

"SPREAD YOUR WINGS & XPLORE IN AFRIQUE-CARIB"

29 August – 10 September 2007

Johannesburg, South Africa



"SHARING THE SPIRIT OF UBUNTU"

Youth Exchange Program between The Netherlands & South Africa

Preface

This brochure will take you on an experience that transcends from social awakenings to cultural differences painted by a range of artful forms such as theatre, poetry, dance and music. Our fertile ground: the beautiful and fruitful South Africa.

Skills, attitude and knowledge were triggered and molded by various workshops. These activities/excursions led to seven showcases that dealt with the themes Sexuality (HIV), Poverty and Identity at the end. Edutainment (education & entertainment) were brought together throughout the entire trip.

Fifteen Dutch and fourteen South African young artists between the ages of 18 to 26 got the opportunity to exchange their cultures mainly by using art as the vehicle. Seven showcases (using songs, poems, dances, language, acting, originality and more) were sculpted by the students and profiled to an audience in Johannesburg. The audience interacted and was fascinated as the drama unfolded. At the same time, the theatre plays contained important messages about identity, oppression, poverty, rape, sexuality and HIV/AIDS. Edutainment were brought together throughout the entire trip.

The theatre plays are symbolic for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the social aspects of theatre the Dutch government seeks to Xplore and advise their youth on. For instance, eliminating poverty by 2015 is one the first MDG on the list

189 countries compiled together on how the world should be in 2015. The similar goal of Afrique-Carib & Village Gossip Productions can be detected in the purpose of empowering young people in their talent, attitude and broaden views in this case the vehicle being theatre skills.

The circle of knowledge was mainly created by giving workshops on Sexuality, Identity & Poverty; watching the movies "Yesterday" and "American History X", road trips to Hector Pieterse Museum, Mandela's Home and the Soweto Township. This circle of knowledge operated as food for thought to tell and express their own stories and give feedback on the experiences of others. The creative directors and coaches worked with the students on getting the best results out of these students to display on stage.

This project was an eye-opener: the differences and similarities between our cultures, it allowed the students to self reflect as an individual and new relationships were reaped. Another important aspect of this all was the chance the organizers got to spot talent.

Afrique-Carib hopes for the following:

- that this project gives birth to some good productions yet to come;
- that we gave the students a reason to look into the future and control their lives;
- that the project makes an enormous impact on the attitude of the youth, their school results, their drive to go for the best and their development in the themes of the Millennium Development Goals;
- that we can truly overcome the struggle.

In September 2007 the seven (7) plays were performed in Johannesburg and we hope that the Dutch audience will also be able to enjoy the plays at **FESTIVAL AFRIQUE-CARIB 2008** in Almere.



*Dr. I.A. Acheampong, MBA
Chairman Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation*



*Y.R.D. Blinker, BA
CEO Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation*



*Z.N.M. Blinker, BA
PR Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation*

Contents

Purpose exchange program	4
Organizers	5
Mentors & Participants	6
South Africa: mother of culture	10
The Netherlands: melting pot	10
Preparation	11
Program	12
Lessons learned	18
Publicity	19

Afrikae-Carib
Spread your Wings
Xplore



11. Preparation

Purpose exchange program

The youth selected, from The Netherlands (15) & South Africa (14), utilized theatrical arts as their main source of communication. These participants were encouraged to challenge themselves by participating in groups which dealt with artistic workshops ranging from dramatic games to choreographed dances along with thematic dialogues. Through workshops the participant exchanges his or her personal stories, interest, dreams, views/opinions and frustrations. This helps to allow them to discover and explore their own cultural similarities and differences. In addition to a daily curriculum, field trips were planned to get a glimpse of the natural surroundings and common South African life and history. Communication was the key to handle the issues that came up in-depth. Trust and respect were incorporated in everything we did, in order to create a unified space and family-feeling. Once this was accomplished within the groups a play was presented in different areas around Johannesburg.

exchange program
The Netherlands
South Africa

Organizers

Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation

Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation is a Dutch based organization that aims to profile the Afro-Caribbean culture through her festival. This is accomplished by music, dialogues and workshops that deal with for example poverty & sports. The aim is to create a unity-awareness between people in the Diaspora living in The Netherlands - getting Caribbean and Surinam people closer to Africans. Afrique-Carib believes in knowing your history to be able to deal with the present and to plan your future. Due to the big distance amongst these above-mentioned people it was decided to take some of the youth with a diverse background to South Africa to show what Africa is all about. Africa is more than what is seen through the eyes of the media.

Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation (*The Netherlands*) & Village Gossip Productions (*South Africa*)

Village Gossip Productions

Village Gossip Productions is a collaborative, multidisciplinary production and theatre company that seeks to nurture, encourage, empower and develop artists (especially women). Founded by Napo Masheane and she together with Khumo Mathule further develop it to what it is today. The mission of Village Gossip Productions is to provide a space of self-identification and self-expression for artists, to create and perform social conscious art. The vision is to establish an art-networking program with similar organizations both nationally and internationally.

Mentors & Participants

Mentors

Ylanga Blinker
Zulile Blinker
Napo Masheane
Esmée Ronde
Debra Leshika
Lebo Tsomele

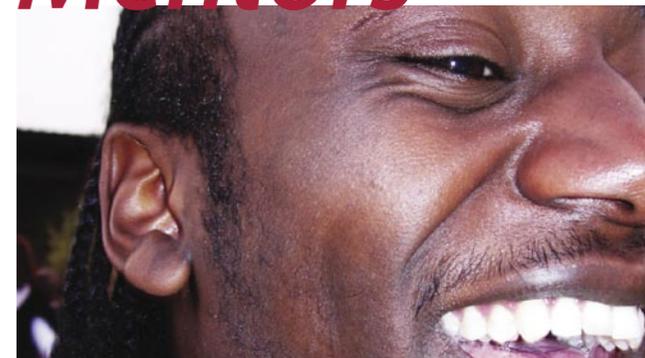
*Project Manager
Youth Coach & Counselor
Creative Director
Assistant Creative Director
Dance Instructor & Youth Coach
Production Assistant*

Participants

Shayveca Kreuger
Muna Shirwa
Charissa Doelwijt
Arichelle Marshall
Espreranza Denswil
Stacey Esajas
Cathrina de Graf
Sharin Defoe
Jörgen Gario
Verno Romney
Michael Diawuo
Furlan Felter
Mitchel Dankoor
Joey Boink
Wouter van Waning

*Poet
Writer, Songstress, Poet
Dancer, poet
Actress
Actress, Rap, Poet
Comedian, Poet
Singer
Dancer
Poet
Rap
Poet, Singer
Musician
Dancer
Camera man, New Media
Assistant Camera man*

Mentors



Participants

Mentors Participants

continued...

Sthembiso Mathabela
Styx Mokejane
Teboho Ramokgothoane
Nomfundo Memela
Jabu Gwebu

Actor
Actor, Singer, Director
Dancer, Actor
Singer, Poet
Actor, Poet

Sistah Raphulu
Thuli Mabaso
Zintle Makeng
Brenda Masemola
Kholosa Tshandana
Kgosi Monoto
Octavius Mmakola

Actress, Singer, Poet
Actress, Poet
Actress, Writer
Actress, Dancer, Singer
Actress, Singer
Actor, Poet, Singer
Song Writer, Poet

Progress Matau
Senzi Mtsweni

Poet, Folk Song
Vocalist, Writer



The camp was exciting, therapeutic and part of a healing session. If you have never loved dance you had to fall in love with. At the end of the day I discovered that we are a diverse, cultural being and global human beings who are bound together by arts, culture, identity etc. **Progress**

Getting kicked out of Maropeng was one of the highlights of the whole cultural exchange. I seriously hope the South Africans will one day have the opportunity of coming to Holland, just to complete the program. I can't imagine having spent my September recess with a greater bunch of people.

These days I walk around campus and wish that everyone would be a part of a cultural exchange program, to experience the beauty and similarities that all people of the world poses. **Zintle**



Uitdagend, anders, confronterend, leerzaam, overweldigend, motiverend, moeilijk, fijn, mooi, spannend, eng, BRUISEND! Dit zijn slechts enkele woorden die mijn reis

met Afrique-Carib naar Zuid Afrika beschrijven. Slechts enkele woorden want met woorden is deze ervaring niet te beschrijven. **Esmée Ronde**



Hey lovely people, Ik vond het heel bijzonder om deel uit te maken van zo een creatieve en inspirerende groep, en het is een ervaring die ik altijd zal koesteren. Wel nog een extra bedankje naar de organisatie; ook al had ik soms commentaar, en was ik het niet altijd eens met de gang van zaken; ik heb dit project als zeer positief ervaren ik ben jullie dankbaar dat ik deze kans heb gekregen. **Arichelle**



Hi there, I must say it has been a privilege and a life changing experience to interact with everyone from Holland. Thank you for making it possible and all the best for the future till next time. **Senzi**

As a person who's always worked hard to be accepted and recognised amongst my peers I was quite amazed

that people who did not know me had so much love for me. The entire program helped me gather my confidence and really proved to me that I can work within a group with different individuals and together we can create a masterpiece. **Sistah**



I went with an open mind and I returned with an experience that goes beyond time. Being in such a creative environment and being able to express how I really feel

about the worldly issues and having others around me that understand is the best motivation any artist can get. The exchange is not something that can be measured or assessed but is more a journey that should be left untouched and preserved in those wonderful few who where there. **Jörgen**



The project gave me an opportunity to grow in social terms and to gain great experience within the arts. It then taught me how to adapt and manage through environmental change and furthermore it helped me getting to know my true potential. **Octa**

When I joined the project I was expecting to learn a lot about and from the South Africans, I had no idea I would learn so much about myself. Afrique-Carib promised that we would exchange, and I exchanged many things on many different levels. I will always cherish the South Africa I've experienced.

Stacey



I have grown so much in such a little period of time, gain a couple of life lessons and now I can hear and see better than ever before. South Africa has

really become another home away from home. Thank you Afrique-Carib for this great journey. **Muna**

The people in this project made it worthwhile. Some have learnt, some have cried, some have bonded in a way beyond our imagination. Students and mentors got a chance to experience, discover and be the Ubuntu Spirit that lives in us all. **Zulile**



*all the **best**
for the **future**,
till next time . . .*



South Africa: mother of culture

South Africa is one of the most multicultural countries in the world and is very developed in the cultural arts - music and theatre. A lot of musical concerts (Ladysmith Black Mambazo) and theatre plays (African Footprints,

Gumboots, Umoja, Afrika Afrika) are very much wanted and sold out throughout Europe. Besides this we met a very talented and confident partner in Napo Masheane and her company. Therefore the choice to go to South Africa to have a cultural exchange through using the arts was an inevitable decision for Afrique-Carib.



The Netherlands: melting pot

The Netherlands has become a very multicultural country, especially in Amsterdam where people of 175 nationalities live. In Amsterdam we can speak of a real melting pot of the ingredients Angolans, Dominicans, Ghanaians, Nigerians, Santo Dominicans, St. Maarteners, and Suri-

names. Do these people feel that they are Dutch? Some do and unfortunately most don't because of the word "allochtoon" that separates us all. In a melting pot you have different cultures, ideas, issues, mentalities etc. This melting pot is what it takes to shine in whatever project you think of.

Preparation

October 2006	<i>Zulile Blinker meets Napo Masheane in Amsterdam during Afrovibes Festival and they talked about different topics.</i>
	<i>Zulile invites Ylanga to meet Napo to check what their two companies can achieve together</i>
1 November 2006	<i>Hand in new project proposal by Xplore to go to South Africa instead of Zimbabwe to work on theatre</i>
December 2006	<i>Green light from Xplore to execute the project</i>
April 2007	<i>Orientation visit to South Africa</i>
16 June 2007	<i>Audition of 20 students on skills in Cosmic Theatre (Sahr Ngaujah)</i>
18 August 2007	<i>Preparation course by COS Noord-Holland (Trainer: Esther Anker)</i>
29 August 2007	<i>Departure to Johannesburg</i>
11 September 2007	<i>Return to Amsterdam</i>
13 October 2007	<i>Course by COS Noord-Holland (Trainer: Esther Anker)</i>
Oct – Dec 2007	<i>Tell my story to 150 Dutch citizens</i>

*It started when...
Zulile Blinker met
Napo Masheane in Amsterdam*

Program

Sunday 26 August 2007

Zulile leaves to Johannesburg for the last preparations.

Wednesday 29 August 2007

Check in time at Schiphol 04:20

Departure time 07:20

Jörgen sleeps at Schiphol the night before due to transport reasons. Most of the team members who were dressed in their Afrique-Carib / Xplore T-shirts were on time, but as you know some do it on Surinamese/Italian time- late!- and yes we had to wait for Esperanza. When she came we just had 20 minutes to check in quickly and it was a rush to check in 18 people. Esmée changed her ticket from 08:00 to 07:20 in order to fly together on the same flight. We finally left on the KL 1223 at 07:30 and reached France - Charles de Gaulle at 08:50. At Charles de Gaulle we had to transfer by train to get to gate F36 to continue our flight on AF 0994 to Johannesburg. After a flight of thirteen hours destination O.R. Tambo International Airport was reached where Zulile and the rest of the South African team awaited us.

From the airport to Maropeng it took us one hour and

thirty minutes to reach the camp. On our way to Maropeng we stopped for a midnight snack. At Maropeng some took a shower and others didn't. Within an hour or two everyone was asleep.

Thursday 30 August 2007

We met with Nhtabiseng (Management Assistant) and Magel (Management) of Maropeng whom welcomed us and told us that we had the whole camp to ourselves.

Delia, the life skills coach, came in the morning and she introduced some ice breaking games. One of the games assigned a duo to interview each other with questions that revealed their biggest fear, greatest love and what they disliked most in life. By reporting what the other had said the listening, projecting and presenting skills were triggered. The assignments allowed the individuals to introduce themselves to the group and each other one-on-one.

Just before lunch everyone introduced themselves closing it off with a performance (a dance, poem, rap or song). There was time for mingling and resting in the afternoon. After dinner the ground rules were set and the

program was explained to the participants. The distance between the two groups was evident. Awkward remarks were made (asking South Africans if they were poor). Some felt uncomfortable and made this known. Others went along with the program. Although the unexpected and unknown could be compared to ice-cold showers the laughter kept the spirit up.

Friday 31 August 2007

All students had to mention their name and make a dance movement, which goes with their name. This was a great exercise to get to know each and everyone's name. Napo gave a creative workshop closing it off with a session in which two groups made up words and these words were given to the other group. One person would be assigned to act out the word to their group who has to guess the answer. After the exercise everyone was left with two words and from those words they had to write a poem or song of four lines. In the afternoon dialogues were held on culture. At 16:00 everyone started to get dressed up to go to the GALA evening at the University of Johannesburg. We were the first to reach at the gala at 19:00. The gala was short and very interesting. Three students received an award for

their cultural and artistic achievements at the University. The Jazz band that was playing jammed with the Dutch and South African students. The jam was fun, collaborative and a success. After this evening we were joined by our last South African students Nomfundo, Khosi, Progress & Senzi. The group was almost complete.

Saturday 01 September 2007

Esmée and Napo picked up Joey, our last student who had to join us, at the airport. The workshop on Sexuality was given by Zulile. Creative writing with associated words to sex triggered the student to think of the mind state on sexuality. The good and bad sides of sex were tackled; the expression of self in an ever-changing environment and feeling comfortable with yourself in order to come up for yourself.

In the afternoon we divided the 29 students in seven groups. The focus of the group was to implement the food for thought that was given (workshop, experiences) in this cultural exchange program. The names of the groups were: All Stars, Brain Bulb, Forty-Toes, Insingane, Majita, Miss-Touch & Unlabeled. Esmée started giving samba-dancing workshops.

Sunday 02 September 2007

We had to leave for Soweto at 10:00 am and our bus driver, Ernest, came at 13:00. Patience was the virtue in this. Our journey to Hector Pieterse Museum (student killed on 16 June 1976 for protesting against the Afrikaans language in schools) and afterwards Mandela's House seemed light in the steaming sun. The bite across the street with our Xplore shirts on was a sight that is branded on the many pictures taken that day.

Napo was asked by a couple of the Dutch students if the journey would be to Maropeng or to the townships. The township was our next stop. The choice was given to go in the township by foot in a small mixed group to be able to see, feel and experience it from close. Some students protested and froze. Ernest, the bus driver, decided to drive through the Township where poverty was seen from a bus. Toilets are cleaned twice a week and shared by more than fifty shacks.

In the evening the movie "Yesterday" was watched. This movie about a mother of a young girl dying of HIV was an emotional and truthful one. It left many emotionally

stirred afterwards. Reality was there. Many had to be comforted before going to bed and that was very hard. It shed light on the many stories that were shared and the bonding through comforting.

Monday 03 September 2007

Delia was to give a workshop from 09:00 till 12:30, but she couldn't leave because the work was not done as yet. She believes that if you start something you have to finish it. This day we really went into depth and no cameras were requested. Days like this should be captured in the minds and heart and not on camera. The students openly talked about their pain, love and fear. As of this day we can say that everyone has issues no matter how small or large they are. After Delia's session 90% of the students really opened up and with that, alongside other elements, were able to give their best (200%) to the project.

Tuesday 04 September 2007

In the late afternoon we were disturbed by the management of Maropeng due to the arrival of students (10-12) of an elite rich school from Limpopo. The management told us that we would have to move our night activities to their main building in order for the young students

to have the whole camp to their selves until we return. Going to the main building means walking in the dark where there are wild animals like snakes (which was prohibited by Maropeng) plus re-arranging our schedule. This matter was discussed with the students and we collectively decided not to move from our acquainted vicinity to a new one. So we stayed!

19:00 hrs Talk show - One of the Dutch students asked if speaking Dutch was experienced as an offense. The answer was no as it is just a language. One of the South African students went on to reply with the story of the Afrikaners telling the Blacks: "Mandela might have freed you but this is my restaurant and I am the boss here and you have to do what I say". When this topic was openly discussed the three teachers of the rich school (white, black & mix) took a seat not even 300m from us and listened to everything. They were evidently not pleased by this.

After the talk show promo material (Werk-Weekend & FESTIVAL AFRIQUE-CARIB 2006) of Afrique-Carib was viewed the movie "American History X" followed. This movie deals with racism (which is linked to the Identity theme) and is known for its use of hateful and foul lan-

guage. This evening the campfire was not lit and it was a short night compared to the others.

Wednesday 05 September 2007

The morning started by an army of Maropeng security guards and white workers coming to the camp to do inspection. The management of Maropeng got a call from the teachers of the school stating that we misbehaved and that our behavior was offensive. The youth and their teachers packed their bags and left the camp.

At 09:30 am Ylanga got a call to go to the office because we had gotten ourselves in a very serious problem. Ylanga told Craig Waterland (Management Maropeng) that she couldn't leave the camp at that moment since we had a program to run. She was going when the time would be more appropriate.

Napo, Ylanga & Zulile left to the office around 11:00 am. There Craig & Magel told us the following:

- we heard some very disturbing news that's why we called you guys;
- we had no idea you were adults therefore we charged you 160 Rand instead of 240 Rand;
- you were very impolite towards the young kids, playing

the movie so loud with so much swearing in it. We didn't expect this from adults;

- there have been complaints on our inappropriate behaviour and its disturbing our business;
- you have to leave now.

With all the counter arguments that were listened to but still not acknowledge at the end we got KICKED OUT of Maropeng. Kaya FM & City FM had us live on the radio within 30 minutes after being kicked out. A radio listener past by immediately to check how we were doing and to know what happened exactly. A journalist and photographer from the SOWETAN Newspaper past by, but nothing was published. Were they bribed? Shay & Zulile were also interviewed on FunX radio in The Netherlands on that same evening.

Meanwhile we got in contact with our bus driver, Ernest, to pick us up and arranged accommodations in Johannesburg at Vila Latino. This was arranged around 14:30, but we had to wait to be picked up because of Ernest's busy schedule. Craig & Magel came to the camp off and on to see whether or not we have left the building yet. Craig stayed at the camp from 16:00 until we left. Every minute he came and asked what time our driver was pick-

ing us up. The answer he kept on getting is "as soon as my driver reaches. We need time to move as you know".

At 20:15, to our surprise, the rich students and their teachers returned to the camp. Was this the reason why management was stressing what time we would leave the camp? Guess what? The students were escorted by security guards to their rooms, while we sat there and watch what was going on. Apartheid. Is it really abolished? Hell no!

We finally left Maropeng at 20:30 and went to Vila Latino at Kensington. There we had 11 bedrooms to share, a swimming pool, in the vicinity of shops and internet facilities. Breakfast was in the accommodation package. Our caterer, Ditshabe Kamabu, was hired to prepare lunch and dinner.

Thursday 06 September 2007

The morning was brightened by getting breakfast from two ladies from Mozambique and we got welcomed by the Portuguese owners of Vila Latino. And guess what? After being served eggs every morning at the camp we got eggs fried in oil again at Vila Latino. Lebo, Ditshabe

and Ylanga went to do groceries at the Makro to start preparing for lunch and dinner.

In the morning all students left to the shopping mall East Gate & Bruma Lake Flea Market to do some shopping. It was our first time with a taxi (known as a bus to us from The Netherlands). We walked back to Vila Latino and enjoyed the scenery of the park that was nearby. Later that afternoon all groups started to work on their theatre pieces with the help of the directors. Focus, creativity and patience were some of the virtues that were needed for this. Each group got the assignment to wash the dishes after dinner.

Friday 07 September 2007

This was our rehearse day. In the evening, after dinner, the pieces were shown to the mentors. Comments were given by Debra, Esmée, Napo & Zulile. The comments contained advice on techniques to improve their creative skills, drama, stage-use, dance moves and projecting their voices in order for audience to hear them clearly.

Saturday 08 September 2007

During the dress rehearsals the last advice and remarks

were given. In the evening the theatre pieces were shown to the whole team. All the students gave their utmost best to produce an innovative piece for the showcase. The long rehearsals and practice paid off in a large way. The skills, knowledge and attitudes changed in a positive manner. All the practice and interaction during the dialogues, talk show and field trips resulted in seven (7) moving showcases which were presented in front of a South African audience. All groups were winners, but the audience chose one ultimate one. The group Miss-Touch was the winner of the night for their originality, creativity and implementing the projects topics in their piece.

Sunday 09 September 2007

An exhaled relaxed day. What we came for was close to finish. Some of the teams left for The Bruma Lake Flea Market to do some last shopping. All Dutch students were given a South African name and two students were rewarded with the prize "Most integrated Student". Esperanza won this from the Dutch students and Octa from the South African students. Esperanza had shown a great growth in personality and positive interaction with all students. Octa started to talk and integrate with everyone from the first moment he reached the

camp until the last moment he left. He also showed a tremendous growth during his stay. Most South African students left in the afternoon.

Monday 10 September 2007

The journey back started with packing, last shopping and the check out of Vila Latino. Debra, Esperanza, Furlan, Mitchel & Wouter went to get groceries at Pick 'n Pay to prepare a Surinamese late lunch. Anne, the tailor we met at Bruma Lake Flea Market, past by to sell us more African clothing. At 15:00 we were taken to Napo's home where we spend the last hours in South Africa. We had lunch, washed her car, washed the dishes, broke the mop and cleaned her house. It was a pleasure for Afrique-Carib to do this for and with Napo whom opened up her house for 25 people.

Tuesday 11 September 2007

Most slept during the flight back to The Netherlands. At Schiphol we said goodbye and expressed our gratitude to one another.

Lessons learned

Before departures make sure as an organization the students are told the following:

- do your research before going to a country;
- think carefully before you speak;
- going as tourist spectators to townships, orphanages etc are not appreciated;
- explain that a program can have last minute changes. It's part of life!
- sometimes there will be struggle in a group. This due to not wanting or seeing the benefit of an assignment/work shop/dialogue/interaction at that point in time. Certain things in life are realized and appreciated at a different point in time. This adds value to self-growth, the selflessness that is vital in a group at times and in discovering a bit more of the world.
- explain the project thoroughly, what is expected from everyone before departure and after returning;
- select participants better on their drive, flexibility and dedication to be part of the program rather than their artistic skills.

Publicity

Artists in race row

Benjamin Moshatama

Published: Sep 16, 2007

Visiting students say Cradle of Humankind's Maropeng management is racist. Young Joburg artists on a cultural exchange programme with visiting students from the Netherlands claim they were unfairly kicked out of an educational resort outside Krugersdorp. The artists allege they were "victims of racism" after being told to leave the Maropeng resort in the Cradle of Humankind four days before their seminar was due to end. But the resort's marketing manager, Erica Saunders, said management was led to believe the artists were a group of "scholars" — not the 18- to-27-year-olds who arrived — and that the group was "asked to leave" because they were inconsiderate and "unco-operative".

Napo Masheane, playwright and South African co-ordinator of the Joburg-based artists group, Village Gossip Productions, said when a group of white teachers from a Limpopo primary school arrived with their pupils, they appeared uncomfortable to be staying near them. But Saunders said the artists had not booked the accommodation block, called Hominid House, exclusively and were

expected to share it with the school children who were all around 13 years old. Masheane said her group arrived at the resort two weeks ago. "When the school arrived on our sixth day there, we were told by the pupils' teachers that we couldn't shower [in the ablution block] at the same time as their students," she said. "We understood that, as the children were young, we had to respect them as we were much older."

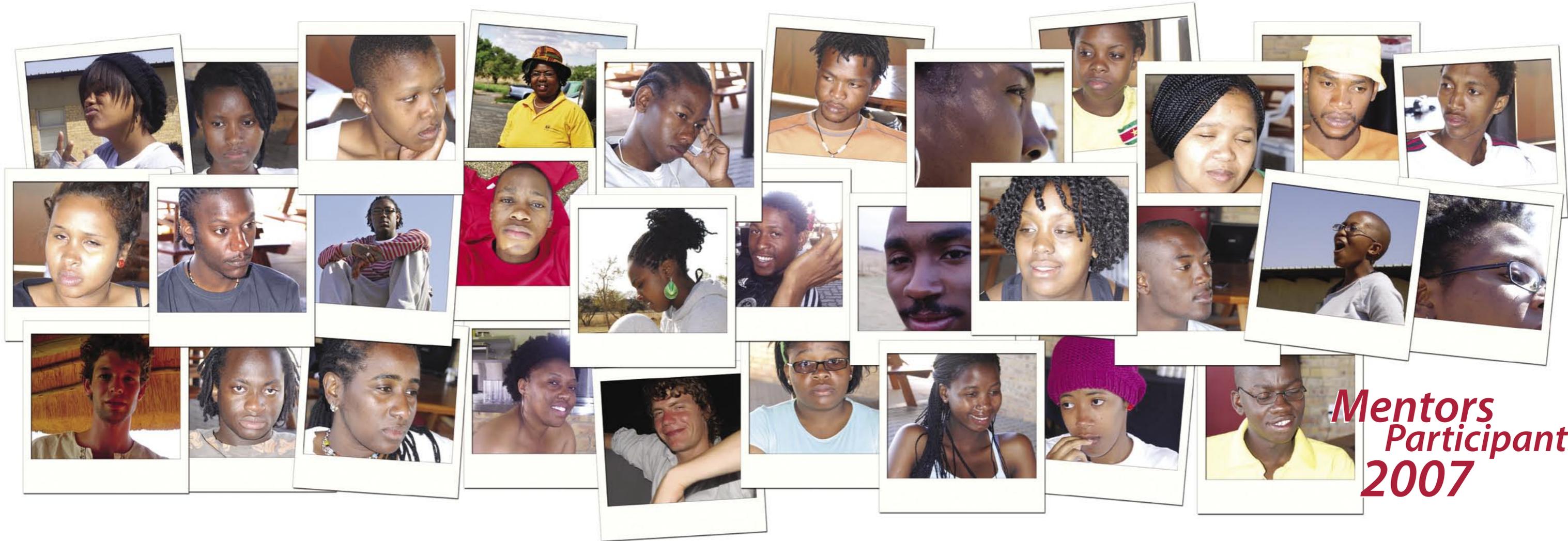
The group of 35 South African and Dutch artists met at the resort for a cultural exchange programme. "While we were discussing a movie, the teachers kept eavesdropping and telling us that we were making a noise and that we should have our discussion elsewhere." Masheane said the school teachers then complained to the resort management. "What surprised most of us was that when we were watching the movie, the children were in their rooms because it was time for them to sleep. The teachers didn't even approach us to let us know of their concerns," she said. Maropeng management then gave Masheane and her group "less than 24 hours to get off the premises".

Zulile Blinker, leader of visiting Dutch arts group, Afrique-Carib, said the incident was "unjust and very racial". "I don't know why we were thrown out of the premises. Maybe it was because most of us were black. But this

showed those of us who are not from this country what some of the young people here have to go through," he said. But Saunders denied race had anything to do with it and said Masheane's group "could not behave like adults". Saunders said that during their racism discussions, the "adults were very loud" and "didn't take cognisance of the fact that they were sharing with other people". After receiving a formal complaint from the schoolteachers, they discussed it with Masheane's group who were "not reasonable". "We took a decision to ask this group to leave. We felt they needed to leave and we refunded their money for the extra days they should have stayed," she said.

Article can be found on <http://www.thetimes.co.za/Print-Edition/Metro/Article.aspx?id=564934>

Afrique-Carib
Sharing the spirit of
Ubuntu



***Mentors
Participants
2007***

Sponsors



**VILLAGE GOSSIP
PRODUCTIONS**

CLEERDIN & HAMER
Advocaten

NESLO WESDORP & HALFHIDE
ADVOCATEN

Colophon

Afrique-Carib Breathtaking Foundation
Java Legioenstraat 109
1318 DC Almere
www.afrique-carib.org
www.afrique-carib.nl

Text

Ylanga Blinker
Zulile Blinker

Lay-out

Cleon Frederick