soul in the UK, the full production of which will be performed at our upcoming festival of dance at the Artscape Theatre in October. We are excited to present extracts of this new work alongside two outstanding works, Survive and In Body as One, performed by our company of 8 dancers who have been selected from the graduates of our training programme in 2022.

This '50 Years of Jazzart Celebration' production promises to be an exciting, poignant, and thought-provoking programme in celebration of the power and longevity of dance performed by our young, energetic and ambitious company of dancers. In this important milestone year for Jazzart we are celebrating resilience and rebirth post-pandemic and are elevating the importance of dance as a force to inspire and change lives. We are proud to be at the National Arts Festival in our 50th year and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all creatives, partners, funders and people who have worked with and supported Jazzart through the years. This is an ideal time to showcase and share our cultural offering as a longstanding dance company and training programme that has successfully grown and contributed to dance for half a century. We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy the performance.



Fri, 30 June 2023 - 14:00 & 20:00
Sat, 01 July 2023 - 12:00 & 18:00
Sun, 02 July 2023 - 13:00

RHODES THEATRE

Photo Credit: Tristram Kenton



Photo Credit: Mo Bassa



Photo Credit: Mo Bassa



Programme

REQUIEM AND AFTER TEARS, an international co-production premiered at the Leeds Grand Theatre in partnership with Opera North and Phoenix Dance Theatre. REQUIEM responds to Mozart's famous 200-year-old Requiem and AFTER TEARS is composed by award-winning South African composer Neo Muyanga. Directed and Choreographed by Jazzart's Artistic Director, Dane Hurst, the works present a perspective on the themes of collective loss, the rituals of mourning and remembrance, and the celebration of life.

In Partnership with Opera North and Phoenix Dance Theatre

Music: Mozart's Requiem & Neo Moyanga's After Tears

Choreographer: Dane Hurst

Costume Designer: Joanna Parker

Dramaturg: Mhlanguli George

SURVIVE recently won the 2022 Toyota Woordfees award for Best Dance Production. It was created by Nathan Bartman and Ciara Baldwin who form their company MANACAN. The work explores the mindset of what it takes to survive juxtaposed with the eternal question of what is peace? "Is it enough to just survive; does that mean the moment we pass on from this world is the only moment we truly feel peace? Maybe it's time for us to work together to try and change the narrative from survive to thrive..."

Company: MANACAN

Choreographer: Ciara Baldwin, Nathan Bartman

Music: Composed by MANACAN - Ciara Baldwin & Nathan Bartman

'IN BODY AS ONE' is a slick, highly polished, and accomplished choreographic work accompanied by an atmospheric and hypnotic film projection. The work showcases the artistry and technical abilities of the dancers, whilst articulating their innate ability to work together as a team and achieving unique individual triumphs throughout the work. Choreographers Shaun Oelf and Grant van Ster are award-winning artists who graduated from the Jazzart training programme and went on to become company dancers before embarking on successful career paths as founders of Figure of Eight Dance Collective.

Company: Figure of Eight Dance Collective

Choreographer: Grant van Ster, Shaun Oelf

Music: Infra 1 - Max Richter, Infarkt - Anenzephalia, Monument - Royksopp & Robyn