

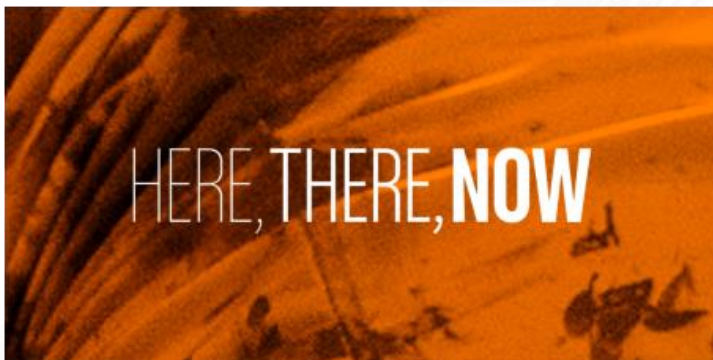


Renovate Bluez Cafe Brick Bank Appeal.

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Bulawayo-London: *HERE, THERE, NOW*



Nhimbe Trust welcomes another exciting artistic collaboration - "**HERE, THERE, NOW**" – an international storytelling project between young women actors of Bulawayo and West London, in partnership with the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre of London and the British Council, under Nhimbe's long-running Women in Theatre & Television programme.

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre said in their announcement on 8 April, "We are delighted to be partnering with Nhimbe Trust Zimbabwe and the British Council on Here, There, Now, a new digital storytelling collaboration that will bring together young Black women, aged 18 – 25, from West London and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to create work exploring themes of womanhood, identity and race. UK-based theatre director and writer Monique Touko and Zimbabwe based award-winning

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actor, creative, poet and director 'Lady Tshawe' (Nomashawekazi Damasane) will lead a series of workshops throughout May 2021.

In response to Black Lives Matter and events of 2020 including the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the online collaboration will provide young women the agency, power and platform to share their voice and stories with others who are experiencing the same issues from the other side of the globe. Online workshops will run simultaneously from London and Bulawayo as participants come together to create monologues inspired by their individual experiences yet which will be performed by their counterpart overseas. The monologues created through the workshops will be filmed and shared online and available to watch in July.

Monique Touko said: "Here, There, Now provides a great opportunity for young Black women to not only develop skills in playwriting, creative writing and performance but also to explore their identity in their home country and empathise with those based in their partner nation. I hope they will feel emboldened through this exchange of ideas and feel a strengthened sense of community. Personally too, Bulawayo is the birthplace of my Mother and a place I hold dear to my heart. The opportunity to make and create cross-culturally particularly at this time is beyond exciting. In addition, being a Black woman is beautiful and complex and exploring it in this way in the shadows of Black Lives Matter feels right and highly nourishing. I'm looking forward to seeing what we create."



Nomashawekazi Damasane
'Lady Tshawe'

Lady Tshawe said: "I am excited and honoured to be given this opportunity to be a part of this project. I am particularly looking forward to seeing how the young ladies interact with the topics and with each other using the 'new normal' format of work being done online. This exchange, I believe, will not only foster working relationships but will inspire the participants to explore and challenge themselves creatively."

Rob Lehmann, Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Director of Young Lyric, said: "*Here, There, Now* is a new and exciting opportunity within the Young Lyric offer that connects young people from West London internationally with their peers to acquire a local, national and international perspective on the world through the use of theatre and creativity. We are delighted to be working with both local and international collaborators and look forward to developing a partnership with Nhimbe Trust who have a track record of artistic excellence with young people."

This project is led in partnership by the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and Nhimbe Trust and is funded by British Council as part of their Digital Collaboration and Storytelling Grants scheme.

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, London

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is one of London's leading producing theatres. For a hundred and twenty five years, they have welcomed some of the world's finest writers, directors, actors and theatre companies to their stage, from Harold Pinter to Tanika Gupta; Sir John Gielgud to Sheila Hancock; Complicite to Frantic Assembly.

Right in the heart of Hammersmith, they **produce bold and relevant world-class theatre**, committed to being vital to, and representative of, their local community and to being a major force in London and UK theatre. They develop and nurture the next generation of talent, and provide opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to discover the power of creativity.

<https://lyric.co.uk/here-there-now-international-digital-storytelling-project-announced/>

Nhimbe Trust, Bulawayo

Based in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Nhimbe Trust is an arts education organisation and a leader in cultural policy research, training, advocacy and defending freedom of creative expression.

Nhimbe's **Women in Theatre and Television (WITT)** programme provides vocational training and resources to emerging women writers, actresses, directors and producers. WITT regularly presents the work of these women and empowers women's voices on stage. The programme has grown through the support of Africalia, Belgium over a number of years.

www.nhimbe.org

The British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. They build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Last year they reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, and through broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 The British Council are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

www.britishcouncil.org

Re-Linking Communities: #100-Voices

Supported by Culture at Work Africa and the European Union, the **Relinking Communities Through Culture** Project hosted intercultural dialogue platforms in Harare and Bulawayo for artists / creatives, cultural professionals and media practitioners. The purpose of the platforms was to map and understand the dynamics of ethnic relations within an urban context.

As a reflection of the views that were expressed by participants, we will be running a **#100-Voices** series on our social media platforms throughout the month of May. You are invited to comment and share your views. Be part of the conversation. Your voice matters.

RELINKING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CULTURE Intercultural Dialogue Initiative

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ I am an artist based in Harare. I negotiate the terms of my own contract. I should not be made to feel guilty when an artist from Bulawayo is paid less for the same job. I am not responsible for how someone else negotiates with promoters. This is not a tribal issue or a Harare-Bulawayo issue. It is about the power to negotiate.” #2

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ I work for a national broadcaster as a journalist. There has not been any effort to employ someone who can competently speak Ndebele. Sometimes I am just called upon to write some sentences for TV programs because I can speak a bit of Ndebele. Even if I write something that is incorrect, there is no verification process. There is no willingness to promote social cohesion and inclusivity.” #7

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ Ndebele artists and media practitioners are not the only ones who have been victims of tribalism. Experiences of tribalism from a Shona perspective are missing.” #43

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ Shona privilege = Shona people have never had to learn a language to adapt, survive or be accepted.” #54

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ It is difficult for me to use my platform to talk about sensitive issues such as identity politics. My fear is that I will be branded as an activist and not an artist. Activism has serious consequences.” #75

Artists | Media Practitioners | Cultural Professionals
#DialogueSeries #100-Voices

“ Certain injustices that have been experienced in the past are associated with specific groups of people. Gukurahundi, for example, is regarded as a Ndebele issue. As an artist who speaks Shona and stays in Harare I have always felt that I can't use my art to address this issue because of the fear of being seen as getting into a space that doesn't belong to me.” #80

This project is implemented by



Creative Education
Development Cooperation
Cultural Policy

In partnership with



Funded by



This project is co-funded by the European Union



CiTT Impact: Young Filmmakers in production

A number of young filmmakers of Bulawayo who have risen from some years of training under Nhimbe's **Children in Theatre & Television training project (CiTT)**, continue to grow and work unabated through the pandemic, with small creative projects posted on YouTube.

Linus Tapera and Jewels Embryonic Studio



(Photos: Linos Tapera, JES)

Three filmmakers who participated in CiTT since their high school days in 2016 - Linos Tapera, Dalubuhle Mdlongwa and Tanaka Munyavhi – planned and established Jewels Embryonic Studios (JES); inspired by the richness within humankind, and the growth and development involved in the arts and entertainment sector, realising that there are always means for making content anytime, anywhere.

Tapera said “We have called our program for making films using a cell phone the *Phonetic Film Movement*, where we write, shoot and edit using a phone, market using a phone; and generally use phones effectively as a full package for producing films. Several young people are involved in various roles, and ‘Afrodrumbass’ is being good to us helping with sound. We’ve been operating on a low budget, self-funding, improvising for venues, and involving the community, which has been helpful. We don’t have more senior theatre and film practitioners involved yet, as most people we have tried approaching didn't take the phonetic film movement seriously. But we got all the assistance from Nhimbe Trust, which we are thankful for”.

In the last year, JES presented online short films by two former participants of the CiTT programme, Joseph Kapitango’s films ‘Locadia’ and ‘Chromer’, and ‘Blasphemy Consolation’ and ‘What’s Trending’, written and directed by Linos Tapera.

As a filmmaker ‘Sir’ Linos sees a gap that needs to be filled in terms of women empowerment, and in ‘What’s Trending’ was inspired by the plight of girl-children who “get forced to do certain things

because of their mistakes". On 7 April 2021 he released a trailer which is "... just a scene-jump thing for people to get in love with characters and the story ..." he says. See the trailer at <https://youtu.be/SkqqHgMMAKO>.

Also a rapper and writer, Linos is pressing on. He said: "In the process of making, editing and writing films using a mobile phone, I have learnt that there are certain limitations in producing good quality products. My vision is bigger, I would love it if people could see the level I'm gunning for in my struggle." <https://youtu.be/SkqqHgMMAKO>

"J.E.S. is an art hub that is open for greater ideas and larger ways on development of the society, community and world at large. We believe as content creators our major goal is not just to entertain but to spark the brain that will change the world, touch souls and hearts that will forever be blessed. We make sure we adhere on the demands of the public and we strongly hold up the safety of the community. *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu*, as the famous proverb shouts, we are here for everyone no matter at what angle. Our customers value a lot to us meaning your views, opinions and rights come first before anything."

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeINmLjOW85Wh561jxI5qw/about>

<https://www.facebook.com/Jewels-Embryonic-Studios-105051264772948/>

www.instagram.com/jes12021

www.twitter.com/JessistsW

Joseph Kapitango & Yashar Productions



(Photos: Yashar Productions)

Also a graduate of the Children in Theatre & Television programme, **Joseph Kapitango** wrote and directed two films, 'Locadia' and 'Chromer' under JES last year, and has since started his own arts company, Yashar Productions with four founding members, in August 2020. Yashar aspires to be an arts hub that touches and changes lives through creative art, as it ventures into theatre, film, art and dance.

Kapitango joined CiTT in 2017, and has been 'doing film' ever since. He says "CiTT has given us something we can hold on to. Even though in my production I'm the only one who attended it but it

has given us the chance to touch and change lives as young artists, and to put to practical use the teaching I got from lectures at CiTT.

The first film under Yashar Productions last year is 'Silver Lining', a short Christian film directed and edited by Kapitango which is available at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=rSCSo35NY-4&feature=share>, and they are now working on a Christian horror film entitled 'WARNED'. “

On the theatre side Yashar have actors, singers, a dance crew of 30 young people, mostly teenagers, and are working on a big musical theatre play scheduled to feature in the Geraldine Rouche Drama Winter Festival at The Bulawayo Theatre on 5 June 2021.

“Personally I want to help people discover their talent and groom them in their area of art and make sure that art shifts from being a hobby to a job that puts bread on the table. With the help of my fellow co-founders Teven Ketu, Unathi Moyo and Calvin Mhlanga and the whole team, we are making it possible” said Kapitango.



Africalia - Supporting Culture - The Women and Children in Theatre & Television programmes have been supported for many years by Nhimbe's long-time cultural partner, Africalia (Belgium).

The results of a decade of training and nurturing are now becoming evident as these and other young theatre and film artists who grew from such programmes are emerging and swiftly coming to the fore in the local industry; helping to keep culture alive in the darkest of days globally.

WiTT and CiTT honoured



Nhimbe applauds participants of **Nhimbe's Children in Theatre & Television (WiTT) and Children in Theatre & Television (CiTT)** programmes who were honoured by the Zimbabwe Theatre Academy in recognition and honour of their commitment and investment towards the development of theatre in Zimbabwe:

| WITT | CiTT |
|---|--|
| <p>Getrude Vimbayi Munhamo Dalma Chiwereva Lady Tshawe Charmaine Mudau Agnes Ncube</p> | <p>Ronald Sigeca Cadrick Msongelwa Norbet Makoche Elton Sibanda</p> |

Introducing Tinashe Gwariro



Nhimbe Trust is pleased to welcome and introduce a new member of the secretariat, **Tinashe Gwariro, Policy Analyst Fellow**.

Tinashe is an international relations graduate with experience in promoting democracy, human rights and public policy analysis in Zimbabwe. He has worked as a Researcher for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) where he was responsible for monitoring and documenting human rights violations arising from COVID-19 restrictions and measures undertaken by the government of Zimbabwe. As well as initiating draft policy briefs on trends of human rights violations and possible mitigation measures, as a researcher at ICJ he was part of the team that initiated the promotion of anti-violence youth empowerment project whose goal was to promote peace through encouraging political tolerance.

Prior, he worked for one year as a Program Associate with Strategic Foresight, a strategic policy advisory think tank. During his time there he was part of the Strategic Policy Advisory division where he assisted research and writing policy briefs and security periodicals. He also conducted political risk assessment for businesses that operate in high risk African countries.

Tinashe's key responsibilities are providing research support on a broad range of policy issues related to cultural rights and artistic freedoms; and Administrative support to facilitate the work of the Nhimbe Trust Advisory Panel.

Welcome, Tinashe!

Renovate Bluez Cafe Brick Bank Appeal.

The bold vision to create a multidisciplinary arts centre in the heart of Bulawayo, continues unabated in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic raging across the world.

First established in 2017, the burgeoning Bluez Café under Nhimbe Trust was forced to relocate to 97A Lobengula Street, an old townhouse donated to Nhimbe by the Youth Contact Centre, which is in dire need of repair and refurbishment. To provide a dedicated centre for the city's producers of culture, the venue requires major renovation, costs of which are beyond Nhimbe's capacity, and unreachable without financial support.

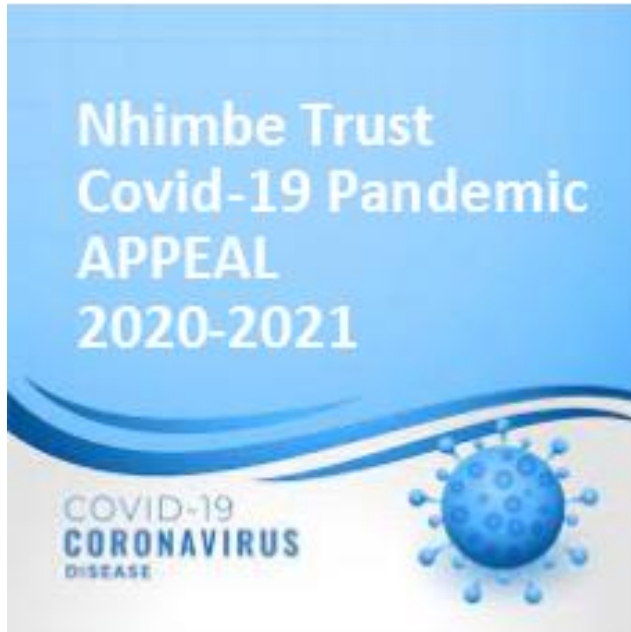
Nhimbe set up the BRICK BANK appeal in January this year, to start work on the physical, structural needs of the new premises - and invites all contributions.

The National Arts Council of Zimbabwe applauded the development, and stakeholders in Bulawayo's cultural industries have expressed their strong support for the refurbishment plan. Among many others, acclaimed Bulawayo musician and producer **JEYS MARABINI** said Bluez Cafe is a place "... which accommodates all aspects of performing arts that brings joy to our souls. ... a plea that you and I join hands ... to ensure the success of the renovations."

Director of Victory Siyanqoba Theatre **DESIRE MOYO** - said: "*Umasingazenzeli, akula ozasenzela* (If we can't do it ourselves, no one will!) This is Bulawayo's very own great idea whose time has finally come. [It's] a call for you and me to donate to the vision of a centre, a venue, a cultural space, as the city's own space for cultural producers. Kindly donate to Nhimbe's brickbank project. It is our baby. *Yindlovu yethu sonke* (It's our elephant together!). Donate today!"

Nhimbe invites and urges all stakeholders and supporters of this crucial development to donate to the Bluez Cafe Brick Bank. The cost of a single brick is pinned at USD 0.35.

Donations can be made directly to Nhimbe Trust through admin@nhimbe.org.



COVID-19 is unravelling a decade of progress on the status of the artist and cultural professionals in the City of Bulawayo. The social and economic impact of the pandemic has already taken a toll on the city’s arts industry. Bulawayo, which is recognised as Zimbabwe’s Cultural Hub, currently has the highest nation-al prevalence rate of COVID-19 cases.

NHIMBE TRUST IS COMMITTED TO RAISING USD 150,000 TO KEEP ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS IN BULAWAYO SAFE FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

Nhimbe Trust aims to alleviate this hold-up for vulnerable artists and cultural professionals in Bulawayo by directly supporting at least 1500 artists and cultural professionals especially youth, women and the elderly who have disproportionately been impacted by COVID-19. Nhimbe Trust's response will cover the entire cultural community of Bulawayo. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be implemented in cooperation with the Bulawayo City Council.

This appeal is to people from all walks of life to donate towards the cause in support of our vulnerable artists and cultural professionals. No amount is too small.

Please Donate!

Donations should be directed to the Facebook page at

https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser_source=external_url which displays as *'Ezra's personal emergency fundraiser' – (Fundraiser for Josh Nyapimbi by Ezra Tshisa Sibanda).*

Thank you.

Our Partners



The Daneford Trust

