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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

History & Structure

Jungle Theatre Company (JTC) started out in 1995 as a Gauteng based Collective called 'Jungle Performance'. The Collective, founded by Vincent Meyburgh, hosted street theatre performances at freedom celebrations. It toured a series of street performances in the late 1990s to townships and informal settlements in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Mpumalanga.

In 2001, JTC was established and created and produced *The Whale Show*, the first of over 15 original productions for children and youth. The style of theatre embodied a range of theatrical disciplines including physical theatre, puppetry, comedy, song, dance, acoustic instruments and clowning; incorporating repurposed and recycled materials; tri-lingual scripts and demographically diverse casts; and a focus on works for children, youth and families.

Collectively these elements gave rise to the unique 'Jungle' style of theatre and in 2004 the organization formalized as a Non Profit and Public Benefit Organization and continued to tour primarily natural heritage themed productions and workshops. Touring included: outreach performances at underprivileged schools with supporting skills development workshops; community based events and festivals; theatres – in the form of public runs and twinning programs, where privileged schools support underprivileged schools and learners with special educational needs to experience theatre together; and local, provincial and national arts festivals.

JTC's approach focused on creating access to theatre for all and increasing the application of theatre in the community. It conducted two intakes for young actor training and job creation with previously disadvantaged youth with acting experience. The pilot project in 2007 graduated six actors that received job opportunities in the following year. In 2010, a two-year training program called Laduma, a process that was documented in handbook form, graduated eight actors who toured locally, provincially and nationally and have been placed, mentored and up-skilled in a range programs. The organization has assisted former director Stuart Palmer establish his own organization in the southern cape, using the Jungle Theatre Company development model.

JTC aims to inspire and empower disadvantaged children & youth to make positive changes in their lives and build a peaceful and vibrant South Africa by drawing on South Africa's cultural heritage and indigenous languages to find connections to the environment and human nature, creating and performing original accessible African children's theatre shows that bring together music, dance, masks, puppets, clowning and storytelling. These performances raise awareness, inspire learning and motivate children and youth to participate in workshops and performing arts training resulting in; developing life skills; building self-confidence and creating opportunities.

The management team comprises the Artistic Director/Founder, Vincent Meyburgh, who is a drama graduate from University of Cape Town and started the company in 1995; Manager, Miranda Tait, who manages all aspects of JTC related to the organization's projects, fundraising, finance, HR and marketing and one artistic team representative Seiso Qhola, who has been involved with acting from the age of 14, graduated from the JTC Laduma Program in 2010 and has since performed in many of JTC's shows

The JTC Artistic team consists of 6 professional theatre makers from diverse communities namely Ntombifuthi Mkhasibe, obtained a National Diploma in Drama Studies at the Durban University of Technology and had her own group of young kids that she taught Zulu dance called Iziquqwane. She joined JTC in 2009 and has been involved in many productions and programmes;; Siyawandisa Badi, has worked into the performing arts industry since 2001 and also graduated from the JTC Laduma Program in 2010; Joce Engelbrecht, attained a Performance Certificate from the Trinity College of London and joined JTC as a puppeteer in 2014; Naledi Tlailane, who graduated from JTC's *Creating Theatre with Children* programme in June 2017. Since then she has been an enthusiastic addition to the Artistic Team involved with the Muizenberg Performing Arts Club; schools marketing and the Vrygrond Festival.

JTC's voluntary board consists of local people who have expertise in NGO governance, performing arts and education. JTC is based in Muizenberg, Cape Town and tours to all over South Africa and beyond.

JTC partners with educational, social, environmental, health and arts organizations and get financial support from government, private trusts, foundations and individuals.

JTC's Vision & Mission

JTC's vision is a world in which people are socially, culturally and environmentally conscious and active.

JTC's mission is to create original African theatre inspiring, empowering and connecting young people's hearts to understand and care for the community, culture and nature. Drawing on South African's diverse cultural heritage JTC finds connections to the environment and human nature making theatre that brings together music, dance, masks, puppets, clowning and multi lingual storytelling. JTC makes proudly South African theatre that speaks to the present experience; can powerfully inhabit non theatre spaces; is accessible to a broad audience and generates exciting future possibilities. JTC finances itself with a mix of private funding, local and national funding. Although JTC endeavours to become more self-sustaining in today's South African society it remains hard to prioritize theatre above other more pressing costs which leaves the organization mainly carried by donations.

Products

Having developed and honed a unique innovative approach to performing arts for young people, going back over 20 years, JTC has created a catalogue of performing arts productions and drama workshop programmes in a unique Jungle style.

JTC offers the following products:

1. Original African theatre productions for children and young people on social, cultural and environmental themes;
2. Theatre workshops for children, young people and adults;
3. Theatre skills training for adults working with children and young people;
4. Performing arts clubs with children for children;