



Esther's Revenge, 2019, Paw Studios



Pollution, 2019, Abdoulaye Diallo



Adie Be Lékém, 2019, Segun Adefila



Long Table Discussion, 2019



Alpha, 2018, Erwin Maas, Guy de Lencqey, Bram de Goeij, Stef de Paeppe

# PACE

Pan-African Creative Exchange  
An Interdisciplinary (Performing) Arts Provocation



vrystaat  
KUNSTEFEEES  
ARTS FESTIVAL  
TSA-BOTJHABA

**Contact**    @Pacebloem [www.panafricancreativeexchange.co.za](http://www.panafricancreativeexchange.co.za)

<p><b>African &amp; European Office</b> <b>Nike Jonah</b> Executive Director, PACE Co-Founding Director, PACE  njonah@icloud.com</p>	<p><b>International &amp; USA Office</b> <b>Erwin Maas</b> Theatermaker International Arts Advocate Co-Founding Director, PACE  erwin@erwinmaas.com</p>	<p><b>African &amp; South African Office</b> <b>Ricardo Peach</b> Director, Vrystaat Arts Festival Co-Founding Director, PACE  Ricardo.Peach@volksblad.com</p>
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**Khoekhoegowab:** Vrystaati di Di//khasib !Gâi!gâisens ge #an!gâs tsī !gôasiba Khoe-San Khoena ra mâ.Nê khoen ge // in aboxan Ina /gaisa #goms tsī !hû//arede! kho/gara hâ,nâu khoen !hüb din /khas khami

**English:** The Vrystaat Arts Festival acknowledges and respects the Khoe-San of the Free State and the deep spiritual attachment to their ancestors and relationships they have to this country and its people.



Spirit Child, 2019, Oudus Onikeku

## PACE

The Pan-African Creative Exchange (PACE), is a biannual arts market for African artists, developed for national and international presenters and producers. It is an initiative of the Vrystaat Arts Festival.

PACE provides the highest quality, interdisciplinary arts product, covering theatre, dance, music, visual arts, crafts and more from Africa, to buyers, artists and the general public across the globe.

PACE was born in Bloemfontein at a long table conversation between arts professionals from the African continent and international visitors. It is driven by a 'coalition of the willing' from the African continent as well as cultural professionals outside of Africa.

PACE aims to increase the global reach of Africa's arts industry to the broader world and to contribute the continent's development of future work through grants, sponsorship and various other endowments

### Nine strands make up the PACE ecosystem:

- Production of full shows for tour-ready work
- Showcases focusing on excerpts of tour-ready work
- Showcases focusing on excerpts of works in progress
- New work pitches
- Producer shadowing and exchange programme
- Critical debate/roundtable discussion sessions
- Networking programmes
- Market place
- Key PACE programming events (i.e. PACE+)

## Vrystaat Kunstefees | Arts Festival | Tsa-Botjhaba

The Vrystaat Kunstefees | Arts Festival | Tsa-Botjhaba is an Afrikaans language festival that forges creative connections with English and Sotho cultures. We contribute to the exchange of ideas around arts, culture and society through relationships with other national and international creative communities.

**Vision** One festival. Many stories.

**Mission** To support the development and presentation of great art in the Free State for all.

**Goals** We bring people together. We support great art. We develop artists and audiences. We drive innovation. We play in the world stage.

## Bloemfontein

Bloemfontein, which means 'fountain of flowers' in Afrikaans, is the provincial capital of the Free State province and the judicial capital of South Africa.

As one of the biggest cities in South Africa, the metropolis has a rich artistic and cultural history. Lord of the Rings author, J.R.R. Tolkien was born here, and the reverence for the city's artistic heritage abounds, with one of the best performing arts infrastructures in Africa, that includes 14 state-of-the-art venues.

## Programme

### Artists

Selected artists will present high-quality work to international and national presenters, programmers, producers and peers.

If you are based on the African continent and are looking to research and develop new work, the showcase will take place in Bloemfontein, South Africa, bi-annually June / July.

### PACE provides:

- Talented and diverse artists with the opportunity to present innovative new work to global arts professionals
- A rare opportunity for global arts professionals to see a wide variety of high-quality work by African artists at the three-day showcase
- Unique opportunities for cross art-form networking and encourages productive and creative conversations

### Benefits of PACE for the Artists:

- Opportunity to perform your work or present a pitch to showcase to international delegates
- Networking and partnership opportunities
- Generic promotion of your work

### Delegates

The Pan-African Creative Exchange is a platform for the following creatives:

- Venue Managers – national and international, Artistic Directors, Promoters, Producers, Festival Organisers, Funders, Development Agencies, Policymakers, Critics, Artists, Academia and International peers.

### Benefits of attending PACE:

- Opportunities to network internationally and, in particular, grow networks across the African continent
- Raise the profile of African artists and their innovative, cutting-edge work on the world stage
- Engage in dialogue and critical debate, raising awareness of the context of African creative works and African artists
- Develop artistic partnerships
- Broaden opportunities for African artists internationally through touring, co-producing and artistic collaborations
- Enable international funders, promoters and presenters to share policy and practice

### What is Included?

#### PACE will showcase:

- A limited number of full productions ready to tour
- Excerpts of tour-ready work (up to 60 minutes)
- Excerpts of work in progress (up to 45 minutes)
- Pitching of new work in early development (up to 10 minutes)
- Opportunities for shadowing and exchange of arts personnel
- Keynote addresses
- Networking opportunities
- Critical debate and roundtable discussions
- Artist's market place
- Workshops