JAZZART DANCE THEATRE



company and it is recognised for its powerful influence on the development of dance

dance as a transformative tool to fully interrogate social awareness and cultural inclusiveness. Jazzart's objectives are achieved through an approach of 'Educate, Collaborate and Create'. Each step builds on the raw talent and growth of each dancer and develops

in the country. Its prodigious creative and critical output allows the company to use

them into well rounded, educated, economically active and culturally engaged artists. The company's cycle starts with the three-year full-time training programme that is offered to talented young adults from communities who have been historically denied access to performing arts as a career choice. The company's training combines a

strong technique with a uniquely South African dance philosophy which is deeply

rooted in the country's diverse culture and traditions. Graduates who excel and showcase a high level of performance talent are employed as part of the professional dance company after their three years of training. They are employed fulltime and given the opportunity to represent Jazzart at professional productions and national and international festival touring. Other graduates who excel in the areas of choreography or teaching are supported to develop their own

creative practice or employed to build on the company's capacity to implement the

training and outreach programmes. The outreach Programme provides children and youth with the opportunity to be exposed to the arts, explore creative movement, nurture their artistic talent and strengthen their confidence and choices about their bodies. The programme also teaches participants life skills including teamwork, discipline, grit and determination and develops their sense of self-esteem, character and identity.

THE PROGRAMME

Jazzart is based at Artscape in Cape Town and extends its reach throughout the

country (in urban and rural areas) to ensure wide accessibility to its programmes.

Dark Flock explores themes of resilience referencing the crow's impeccable will to live and thrive, no matter the environment or circumstance. The crow flies high despite all

the heavy, negative stigmatisation it has been marked with, and teaches us that life is

Dancers: Chesney Stanfield, Emile Petersen, Savannah Petrus, Aphiwe Sodlamba, Milisa Mathiso, Neo Khema, Zachary Petersen ZIYAWA This vibrant piece expresses our culture of inclusivity and acceptance expressed in a form that mirrors Cape Town's fun-filled energy!

Matyatanga, Lukhanyo Nongqongqo, Nico Masepe, Thandolwethu Ntebe, Zanele

Music by Emo Adams Dancers: Aidinn Steenkamp, Asive Mrauzeli, Leethon Dewee, Marang Gwatyu, Ntombezintle Ndindwa, Phelo Ngxukuma, Thimna Ndwe, Chantal De Haan, Entle

Milisa Mathiso, Neo Khema, Zachary Petersen

not defined by what others may believe is the truth.

I AM AFRICAN The piece has been transformed since 2023 when first created and performed. It hon-

Choreographer: Sifiso Kweyama

Dramaturg: Mhlanguli George

Mketsu, Zweli Mguli

INTERVAL

DARKFLOCK

Choreographer: MANACAN

Music by MANACAN

and our country's shared vision of unity and hope. Choreographer: Sifiso Kweyama Dramaturg: Mhlanguli George Music by Tristan Barton & Abdullah Ibrahim

Dancers: Chesney Stanfield, Emile Petersen, Savannah Petrus, Aphiwe Sodlamba,

Safe Ground is a heartfelt exploration of the comfort and relief found in communities

during times of personal struggle. It portrays how the support of caring individuals can

make challenges more bearable, offering a sense of safety and belonging. Through its

narrative, the piece emphasizes the power of togetherness in helping one navigate

Ntombezintle Ndindwa, Phelo Ngxukuma, Thimna Ndwe, Chantal De Haan, Entle

Matyatanga, Lukhanyo Nongqongqo, Nico Masepe, Thandolwethu Ntebe, Zanele

ours the interconnectedness of South Africa's diverse population, cultural diversity

feelings of rejection and hardship. Choreographer: Sifiso Kweyama Music by Ezio Bosso Dancers: Aidinn Steenkamp, Asive Mrauzeli, Leethon Dewee, Marang Gwatyu,

SAFE GROUND

Mketsu, Zweli Mguli

BATTLEFIELD Battlefield explores the journey of breaking free from societal constraints. It embraces authenticity in a world that often dictates how we should feel and be and challenges us to reclaim our true selves. Choreographer: Lihle Mfene

Music by Zoe Keating, Wolf Quan & Jo Blankenburg Dancers: Chesney Stanfield, Emile Petersen, Savannah Petrus, Milisa Mathiso, Neo Khema, Zachary Petersen



CHOREOGRAPHERS

Born and raised in KwaZulu-Natal, Sifiso has risen as a prominent figure in South Africa's dance realm, acclaimed for his choreography and teaching prowess. Commencing his journey at Phenduka Dance Theatre in Durban in 1989, he later joined Jazzart Dance Theatre in 1993, immersing himself in Contemporary African Dance under Alfred Hinkel's tutelage as company dancer. Sifiso's achievements include the recognition as one of South Africa's top ten choreographers in 2011 and in 2013 he was achieved the Choreographer of the Year Award.

From 2015 to 2020, he served as Jazzart's Artistic Director, contributing significantly to the company's evolution and presently spearheads Jazzart Dance Theatre's Training Programme. He is the founder of Yabantu Multipurpose and Performing Arts Theatre, empowering young talents in his KwaZulu-Natal village.



SIFISO KWEYAMA



London consisting of two artists, Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman, who choreograph, compose, perform and tour their own productions. MANA in the language KhoeKhoegowab means 'them that give' and CAN stands for 'Ciara and Nathan'. They explore primal topics and express them

through dance, physicality, vocals and music their

MANACAN is a South African Company based in

style is earthy and influenced by their South African roots. They work with dance and musical styles ranging from African and hip-hop to contemporary, while continually learning from different styles, places and people, taking them to unique and often vulnerable places both physically and spiritually. Touring includes countries such as South Africa,

Zimbabwe, Senegal, and the United Kingdom. MANACAN are Martha Graham award winning choreographers for their performance of 'Rooted' in New York City in 2019. In September 2022 they created a work, 'Survive' with Jazzart Dance Company and won the Woordfees Best Performance (Dance) award in 2022. They have both danced and performed individually

Botswana, Tanzania, the United States, Belgium,

for different companies and choreographers both nationally and internationally over the last 10 years and continue to grow, learn and build their skill base in music and movement.

forming Arts (CAPA) in 2020 and began his dance journey at Dancescape, South Africa. Lihle's training spans across various disciplines including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and African dance. During his final year at CAPA, Lihle had the opportunity to choreograph a piece for Dancescape South Africa, which was showcased at the 7th Biennale Tanzausbilding in Hamburg, Germany, held at the Kampnagel Theatre complex. In 2023 Mfene joined Jazzart Dance Theatre company and contributed significantly to their produc-

Lihle Mfene, born and raised in Montagu South

Africa, graduated from the Cape Academy of Per-

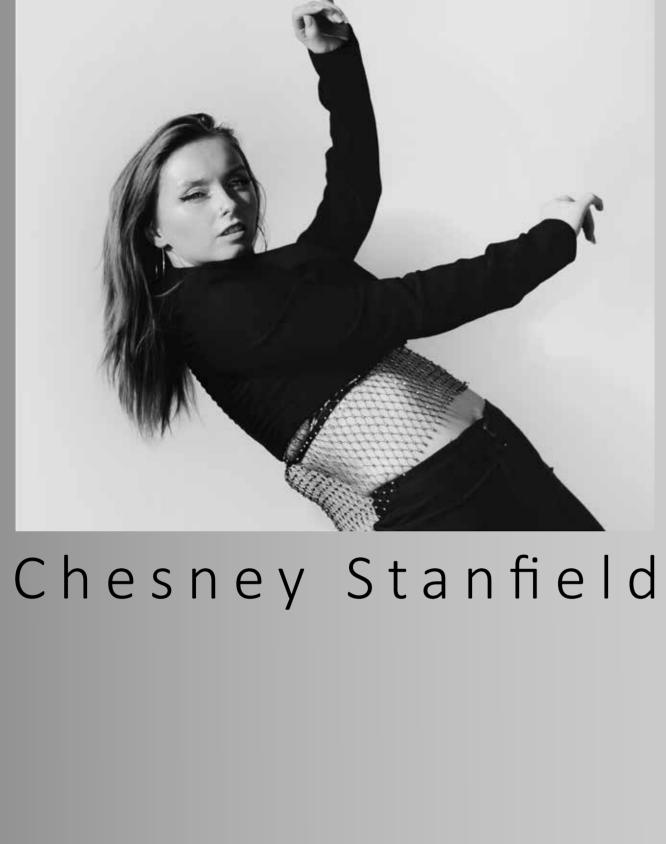
tions. His talent and versatility were highlighted in collaborations with SANDT, Cape Town City Ballet, Opera North and Phoenix Dance Theatre (UK). He recently travelled with Jazzart on their tour to Pakistan as a dancer. He too furthered his artistic growth by attending the Bates Dance Festival in America, enriching his

sion. He is currently a company dancer at Cape Town City Ballet. DANCERS

understanding of movement and artistic expres-



JAZZART COMPANY DANCERS







Aidinn Steenkamp Aphiwe Sodlamba

Marang Gwatyu

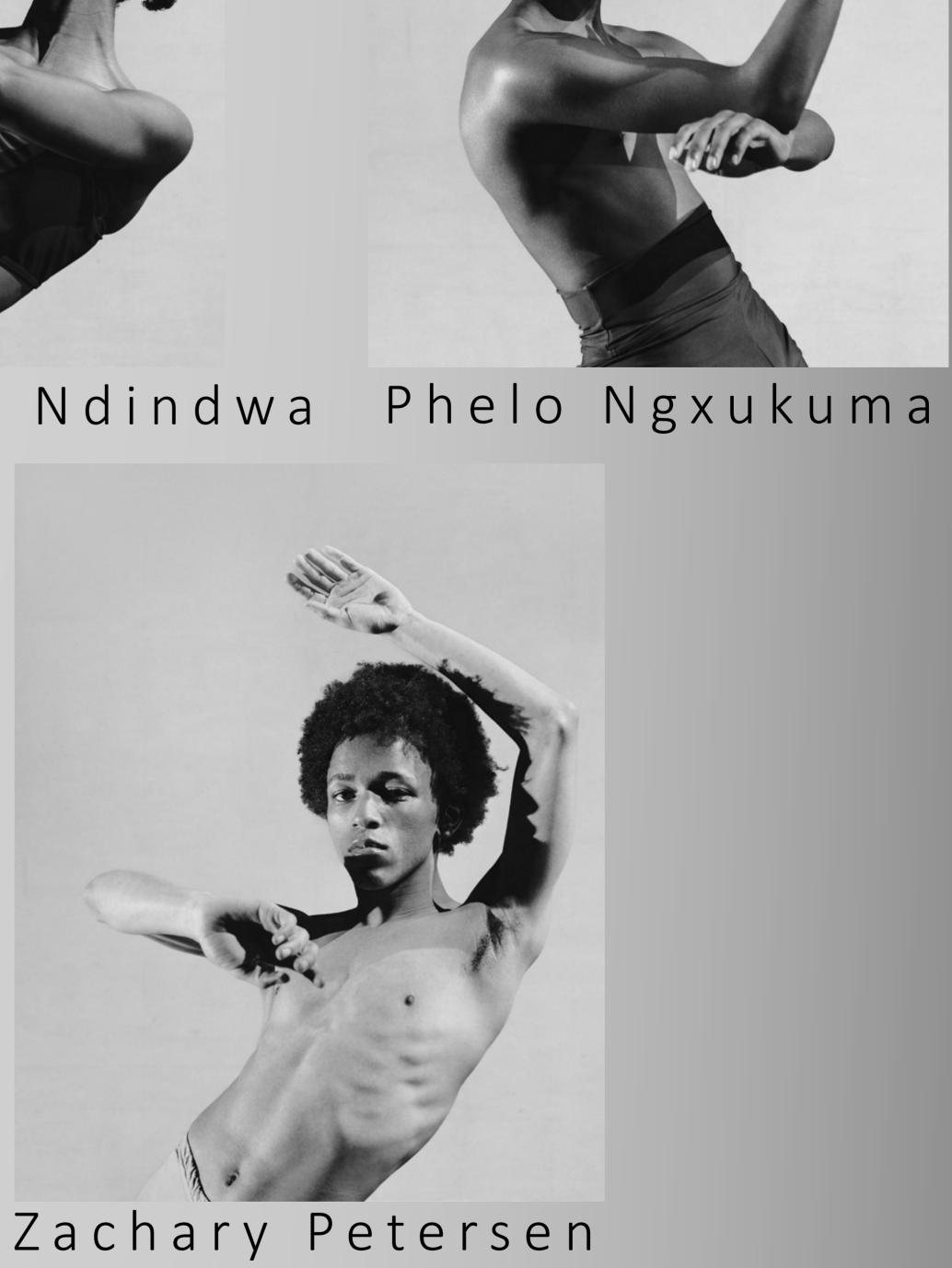


Milisa Mathiso



Leethon Dewee





BABA YAYA TRAINEES



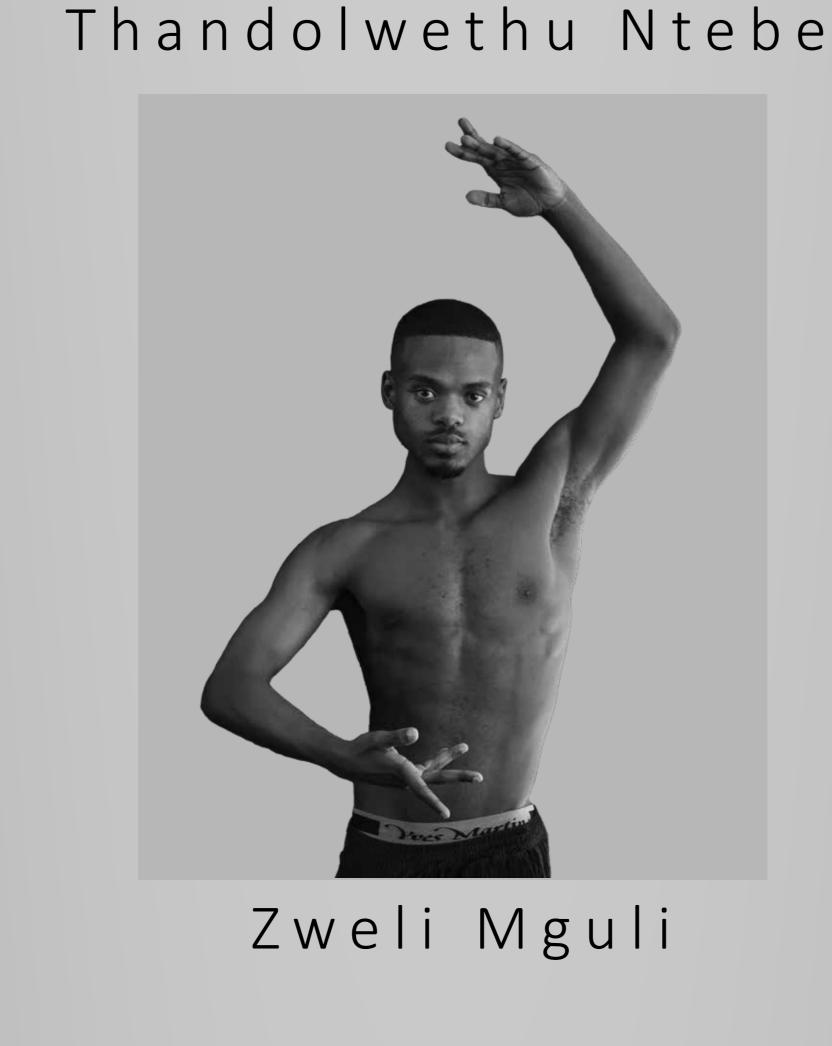
Nico Masepe







Zanele Mketsu



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Rehearsal Director Costume Photographers

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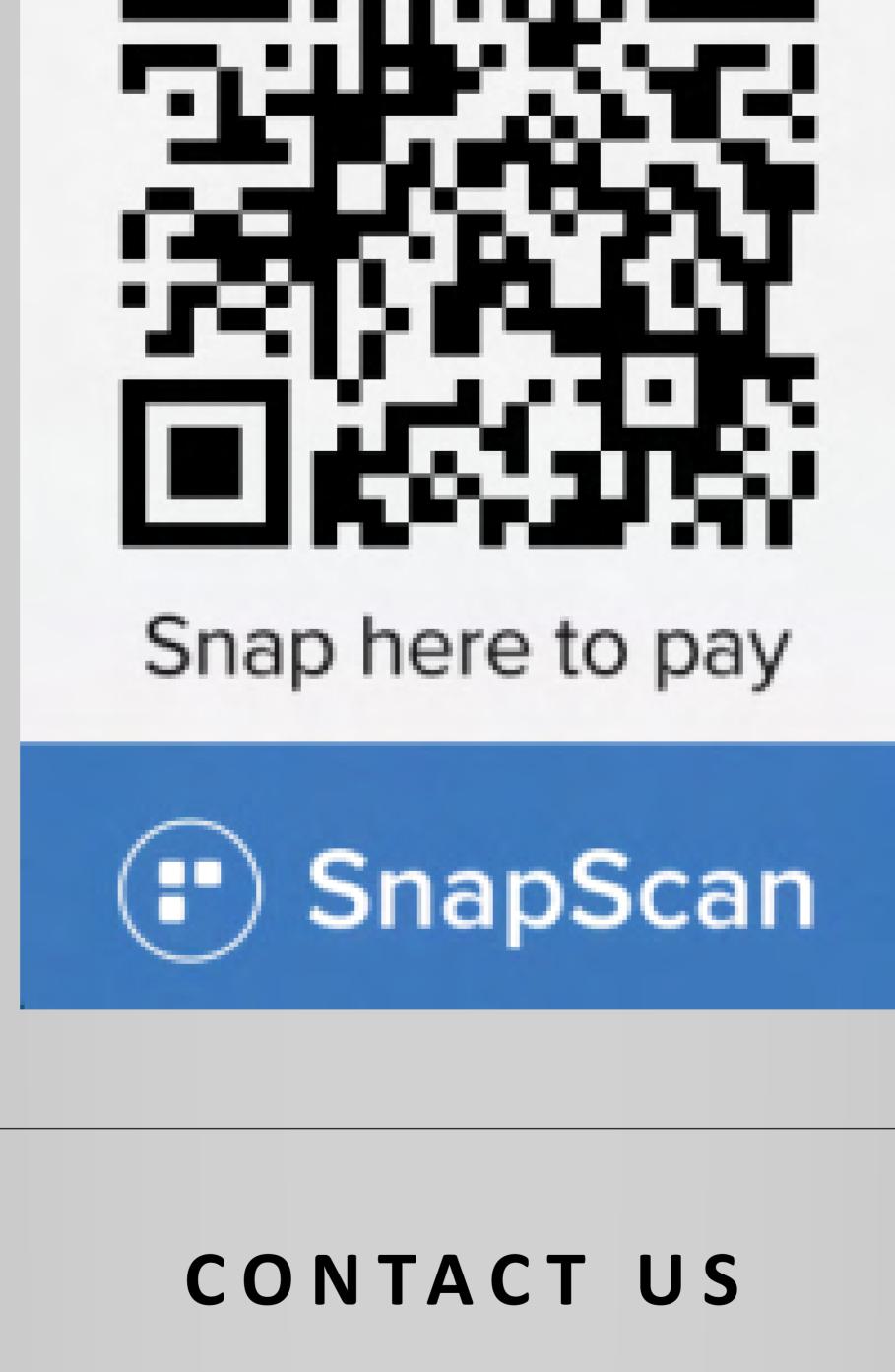
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