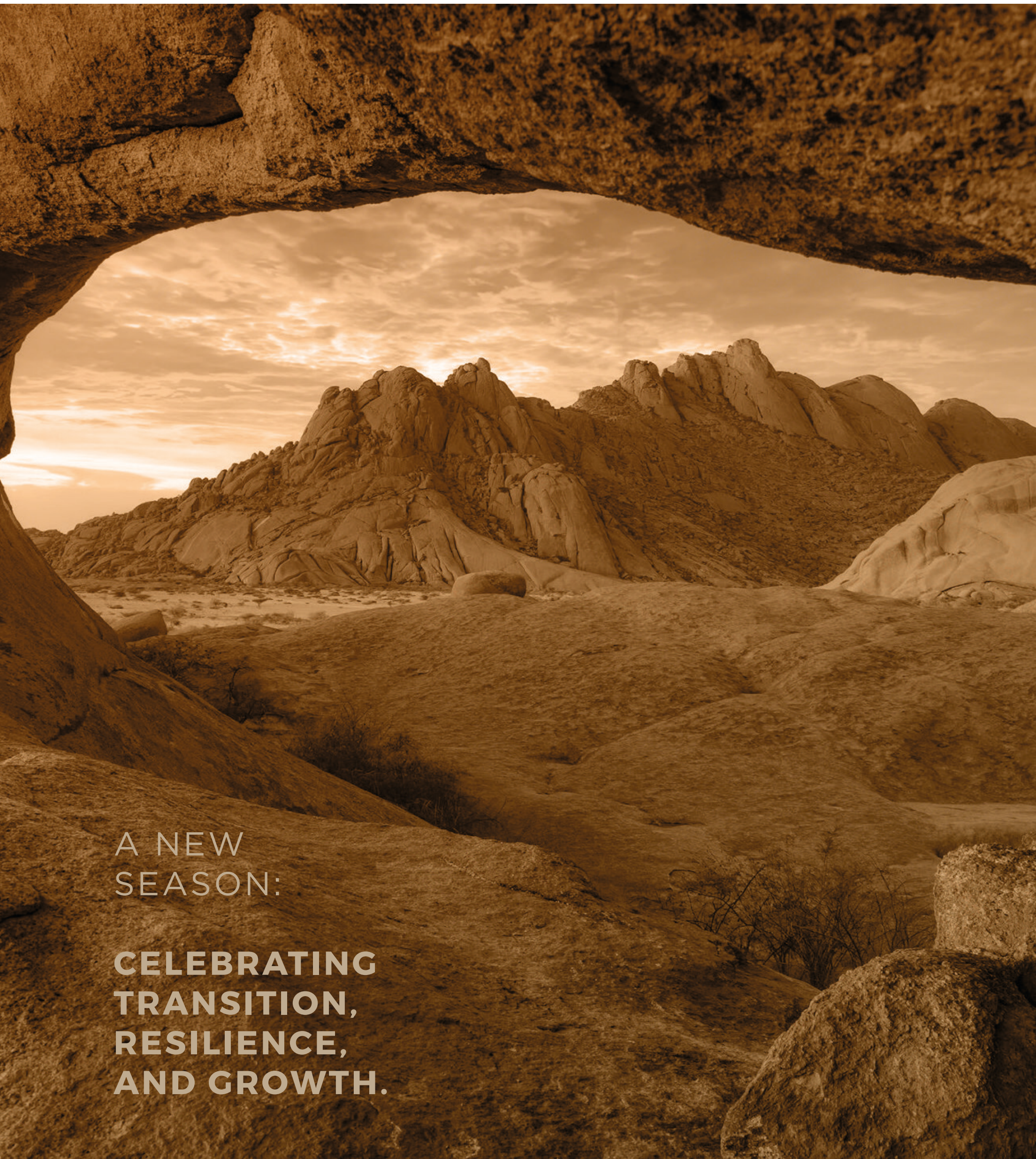


CREATING TOMORROW, TODAY.



A NEW  
SEASON:

**CELEBRATING  
TRANSITION,  
RESILIENCE,  
AND GROWTH.**

# PROGRAMME

28/03  
2026

Arrival of Guests (Red Carpet)  
Seating of Guests in the Theatre  
National & AU Anthems

Official Opening

**Official Word of Welcome:**

General Manager, National Theatre of Namibia – **Ms. Alma Ulamba**

**Statement:**

Chairperson, Namibia Film Commission – **Ms. Esther Beukes**

**Auditors' Note**

**In Memoriam**

**Official Address:**

Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts & Culture –  
**Hon. Sanet Steenkamp**

**Lifetime Achievement & Special Recognition Awards:**

Theatre: Lifetime Achievement Award – *David Ndjavera*  
(Posthumous) & *Jenny Schuster*

Theatre: Special Recognition Award – *Eslon Hindundu*

Film: Special Recognition Award – *Tarah Shinavene*

**Entertainment**

**Keynote Address by Guest Speaker:**

**Hakeem Kae-Kazim**

# AWWARD CEREMONY

## **THEATRE AWARDS**

Best Production Design / Set Design

Best Stage Technician

Best Score & Sound Design (Original)

Best Stage Craft: Costume & Wardrobe Design

Best Stage Craft: Make-Up

Best Supporting Actor

Best Newcomer Dancer

Best Newcomer Actor

Best Supporting Dancer

Best Actor

Best Choreographer

Best Lead Dancer

Best Script (Original)

Best Director

Best Staged Production

## **Entertainment**

# AWARD CEREMONY

## **FILM AWARDS**

Best Production Design

Best Sound & Music

Best Costume Design & Make-Up

Audience Choice Award

Best Newcomer Director

Best Short Film

Best Web Series

Best Supporting Actor (Female)

Best Supporting Actor (Male)

Best Actor (Female)

Jury Special Mention

Best Actor (Male)

Best Cinematography

Best Editor

Best Script ( Original)

Best Director

Best Documentary

Best Feature Film

## **Closing & Vote of Thanks**

Executive Secretary, Namibia Film Commission,

***Ms Florence Haifene***

# FOREWORD



**Alma Ulamba**  
General Manager,  
National Theatre of Namibia (NTN)

It is with great pride and a deep sense of purpose that we present the Namibian Theatre and Film Awards (NTFAs) 2026.

After a six-year hiatus, the return of these awards marks more than the continuation of a tradition; it signals a renewed commitment to recognising, celebrating, and elevating Namibia's creative industry. The years between 2019 and 2025 were among the most challenging our sector has ever faced. Yet, even in uncertainty, our artists continued to create, to tell stories, and to give voice to the Namibian experience.

This edition of the NTFAs is therefore both a celebration and a reflection. It honours not only excellence in performance and production but also the resilience, innovation, and unwavering passion that have sustained our creative community over time.

The National Theatre of Namibia remains steadfast in its mandate to nurture and promote the performing arts. Through the NTFAs, we recognise the individuals who bring stories to life on stage, behind the scenes, and now, through the inclusion of dance, across an even broader creative spectrum. This evolution reflects our commitment to inclusivity and to ensuring that all artistic expressions are given the platform they deserve.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the adjudication panel, whose professionalism and integrity have ensured a credible and rigorous process. We also thank our partners and supporters, whose continued investment affirms the value of the arts within our national development agenda. To those who join us going forward, we welcome your partnership in shaping a sustainable future for Namibia's creative economy.

To the nominees and all participating artists: your work matters. You are the custodians of our stories, the architects of our cultural identity, and the visionaries who continue to inspire generations.

As we gather to honour excellence on 28 March 2026, may this moment remind us all of the power of the arts to connect, to challenge, and to transform.



**Florence Haifene**  
Executive Secretary,  
Namibia Film Commission (NFC)

It is with great excitement and honour that the Namibia Film Commission (NFC) co-hosts the Namibian Theatre and Film Awards (NTFAs) 2026.

As the statutory body mandated to regulate, develop and promote Namibia's film sector, the Commission recognises this moment as both a celebration and a reflection of how far the industry has come. The return of the NTFAs after six years marks not only a long-awaited revival, but a celebration of resilience, creativity and relentless passion.

The past years have not been without challenges. Yet throughout this period, Namibian filmmakers continued to create and tell stories that matter. It is this commitment that has contributed to the creative and cultural industries, including film, being recognised as priority sectors under the leadership of Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Meme Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

The Commission is encouraged by the growth reflected in 64 film submissions received for *The Film Week 2026* and 54 submissions for the Awards, of which 45 were adjudicated and 19 nominated. These are not merely figures, they are indicators of an industry that is growing, diversifying and professionalising, with new voices and fresh perspectives shaping its future.

In response, the NFC introduced new categories such as Best Newcomer Director, Best Supporting Actors, Best Costume Design and Make-Up and Best Web Series, reflecting an industry that is evolving with global trends and embracing new forms of storytelling. The Commission reaffirms its mandate to create an enabling environment, support industry development and position Namibian films both regionally and internationally.

We extend our appreciation to all film practitioners who have contributed to the industry's growth. To those who submitted, your continued works sustain the industry. To the nominees of 2026, you represent excellence and progress.

We also thank our dedicated judges for their diligence and professionalism, the auditors for ensuring the integrity and transparency of the process and our valued partners and sponsors whose support has made this return possible. By partnering with the film industry, we can unlock Namibia's potential as a premier global filming destination, driving sustainable economic growth and securing high-impact brand visibility through the power of our national stories.

As we reunite in celebration on 28 March 2026, may this moment inspire us to continue raising the standard of Namibian storytelling.

# HOSTS



## **Josy Nghipandua**

Josy Nghipandua is one of Namibia's premier communicators, with over 17 years of excellence in the media industry. As the charismatic host of NBC's hit weekly show *Tupopyeni*, she connects with the nation every week. Beyond the screen, Josy is the most sought-after corporate MC and public speaking trainer, known for blending professionalism with genuine warmth.

She is also the visionary Founder and Managing Director of QoS Media House, a testament to her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to elevating Namibian media. Josy brings a unique blend of corporate polish, creative energy, and heartfelt humanity to every stage she graces.



## **Skrypt**

Skrypt is a premier Namibian multi-hyphenate who has seamlessly bridged the worlds of entertainment and elite sports. A veteran of the airwaves with 9 years of radio experience, he currently hosts *Fresh Air with Chazz* on Fresh FM while reaching audiences across Africa as the face of *Bora Box* on Channel O. His deep-rooted passion for football is reflected in his roles as the host of *Final Whistle*, a sharp-witted pundit on One Africa TV, and a FIFA-licensed football agent.

Beyond his broadcasting prowess, Skrypt is an acclaimed Hip Hop artist and NAMA winner, celebrated for his lyrical dexterity and significant contributions to the Namibian music scene.

# GUEST OF HONOUR



## **Hakeem Kae-Kazim** Actor/Producer/Director

Hakeem is an internationally acclaimed actor, producer, and director who first gained global recognition for his powerful performance as George Rutugunda in the Oscar-nominated *Hotel Rwanda*. His extensive career spans film, television, and theatre, with roles including Colonel Dubaku in *24*, Zeus in *Troy: Fall of a City*, Gentleman Jockard in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, starring Johnny Depp, Mr. Scott in *Black Sails* and Admiral Wilcox in *King Kong vs Godzilla*.

Hakeem's versatility further extends to acclaimed productions such as the historical miniseries *Roots*, *Dominion*, Zimbabwean revolutionary Robert Mugabe in *Mugabe*, *Law and Order: SVU* with Mariska Hargitay, *X-men Origins: Wolverine* with Hugh Jackman, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, *Serenity*, starring Mathew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway, and numerous recurring roles in *Lost*, *Criminal Minds*, *NCIS*, and *Gotham*.

In 2021, he received a SAFTA Golden Horn Award for his role in Netflix's *Riding with Sugar* and Best Actor for his film *Masinga: The Calling* at the MEI International Film Festival.

In his latest work, he can be seen starring as Etienne Joubert in *Dangerous Liaisons*, Detective Masinga Luthuli in *Masinga*, Moise Tshome in the Swedish film *Dag Hammarskjöld*, Tiger in Amazon's *Anansi Boys*, Gavin in *Death in Paradise* and in *Anakalpour* portraying the King.

Beyond live-action performance, Hakeem Kae-Kazim is also renowned for his distinctive voice work, contributing to globally successful video game franchises *Halo*, *Call of Duty*, *The Bourne Conspiracy*, as well as the animation project, *How to Train Your Dragon*, in which he voiced the character Krogan.

A gifted storyteller behind the camera as well, Hakeem has produced *Black November*, *Man on Ground*, and *Last Flight to Abuja*, and recently directed his first feature, *It's the Blackness* (2026). His ongoing projects include *Average Jo* with BET and Netflix, *Black Axe*, *Blakbet*, and *Kwame: The Rise of the Pan Africans*. Hakeem's remarkable career continues to inspire emerging artists and elevate African storytelling on the global stage.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## **THEATRE: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



**David Njavera  
(Posthumous)**



**Jenny Schuster**

## **THEATRE: SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**



**Eslon Hindudu**

## **FILM: SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**



**Tarah Shinavene**

# THEATRE JUDGES



**Ernst Steynberg**

## ERNST STEYNBERG

Ernst Steynberg graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Drama (distinction) from the University of Namibia in 1993. He went on to build a successful career at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), where he worked as a Television Producer/Director and later as Executive Television Producer until 2003. Among numerous career highlights during this tenure, he founded the weekly magazine programme Tutaleni, which remains on air to this day.

In 2008, Ernst joined dB Audio Namibia as a partner, shifting his focus to live event production. As Key Client Liaison, Creative Director, Event Producer, and Show Caller, he has led a wide range of high-profile corporate events, groundbreaking awards ceremonies, and innovative employee engagement projects.

Ernst also specialises as a Production Designer for film and video productions, serves as a ghost voice and voice-over artist for various commercial and creative projects, and contributes as Technical Director for theatre productions.



**Dr. Suzette van der Smit**

## DR. SUZETTE VAN DER SMIT

Born in East London, South Africa, Dr. van der Smit began her journey in the arts at the University of the Free State, where she obtained her BA in Drama and a Diploma in Higher Education. Her career in Namibia began in 1979 in Tsumeb, eventually leading her to Windhoek, where she dedicated 39 years to teaching Speech and Drama at the Khomasdal College and the University of Namibia.

A lifelong scholar, Suzette has earned a BA Honours in Drama, a Master's in Arts Education, a Master's in Drama, and a PhD in Performing Arts. Though officially retired, her passionate love for students and the theatre keeps her active as a part-time lecturer at the University of Namibia.

Beyond her academic legacy, she is a proud mother and grandmother to a tiny performer who is already following in her footsteps.



**Dr. Perminus Matiure**

## DR. PERMINUS MATIURE

Raised in a musical household, Dr Perminus Matiure began his journey with the mbira at age twelve, eventually pursuing both Master's and Doctoral degrees centred on the instrument. His extensive research has led to numerous publications in ethnomusicology and presentations at prestigious international conferences, including ICTM, PASME, and CIMCIM.

Dr. Matiure is a prominent figure in public sector ethnomusicology, leading ongoing initiatives such as the Tree Growing for Instrument Construction Project in Zimbabwe and innovation in musical instrument design. His work extends across borders, encompassing San dancing in Tsumkwe and youth empowerment in Kwando, Namibia. Beyond his research, he is a versatile practitioner who instructs, builds, tunes, and performs the ngoma, chipendani, and mbira. He currently teaches music video production and the archiving of tangible and intangible musical assets at the University of Namibia.



**Dr Emelda Uaundjua  
#Gawas**

## DR. EMELDA UAUNDJUA #GAWAS

Dr. Emelda #Gawas is a Senior Lecturer of English and Literature at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, specialising in African and Namibian literature, postcolonial studies, and new African identities. She is the Communication Section Head, and she oversees the English and Communication degree programmes.

She holds a PhD in English Studies with a focus on African literature and has extensive research experience in Afropolitanism and sociolinguistics. Besides her academic achievements, Dr. Gawas speaks multiple languages, including Khoekhoegowab, Otjiherero, English, and Afrikaans, reflecting her diverse cultural engagement.



**Anchen Wille**

## ANCHEN WILLE

A Windhoek native and a lifelong devotee of the arts, Anchen Wille began her dance training at age five. After excelling in ballet, modern, and hip-hop, she earned her International Teachers Degree through the Association of International Dance Teachers.

For over two decades, Anchen has been a driving force in the Namibian arts scene. As the founder of the Anchen Wille Dance Academy—the nation's largest dance studio—she celebrates 21 years of artistic excellence this year. Her career is defined by sold-out productions and international accolades, yet her greatest pride remains the individual growth of her dancers. Through her academy,

Anchen continues to shape the future of dance in Namibia, one step at a time.

# FILM JURY



Zellmari Brandt

## ZELLMARI BRANDT

Zellmari Brandt is an accomplished producer and film professional with over a decade of experience in film, live performance, large-scale event production and broadcasting. She has extensively worked with local leading media and production houses before assuming her role as Head Marketing at Future Media Group and One Africa Television Channel Manager.

Zellmari holds a Bachelor of Arts in Live Performance (Film) from AFDA Cape Town. Her expertise in content development and audience engagement, combined with her leadership in high-pressure creative environments, positions her as a Lead Film Juror.



Florian Schott

## FLORIAN SCHOTT

Florian Schott is an internationally experienced filmmaker who has lived and worked in Namibia since 2009, contributing significantly to the visibility of Namibian cinema on the global stage. He is a five-time Namibian Theatre and Film Awards winner whose Namibian films *Everything Happens for a Reason*, *Katutura* and *Baxu and the Giants* have screened at major international festivals and earned numerous accolades worldwide. *Baxu and the Giants* marked a historic milestone as the first Namibian film to stream on Netflix.

Alongside his African work, Florian has directed and co-directed high-profile European television series and films, including *Der Dänemark-Krimi* and the limited series *Take the Money and Run*.

Currently developing multiple African feature films and a limited series, he brings deep international experience, narrative sensitivity, and a strong commitment to African storytelling to his role as Film Jury expert.



Obed Emvula

## OBED EMVULA

Obed Emvula is a dynamic and versatile film and television professional with experience in acting, writing, producing and digital marketing. He brings profound expertise in production, content development, and marketing for distribution, supported by multilingual proficiency in German, French and Portuguese. Obed has a strong international network in Hollywood, Pinewood, South Africa and beyond and is committed to advancing the Namibian and African film industry. He has a proven track record in creating award-nominated and high-grossing content, such as the film, *Katutura*, which has screened in over 140 countries and featured on major airlines.

He holds qualifications in Acting for Camera, Sound Engineering and Digital Marketing. Obed is a part-time lecturer in Scriptwriting at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, Department of Digital Arts and Animation.

Obed has previously served as a Lead Juror of the inaugural Botswana International Film Festival and is currently chairperson of the Namibia Oscars Selection Committee as well as a member of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (International Emmys).



Selima Henock

## SELIMA HENOCK

Selima Henock is a seasoned entertainment journalist, filmmaker and creative practitioner with extensive experience across journalism, film, television, and theatre.

Her background as an actress, writer, director, and producer gives her a well-rounded and critical perspective on storytelling, performance, and production quality.

Selima has contributed to a wide range of productions, including scripted series, music videos and reality television, while developing original screenplays and directing socially relevant content.

She holds a Diploma in Television Production from the College of the Arts and a Diploma in Media Studies from the University of Namibia. As founder of the Nam Acting Club, she actively supports talent development and industry advocacy.



Ockert B. Jansen

## OCKERT B. JANSEN

Ockert B. Jansen is a distinguished broadcasting executive and communications expert with over 15 years of experience spanning journalism, film and television production and strategic communications. He has held senior leadership roles at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, One Africa Television and Business and Intellectual Property Authority. His career includes executive producing local television content, managing production resources and shaping national media policy and audience strategy.

Ockert holds a Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communications from American University in Washington DC, Magna Cum Laude and a Bachelor Honours in Journalism and Communication, Distinction. Having a strong foundation in storytelling, content evaluation and media governance, he brings informed industry insight and professional rigour to his role as Film Juror member.

An abstract graphic featuring a light brown silhouette of a human profile facing right, with a dark brown circle overlapping its lower portion.

# THEATRE AWARD NOMINEES

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN / SET DESIGN



**Lila Swanepoel**  
*Boet & Sus*



**Patrick Sam**  
*Coming Home Dead*



**Saima Iita and Hage Mukwendje**  
*#Aoni //Aes*

BEST STAGE TECHNICIAN



**dB Audio**  
*Forty Years of Fabulous*



**Desmond Coetze**  
*Boet & Sus*



**Richard Richter  
& Marvin Khoeseb**  
*#Aoni //Aes*

BEST STAGECRAFT: COSTUME AND WARDROBE DESIGN



**Cynthia Schimming  
& Lizette Kavari**  
*Hereroland*



**Hafeni Frans**  
*#Aoni //Aes*



**Tsatago //Garöeb**  
*Naked Spaces*

BEST STAGE CRAFT: MAKE-UP



**Ethan Madison**  
*Naked Spaces*



**Judith 'Miss Jey' Mwinga**  
*Boet & Sus*



**Matjituavi Leony Nguaike**  
*Naughty Little Flea*

BEST ACTOR



**Dawie Engelbrecht**  
*#Aoni //Aes*



**Hazel Hinda**  
*#Aoni //Aes*



**Jeanne-Danae Januarie**  
*Naked Spaces*



**Melgisedek Nehemia**  
*Naked Spaces*



**Ndayola Ulenga**  
*The Wasp*



**Odile Gertze**  
*Naked Spaces*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



**Angelina Akawa**  
*Naughty Little Flea*



**Chantel 'Diolini' Uiras**  
*People of Song*



**Rodelio Lewis**  
*Naked Spaces*

BEST NEWCOMER ACTOR



**Ethan Januarie**  
*Die Stoep*



**Galilei Njembo**  
*You have Loved Enough*



**Michael Nakale**  
*Naked Spaces*

BEST NEWCOMER DANCER



**Joe Nakapale**  
*Remembering Johnny*



**Justin Tshabalala**  
*The Little Prince*



**William Goaseb**  
*The Little Prince*

BEST SUPPORTING DANCER



**Jeffrey Ndjahare**  
*A Picassiano Dance*



**Sydney Farao**  
*The Little Prince*



**Treasurique Titus**  
*Land*

BEST SCORE & SOUND DESIGN (ORIGINAL)



**Eslon Hindundu**  
*Youth Ochestras of Namibia (YONA) - Otji-hambarere*



**Lize Ehlers, Karl Ehlers & Imms Nicolau**  
*Boet & Sus*



**Moises Domingo, Diolini, Osmond & Owoseb**  
*#Aoni //Aes*

BEST SCRIPT (ORIGINAL)



**Bret Kamwi**  
*Three Sisters*



**Jonathan Shasha**  
*Die Stoep*



**Rodney Gariseb**  
*Naked Spaces*

BEST LEAD DANCER



**Desmond Kamerika**  
*Remembering Johnny*



**Justina Andreas**  
*Land*



**Mary Jane Andreas**  
*Remembering Johnny*

BEST CHOREOGRAPHER



**Marchell Linus**  
*People of Song*



**Phillipe Talavera**  
*A Picassiano Dance*



**Phillipe Talavera**  
*Remembering Johnny*

BEST DIRECTOR



**Ndayola Ulenga**  
*The Wasp*



**Patrick Sam**  
*Coming Home Dead*



**Rodney Gariseb**  
*Naked Spaces*

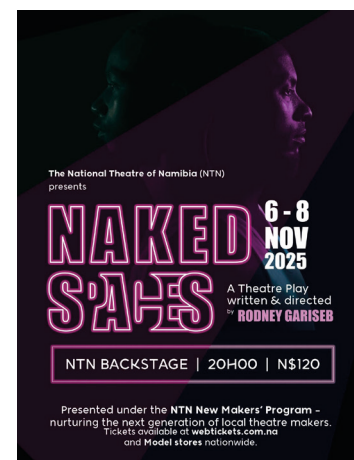
BEST STAGED PRODUCTION



**The Wasp**



**Coming Home Dead**



**Naked Spaces**



# FILM AWARD NOMINEES

BEST SOUND & MUSIC



**Ginge, David Benade**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Wotjek Majewski, Ponti Dikuua,  
Jericho Gawanab**  
Lukas



**Errol Geingob**  
Speel Aan

BEST COSTUME DESIGN & MAKE-UP



**Kulan Ganes**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Aubrey Tjerivanga,  
Selma Shikongeni**  
Skeleton Coast



**Kulan Ganes**  
Under The Hanging Tree

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN



**Stephan Eins, Jennifer  
Bassingthwaight,  
Ernst Steynberg**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Sonje Fraser**  
Skeleton Coast



**Lene Janse van Rensburg**  
Speel Aan

BEST NEWCOMER DIRECTOR



**Laudika Hamutenya**  
Emanya. LUNA

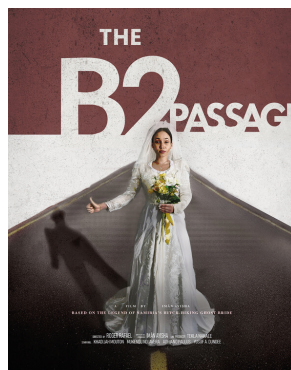


**Roger Rafael**  
The B2 Passage, Ompata  
WebSeries

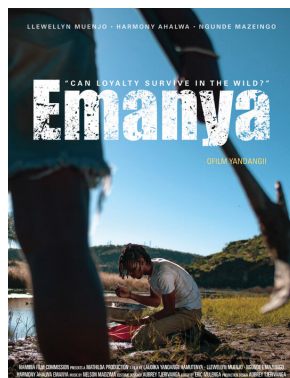


**Ndakalako Shilongo**  
Momeya

BEST SHORT FILM



**The B2 Passage**

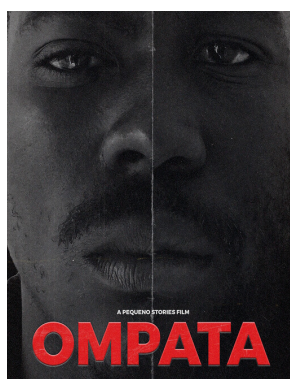


**Emanya**



**Momeya**

BEST WEB SERIES



**Ompata Web Series**



**Rock the Boat**



**Tsek**

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (FEMALE)



**Chantel 'Diolini' Uiras**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Tjiurimo Kandjii**  
Die Rooftog



**Roya Diehl**  
Under The Hanging Tree

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (MALE)



**Harmony Ahalwa**  
Lubinda



**Alejandro Cooper**  
Lukas



**David Ndjavera**  
Under The Hanging Tree

BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)



**Ebba Nashipe**  
Okallila



**Hazel Hinda**  
Speel Aan



**Girley Jazama**  
Under The Hanging Tree

BEST ACTOR (MALE)



**Simon Hanga**  
Kapana



**Dawie Engelbrecht**  
Speel Aan



**Bret Kamwi**  
Wish For Death

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY



**Haiko Boldt**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Renier de Bruyn**  
Under The Hanging Tree



**Taonga Buluku**  
Wish for Death

BEST EDITOR



**Haiko Boldt**  
#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm



**Haiko Boldt, Willem Maritz,  
Giovanni Alberto**  
Lukas



**Errol Geingob**  
Speel Aan

BEST SCRIPT



**Mubiana Leon Mubiana**  
*Lubinda*



**Mikiros Garoes**  
*Lukas*



**Errol Geingob**  
*Speel Aan*

BEST DIRECTOR



**Tim Huebschle**  
*#LANDoftheBRAVEfilm*



**Errol Geingob**  
*Speel Aan*



**Perivi Katjavivi**  
*Under the Hanging Tree*

BEST DOCUMENTARY



**The Sea People of the Namibian Coast**



**Walvis Tale**



**The Weight of Tomorrow**

BEST FEATURE FILM



**#LANDoftheBRAVE-film**



**Skeleton Coast**



**Speel Aan**

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD  
VOTED FOR AT **THE FILM WEEK 2026**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

