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**Press Release: BULAWAYO ARTS FESTIVAL LOOKING FOR FRESH /RAW TALENT**  
**Issued By: Bulawayo Arts Festival Team**  
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In the countdown to Bulawayo Day on 1 June, BULAWAYO ARTS FESTIVAL preparations are in full swing. The BAF team has been out and about on a talent scouting tour to some of Zimbabwe's smaller cities and towns – Plumtree, Gwanda, Mutare, and onward to Gweru and Vic Falls this past week. Their mission: to include artists from these areas in the second edition of the vibrant young festival from 2-5 June, a hybrid 'virtually-physical' production for artists and audiences in and beyond Bulawayo.

Live Covid-compliant physical performances in 'the City of Kings' by its artists will be complemented with virtual performances of artists from some of these remote areas, offered to the world via the internet. Bulawayo Arts Festival and artists of the city have pulled through an extraordinary year with strong resilience and continued creativity, as is expected of them, to present a vibrant presentation of the arts in the face of the seemingly never-ending pandemic. In a clever twist to work within the Covid restrictions, the 'tour' is bringing audiences and artists together in a whole new way.

With the good cooperation of the National Arts Council offices around the country who identified some the artists, and various government ministry representatives for their support, the BAF team will later capture lively acts in the small towns, all but hidden until now, confined by the pandemic. Some of these acts will be invited to the festival in Bulawayo.

The inclusion of this raw talent - alongside the rainbow of urban music, dance, theatre, comedy, poetry, visual arts, photography and fashion - will grow the festival in diversity, progressiveness and inclusivity, and provide the world audience with a fascinating and authentic menu to feast on. It is a brave step for Bulawayo Arts Festival and others in this brave new world of the survival of culture online. The BAF 2021 Lineup comes out this week

**More Info:**

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