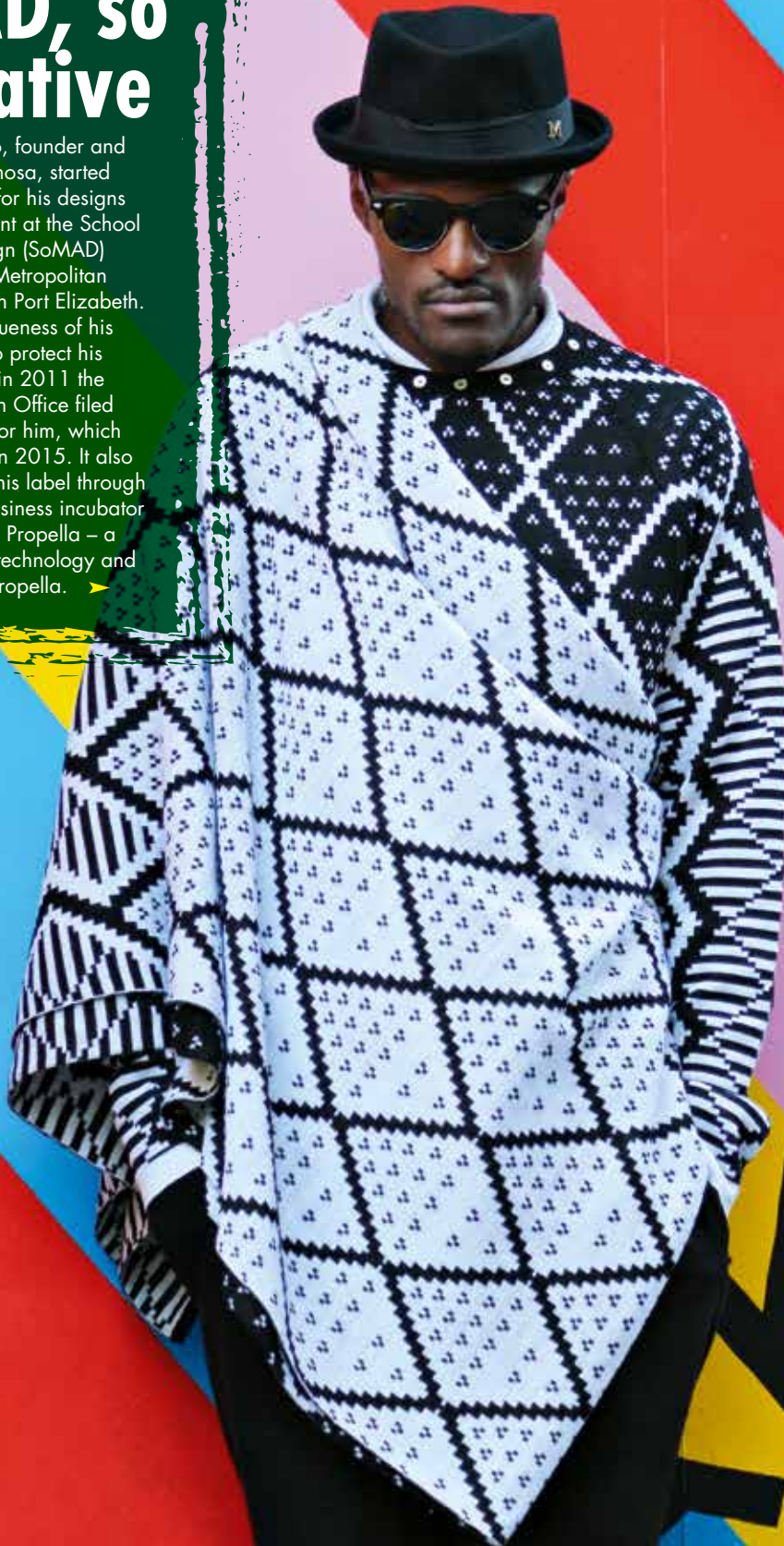


Lifestyle

SoMAD, so innovative

Laduma Ngxokolo, founder and designer of MaXhosa, started winning awards for his designs while he was a student at the School of Music, Art & Design (SoMAD) at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth. Recognising the uniqueness of his work and the need to protect his Intellectual Property, in 2011 the university's Innovation Office filed design registrations for him, which it transferred to him in 2015. It also helped him develop his label through its entrepreneurial business incubator for the arts, the MAD Propella – a satellite of NMMU's technology and business incubator, Propella. ➤



Laduma in his shawl, which was voted the Most Beautiful Object in SA.

ARTS & CULTURE

By Sbu Mkwanazi (@sbumkwanazi)



SoMAD post-graduate student Nishil Vagmaria at work in his Bird St Campus studio.



SoMAD post-graduate student Sarah Walmsley's kiln-formed glass and bronze titled *Disconnected*.



Beanie Boy by SoMAD post-graduate student Pola Maneli.

➤ The MAD Propella has also assisted several other creatives to strategically develop and market their talent. It's based at the recently restored Bird St Campus – an innovative arts pivot in Port Elizabeth's inner-city Central precinct. The gallery, which was opened last year, is on the ground floor of an elegantly restored Edwardian building. Fine arts graduates and illustration students work here, including rising stars Pola Maneli, Siya Ngaki, Jono van der Walt, Sarah Walmsley, Bamanye Ngxale, Michael Wedderburn and Nishil Vagmaria.

The Bird St Campus is also home to the NMMU's Jazz Unit & Music Conservatory, where pupils whose schools don't offer music lessons can receive instruction from university students and lecturers. SoMAD's roots date back to the first-ever art school in SA, the Port Elizabeth Art School, which opened in 1852 in the historic Athenaeum Building in nearby Belmont Terrace.

Today, SoMAD promotes enquiring, Africanised curricula and exhibitions. Similarly, Ngxokolo's international fashion label is inspired by traditional beadwork and motifs in the Eastern Cape. NMMU's Bird St Gallery hosted Johannesburg-based artist and cultural activist Marcus Neustetter's exhibition, *Into the Light*, which challenges concepts of darkness and light in SA, the broader continent and beyond. This month, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, the gallery will be hosting the multi-disciplinary exhibition *Fantastic*, co-curated by Nomusa Makhubu and Nkule Mabaso, which aims to subvert the colonial fetishisation of African art in Western contexts and re-examines notions of "the dark continent". – Heather Dugmore

Flying off the wheel

Zahier Davids is a sculptor and painter, but also expresses his creativity in an unconventional way: he owns and runs Flywheel Custom Chariots, a company which designs and manufactures custom bikes and trikes.

"I see a bike's frame as a blank canvas begging to be painted. I use airbrushing,

vinyl and spraying to produce a piece of art everyone will be ecstatic about. Although my clients give me an idea of what they want in the end product, I provide direction. I suggest characters, colours and other artistic preferences to ensure they have a unique bike," says Davids.

To some, his creations may appear to be simply bikes. To Davids, however, they're a passion and a lifeline, as he started the business after he'd been retrenched. His creations include a wooden bike for the Fifa 2010 World Cup in SA, a cargo bike for a logistics company, a cooler box bike for a wine farm and various designs for the film industry. He's also worked with the Cape Town Carnival for a number of years, providing colourful bikes for the event.

"One of my highlights has to be



© Ference Isaacs

the bike or 'jogger' that I designed for a disabled participant in this year's Comrades Marathon. As with most of my projects, I had about a week to complete it – and she finished the race in less than 11 hours. Knowing that my dream made someone else's come true makes my work that much more special," he says. Davids' workshop is at 123-12th Ave, Kensington, Cape Town. Tel: 076 501 2300. Email: flywheelbikes@gmail.com



RACE RELATIONS UNPLUGGED

Bruce Norris's play, *Clybourne Park* – a spin-off of Lorraine Hansberry's iconic work, *A Raisin in the Sun*, drawing on events in Chicago, USA – has won four global accolades. It now makes its debut at Cape Town's Fugard Theatre from 16-August-1 October. Norris's hilarious, but searingly honest script reveals the fault lines undermining race relations and political correctness, while exploring the subtexts of language, the issue of heritage and the boundaries of ethnic identity. For further information, tel: 021 461 4554.

Tickets cost R120-R240 from Computicket – tel: 0861 915 8000 or visit: www.computicket.com

CD REVIEWS

REPUBLIEK VAN ZOID AFRIKA VOL 3 BY KAREN ZOID (4/5)

Dis mooi, man! Hopefully your Afrikaans is up to scratch, as Zoid hits as hard with her lyrics as she does with her rock melodies. The opening track, *Dis 'n Land*, takes a bitter-sweet look at heritage and patriotism. She also sings in isiZulu in her own rendition of *Asimbonanga* and brings out the big guns in collaborations with Vicky Sampson,



Snotkop, Claire Johnston, Koos Kombuis and Rocco de Villiers.

SELF-MEDICATED BY ROSS JACK (4/5)

For songs that will haunt and taunt you, Jack's sophomore album has few equals. The rapper unleashes scathing lyrics in *Blow* and *Rock 'n Rolla*. It's a tough, but rewarding pill to swallow. Listen at your own risk!



Painted Dog

Artist Amy Hemingway's (www.amyhemingway.com) love of wild dogs has inspired her to highlight the endangered species. Although born and raised in the UK, where she studied painting, she's spent many years living in SA and Lesotho, where she learnt about nature conservation and wildlife.

"In my art I express the magic of creatures living in their own worlds, with their own personalities and stories, wandering gracefully wild and free. I have four dogs of my own (African mixed breed). They share fascinating traits with the ancient, family-orientated Painted Dogs, *Lycaon pictus*, which are now worryingly rare. Fewer than 7 000 remain," she explains.

Hemingway supports the Painted Dog Conservation Foundation in Zimbabwe (www.painteddogg.org). Slovenian writer and musician Klemen Pisk, who wrote the poem alongside, told her: "Similarly to you, I'm concerned about endangered animals and I really appreciate your work. I'm also concerned about endangered languages. That's why I'm collecting translations of my poem in many languages." The poem was translated into all 11 official South African languages and recited in them at the opening of the 2010 Fifa World Cup. – *Jabulile Ngwenya*



The Hermit and the Wolf

A hermit drew a line in the sand and said:

"You may not cross this line."

Then he drew a circle saying:

"You must stay in this circle."

You can cross it, but not over the line."

Then the tempest came and the line disappeared.

A wolf was standing in the circle.

Cold and rain had exhausted him, but he did not move.

He did not know whether the line still exists

when it is no longer drawn in the sand.

– *Klemen Pisk (translated from the Slovene by Vesna Zevnik)*

{ UBU SPEAKS }

Ubu and the Truth Commission by Jane Taylor is on at Jo'burg's Market Theatre from 22 August-11 September, directed by iconic artist William Kentridge. As an added bonus, puppets by the Handspring Puppet Company will be sharing the stage with Busi Zokufa and Dawid Minnaar.

Visit: www.markettheatre.co.za



NOTHING BUT NATANIËL



Audiences never know what to expect from multi-talented entertainer, chef, director, designer, playwright, public speaker, performer, writer and aesthete Nataniël. In his latest production, *Mannequin*, an author toys with the idea of writing a book about the life of a reclusive tailor. The show features not only original music, but also Nataniël's surprise versions of some iconic numbers from the Sixties and Eighties. *The play runs from 18 August-25 September*

at the Theatre of Marcellus, Emperors Palace, Ekurhuleni.
Tel: 011 928 1297/1213 or visit: www.emperorspalace.com

Rhymes and reasons

The fourth annual Poetry in McGregor (Western Cape) event takes place from 26-28 August. The English presenters are Dr Elisa Galgut, Vangile Gantshe and Harry Owen.

In the Afrikaans category, Margot Luyt, Koos van der Merwe, Daniel Hugo, Diana Ferrus and Lara Kirsten will be presiding. For a complete list of the participating poets and more information, visit: <https://mcgregorpoetryfestival.blogspot.co.za>

