

NYANGA -

Nurturing Young Africa's New Generation of Artists

William Ilkley's Dramart Productions Ltd. has been taking school groups to Cape Town for ten years and very quickly developed a strong link with Artscape, the primary arts body for the Western Cape. Initially Dramart joined with Artscape to investigate the possibility of creating an arts centre in Nyanga, a project that is now continuing within the Artscape organisation alone. As a result of this, the decision was taken by Dramart to pursue immediate support to the two schools in Nyanga with Performing Arts status, namely Linge Primary School and Oscar Mpetha School. After consulting with the schools it was agreed that financial support to facilitate the purchase of new musical instruments would be most valuable and in October 2007 a full set of Marimba and 10 Djembe Drums were ordered and delivered in Cape Town to coincide with the visit of Soham Village College. Soham Village College had a fabulous trip at this time and worked with 10 local township children from Oscar Mpetha School, concluding with a stunning performance in the Waterfront Amphitheatre. At the end of this performance, the marimba and drums were officially presented to the teachers and students from Linge Primary School (who also performed in the Amphitheatre).

These instruments now belong to Linge School and are being used daily by the students as part of their music and performing arts lessons. In April 2008 Dramart returned to Cape Town, this time with Langley Park School for Girls and again the children from the township schools came together with the girls from Beckenham to collaborate on another exciting drama presentation which was performed this time both in Oscar Mpetha School and in the Waterfront Amphitheatre. The instruments were borrowed back from Linge School for this project.

On this trip Dramart purchased and presented a further 5 Djembe drums and a violin from the UK. We are looking forward to seeing how the African children progress with their violin lessons now!

At this time Dramart was able to have detailed meetings with the Heads and other staff members from Oscar Mpetha School and Linge Primary and has agreed a partnership programme with these schools and our objective is to provide a further set of Marimba plus Drums for them by October 2009.

It was at this point - in April 2008 that the decision to bring over 10 township children (5 from each of the 2 schools) to the UK in June/July 2009 was born. The objective of this is not only to give these children the experience of a lifetime, but to send them back to their schools after a 3 week stay here with funds to support the running of the performing arts departments in both schools for many years to come and will allow for purchases of equipment and the provision of afterschool and weekend performing arts classes/workshops and other programmes. This will be of benefit to all students at Linge and Oscar Mpetha.

The children are visiting and performing and running workshop sessions in 12 schools in Hull as well as in Soham and Beckenham. This evenings 'OUT OF AFRICA BALL' is not only a fund raising opportunity, but a chance for you to meet these children in person and for them to thank you for your support through their song and dance. I am sure you will enjoy this memorable event.

I hope you agree that your donations have been put to a very good use so far and we also hope that you will continue to support us in our endeavours to enhance the lives and opportunities of these incredibly talented children.

Bill

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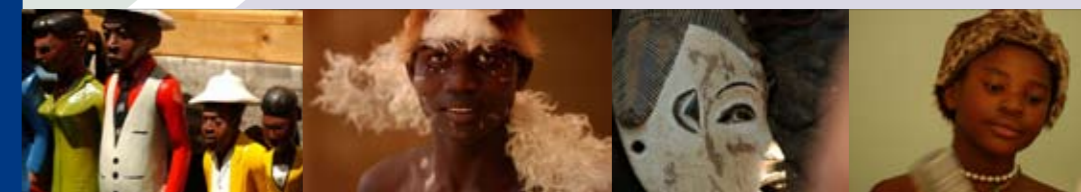


NYANGA

Nyanga is a township in Cape Town, South Africa. Its name in Xhosa means 'moon' and it is one of the oldest black townships in Cape Town. It was established as a result of the migrant labor system. In the early fifties black migrants were forced to settle in Nyanga as Langa became too small. Nyanga is one of the poorest and most dangerous parts of Cape Town. Its unemployment is estimated at around 70% and HIV/AIDS is a huge community issue.

Nyanga is situated 26 kilometers from Cape Town along the N2 highway, close to Cape Town International Airport and next to the townships of Gugulethu and Crossroads.

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THE STORY OF MY LIFE . . .

BUSISIWE ROOLAND 15YRS 21-10-1993



“ My name is Busisiwe and I was born in South Africa in Cape Town on 21st October 1993. I live with my mother and father and little sister. My older sister, Anela, is 20. She left school in grade 10. She did drugs at the age of 13 and hung out with the wrong gangs and dated guys older than her. She has a four year old daughter. But the most beautiful thing in my life is having my family by my side everyday. When I was 7 my sister burned my face with an iron line filled with burning plastics. I was scarred badly. I thought I was going to look like a monster forever, but that didn't stop me smiling. I was just not happy when kids called me names. But when I was 9 the scars faded.

The sad thing for me is seeing my sister's future disappear like most of the children in South Africa. I love her and I wish her a brighter future. Happiness for me is chocolate and ice cream! Everything keeps me happy. I'm always happy and I fight for happiness. But through it all, God, my family and my friends are my right hand. I want to be a mother of two children and a wife of a loving husband. Professionally I want to be a doctor and an actor. (an acting doctor). I want to be a positive role model and the most loving friend. And a person who everyone come to for advice. I wish the world could be as safe as heaven and I would never get sad for any reason. ”

NTOMBOVUYO QINISILE 16YRS DOB 29-05-1992



“ My name is Ntombovuyo and I am 16 years old. I lived with my mother and two sisters. One day my mother left us in the orphanage home and she never came back. That's when me and my sisters were left alone. I was about 3 to 4 months old. Fortunately we were adopted by a kind lady named Winnie Fred Ntsinde. ... Now I am in grade eleven which is the last grade before the final grade and I come from a black family and we don't afford anything even my older sisters could not finish or go to university because our foster mother couldn't afford to pay the school fees. I am concerned that I won't be able to go to University to further my studies.

The best thing that ever happened to me was when I found out my father's family were looking for us. The worst thing that ever happened to me was when I heard that our father was no longer with us. ”

VUYOKAZI GEORGE 17YRS DOB 14-02-1992



“ My name is Vuyokazi. I live with my mother, aunt, brothers and cousins. My aunt and mother take care of those children whose mothers are at work but she still doesn't get enough money for our needs and to me that's not healthy. My father passed away 4 years ago and I was very hurt because I wanted him to watch me growing and making a success, but God chose to take him. I want my mother to be proud of me and I want to change my living and let my dreams come true.

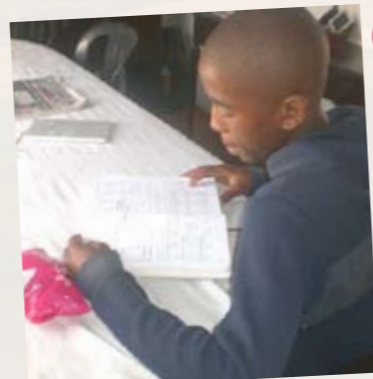
At my house it's three rooms and it's not that beautiful but we love it because my grandmother and grandfather were living there so it is a blessing from our grandparents. The best thing that ever happened to me is that I'm finally going to England., I want to be an Accounted girl or woman and I want God to let my mother be with me so she can see her daughter when she's successful. I want all people to be what they want to be, no crime and no more high rate of people who are HIV positive. ”

MANDISA DLOVA 15YRS DOB 24-03-1993.



“ I live with my mother and the three children of my sister who does not live with us any more. I lost my older brother in 1996. I also lost my father when I was small but I am well raised by my mother. The best thing that has ever happened to me was when sis Xoliswa chose me to go to England for the drama. I'm always glad when I work hard for something that I really really want and get it in the end. When I grow up, I want to be an accountant or a business woman. I want to create more jobs for people and open many opportunities. I would like the world to be like heaven, with no discrimination, and no wars, I would like people to celebrate each and everyday that they got, not mess it up with unnecessary things. ”

PHUMULO TSETSANĀ 16YRS DOB 29-10-1992



“ Hi my name is Phumulo Justice. When I grow up I want to be a pilot. Being a pilot is not easy, because you have to work hard and sacrifice things that you like in life and be wise. When you're a pilot you travel all over the world, I like travelling a lot because I like expanding my knowledge.

I am growing up in a good family, although they are poor. My family uses to treat me as a raw egg, from 0 years until now, especially these days because I'm going overseas they treat me like a big boss. My family don't want to see me crying or sad because they know I am their daily bread. They do the best they can for me and I also don't want to disappoint them or let them down.

My friends and I run a carwash on Sundays. We charge each customer 30 rands, and if you are a regular we even sometimes wash your car free because of your support. Even in the holidays we are available because we use every little opportunity to keep ourselves busy. ”

XHOBANI MATOTU 17 YRS 06-05-1991



“ Xhobani is the youngest of three children. He lives in a very dangerous area of the township, but he feels very lucky as he lives there with both his parents and has many friends. He is mad on football and is very excited to be coming to what he considers to be the Home of Football. Xhobani loves shopping and fashion, and can't wait to see how English people dress! ”

ZANDILE SITHONGA 15YRS DOB 14-11-1993



“ My name is Zandile, I'm 15 years old. I live in Nyanga with my mother and my big sister and whenever I'm not at home I am with my friends Diako, Mandisa, Yoyo, Mandisa and Vuyokazi. The best thing that ever happened to me was to be one of the people to be chosen to go to the UK. I'm so happy that my talent was recognised. The worst thing that happened to me was to lose my grandparents at such a young age that I did not have time to bond with them. What makes me sad is the fact that I know there are some kids out there who are really struggling in life; some don't have enough to eat, others don't have the privilege to have education because of circumstances at home.

What makes me glad is knowing that if you put your faith and courage in what ever you do you will succeed; all it takes is a positive attitude and mind. I want to be a chartered accountant when I grow up as I like Maths and accounting and would like to further that as a career. ”

ZILINDILE MBOLOMPO 18YRS 19-01-1991



“ My name is Zilindile and I was born in the Eastern Cape in Transkei. When I was six years old, I went to Cape Town to my father. He raised me up. I went to school and reached my standards. Now I'm in Oscar Mpetha School.

Last year I started a film course and I started to call myself a film-maker and I am known as a sound producer. I am still working on this.

I and my family like to be there for each other. We always want to make sure that everyone believes in being good so that we can move on and on. We believe in our ancestors and we make sure that everyone goes to school or to work.

I and my friends hate to be gangsters. We want to have something to be busy with at the weekends so that we don't join those who are committing crime. If we don't have homework we go to the playground and play soccer. Every Sunday we go to church.

I would like the world to be like heaven, to be peaceful and hopeful. ”

SIKHOKELE CITANI 16YRS DOB 05-05-1992



About my family: “ I'm staying with my mother and my brother, I have no sisters. I love my brother because I have no other brother without him. I'm staying in rural housing. I love my mother because I have no father and my mother is working in kitchen. My friend is love me, because if I want something he give me, like if I want t shirt or shoes, that is why I am loving my friend. The best thing that ever happened to me is my father. In 1993 he is in prison and after that he died in 1994. When I grow up I like to be a doctor because my mum is telling me that when I was a child my dad said he wanted me to be a doctor that's why I want to be a doctor because I want to make my father happy in the grave yud. I am a first born and in my family the second born is my brother and this is the finish. I have a short story of my life and I have a pain. ”

NKULULEKO KHALIPHA



Nkululeko had not finished writing his story when I visited him. He lives with his aunt, grandmother and little sister; both of his parents have passed away. He shares a bed with his grandmother, who is blind and has had a stroke. There is obviously huge affection between the members of this family.