



PULSE

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August - September 2021

LONDON >
BULAWAYO



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The digital storytelling collaboration
A journey of discovery.



HERE, THERE, NOW

FAR FROM bright stage lights and the energy of real live audiences in rows of seats, **HERE, THERE, NOW** brought women actors of Bulawayo and London together in virtual spaces, exchanging experiences over thousands of miles, in homes and studios in the two cities, listening and understanding each other.

In response to Black Lives Matter and events of 2020 including the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the online collaboration was created to 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.

Led by award-winning artist Lady Tshawe in Bulawayo, and UK-based theatre director Monique Touko in London, the project brought twenty young women together online through a series of workshops to create new stories exploring womanhood, identity and race that are written and performed by the company and shared digitally in both nations.

The artists' monologues, inspired by their individual experiences and created through the workshops, are performed by their overseas counterparts, filmed and shared online by Nhimbe Trust and Lyric Theatre on YouTube, and social media.

In spite of the huge differences between the two groups, a common and recurring theme emerged: So different and so much the same. Lady Tshawe said it has been an interesting experience using the 'new normal' format of work being done online. One of the UK participants, Felicia Akin-Tayo, a student at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, said:

"It has been a huge learning curve for everyone, but this exchange, I believe, will inspire the participants to explore and challenge themselves creatively" she said.

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One of the UK participants, Felicia Akin-Tayo, a student at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, said:

“Here, There, Now is everything and more than what I expected it to be. From the first session on zoom, I immediately felt comfortable, safe and empowered amongst the group of females present. What excites about the project is that I don’t know exactly how our piece will come out but I am certain that everything we put into the project from our discussions, text, skills and our voice will be from a place of truth because that is what the project has allowed us to be. Truthful. So I am excited because I hope that our truth will not only be watched and heard but will inspire other females, not just in the UK, to feel more comfortable and confident in their own truth.”

Zimbabwean participants

Directed by Lady Tshawe, are Getrude Munhamo-Pfumayaramba, Thandy Dhlana, Privilege Mathema, Sidumisile Mtethwa, Pamela Mnkandla, Laura Ngwenya, Hazel Moyo, Antonatte Maphosa, Shammah Banda and Edith Masango.

UK participants

Directed by Monique Touko, are Hannah Balogun, Amaliyah Allison-Pounder, Na’eemah N’Diage, Felicia Akin-Adaramola, Yiga Gaolou, Taga Obano-Cox, Hannah Balogun, Deja Linton, Joanita Markin and Nyasha Hernandez.

Partners

The Here, There, Now project is implemented in a partnership between Nhimbe Trust and the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, and is kindly supported by the British Council Digital Collaboration and Storytelling scheme.

Women in Theatre & Television

HERE, THERE, NOW is one of the recent activities of the Women in Theatre & Television project by Nhimbe Trust, which has developed and staged several stirring and highly acclaimed musical productions in the last few years, including ‘Tellers – The Musical’ in 2017 and ‘Blood Tongue – THE Musical’ in 2018. WITT has been strongly supported by a long-term partnership with Africalia, Belgium, and has seen the rise of women artists of the city in theatre, poetry, music and dance, some of whom have reached award-winning status and birthed their own creative initiatives.

Watch the fascinating exchange of stories at [Here, There, Now – London > Bulawayo and more about the project at the Nhimbe Trust website.](#)

[WATCH HERE](#) 

BAF REPORT LAUNCHED

Bulawayo City Council and its technical partner Nhimbe Trust have launched the 2021 Bulawayo Arts Festival report, with details of the vivid and culture-packed 5-day activities which took place in Bulawayo City and online, from 1 to 5 June 2021. The festival attracted 348 performing artists who presented 134 acts that were viewed by global audiences in 53 countries. Festival Director Saimon Mambazo Phiri said, “With the arts sector not fully functional, we brought a hybrid edition of the festival...Our desire was to stimulate and revive the arts again, as a means of restoring hopes and aspirations. BAF 2021 was a celebration of the rebirth of the arts. We felt immensely honoured and proud to be one of the stakeholders at the forefront of bringing the arts community back to life through active programming.”

Programming highlights in 2021 were the pre-festival national tour, official opening by H.E the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, a wide array of performance and visual arts, the Cultural Governance Conference, launch of the Urban Heritage Corridor, a cookout fiesta, the ‘I Love Bulawayo’ campaign, and a citywide clean-up.

For the second year running, the festival partnered Skyz Metro FM for radio programming that included festival updates, artist interviews and the celebration of musicians who have contributed to the building of a resilient cultural identity in which Bulawayo takes pride.



Speaking on behalf of the City of Bulawayo, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Solomon Mguni said the city celebrates artists and creatives for being a creative engine that has the ability to cause a paradigm shift towards the development of Bulawayo and its people. He further expressed that the festival would not have been a success without the city's technical partner, Nhimbe Trust, and the team astutely led by Mr Saimon Mambazo Phiri.

Nhimbe Trust Executive Director Josh Nyapimbi said that the economic downturn and continued COVID global pandemic have not deterred the collaborative efforts of artists, cultural professionals, non-profit, governmental and intergovernmental partners and supporters to ensure the success of the 2021 BAF edition. He said the elevation of the festival to a national annual calendar event is groundbreaking in post-independence Zimbabwe and reassuring on government's aspiration to promote cultural and creative sectors.

Nyapimbi acknowledged the technical support by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, and partners Africalia and UNESCO for their support.



The festival also marked the 6th Anniversary (2015-2021) of the partnership between Nhimbe Trust and the City of Bulawayo, after Nhimbe first engaged city authorities in 2014 on the prospects of developing a partnership to facilitate the formulation of a cultural policy and corresponding strategic plan for the city.

The 2021 BAF report is accessible for viewing and download at



[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL STATEMENT ON PARTIAL RE-OPENING OF THE ARTS SECTOR UNDER COVID-19 REGULATIONS – LEVEL 4 LOCKDOWN

On 1 September 2021, the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) released a statement by Director Nicholas Moyo on government's decision to allow the partial reopening of the Cultural and Creative Industries in controlled sit-in spaces – specifically, cinema (houses and drive-in), theatres, and visual art galleries and studios.

The spaces must be inspected, and have a NACZ certificate. Staff must be vaccinated and provided with adequate and appropriate personal protective equipment; venues to ensure availability of adequate potable water, provide safe sanitary facilities, regular disinfecting using approved disinfectants.

The number of patrons should not exceed 50% of the venue's holding capacity, and all patrons must present proof of vaccination on entry, and wear their face masks during the show.

Find the full statement by the National Arts Council



[TAP HERE](#)





CITY OF BULAWAYO
ZIMBABWE
Siye Phambili...

The following position has arisen within the
City Council of Bulawayo

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE OFFICER - GRADE 9

Main responsibilities/ Job description

Develops, implements and oversees strategies that enhance the City's Arts & Public Art Collections.

Develops and implements the City's Public Art programme.

Plans, develops and implements integrated arts and cultural development programs and projects in the city.

Undertakes research and recommends opportunities for community arts and cultural development programs.

Acts as the organizations representative on special interest, regional, state and Local Government committees in Arts and Culture.

Qualifications Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts General degree / Bachelor of Arts Honors Heritage and Economic History degree or equivalent.

A clean class 4 driver's license.

Experience and Skills

At least 3 years working experience in the relevant field and networking with stakeholders at different levels.

Ability to write project proposals.

Must be fluent in local languages.

Applications to be posted to:

The Acting Human Capital Director City of Bulawayo
P.O. Box 558 BULAWAYO or dropped at Ground Floor,
Municipal Buildings (Tower Block) L. Takawira & R.G. Mugabe
Rd, BULAWAYO

No later than: Friday 24 September 2021.

***Bulawayo City Council is an equal opportunity employer.
Advert No. 8995 C DUBE | Date: Sunday, 12 September 2021.

TOWN CLERK

OUR PARTNERS

