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### **Selected 9 x Project Information**

1) **Project name:** Burning Rebellion

**Short description:** *Burning Rebellion* is an ecological protest poem that gives voice to a profound sense of injustice, a rightful rage, and a fear of what is to come. The message from the next generation is clear: Governments! Politicians! Big Business! So-called Grown Ups! We need to fix this mess, before it is too late. Through Hip Hop, Spoken Word, movement and song, 'Burning Rebellion' is the third and final production in Well Worn Theatre's 3-year, eco-theatre programme, and is supported by the National Lotteries Commission. The poem went on a National Tour in 2019, appearing on the Main Programme at the National Arts Festival. It is directed by Joni Barnard a.k.a Missy Phaya Fly and features Sanelisiwe Yekani, Lerato Sefoloshe, Mlindeli Zondi and Jaques De Silva.

**Organisation name:** Well Worn Theatre Company

**Principles (people) involved:** Kyla Davis (Producer and Co-Devisor) and Sanelisiwe Yekani (Co-writer and Performer)

**Form:** Live Performance/Theatre

**Country of Origin:** South Africa

**Biographies:** **Kyla Davis** is a theatre maker, director, activist and mother. She cares deeply about our Earth, and the interconnected relationships between people and ecosystems. She believes in a just transition to a more sustainable future where life (human and non-human) is valued above profit. Kyla is the founder and director of Well Worn Theatre Company, an established touring theatre company creating award-winning work for predominantly young South African audiences around ecological themes. She is moved by the potential for theatrical process and performance to inspire hearts, radicalise minds and mobilise hands towards a more empathetic and caring world. Kyla also loves to make masks and puppets and street theatre that causes a colourful ruckus.

**Sanelisiwe Yekani** is a theatre performer, writer and lecturer based in Johannesburg. She graduated from Wits University with an Honours Degree in Performance and Television Studies. Since graduating she has written and performed in several theatre productions, some of which include *Plastocracy* (2017) and *Burning Rebellion* (2019) produced by The Well Worn Theatre Company; *Ndikho* (2019) produced by Ubukho Productions; *Dead End* (2020) produced by the Joburg Theatre; and *Litwamba* (2022) produced by The Market Theatre. She is a storyteller who uses different art mediums to tell local stories.

**Social Media handles:** Insta: @wellworntheatre & Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WellWornTheatre> | LinkedIn: Sanelisiwe Yekani Instagram: s\_yekani Twitter: s\_yekani

2) **Project name:** Chikukwa Custodians

**Short description:** Zeddy Chikukwa's quest to regenerate indigenous cultural practices of traditional food growing lies at the heart of the short documentary, 'Chikukwa Custodians'. The people of Chikukwa live in the remote Chimanimani mountainous region of Eastern Zimbabwe, bordering Mozambique. Their story reveals the interconnectedness of growing food, generating livelihoods, spirituality, cultural rituals, eating, connection to the land and the protection of nature, and how food security hinges on these elements working well together. 'Chikukwa Custodians' explores solutions through building resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

**Organisation name:** Mycelium Media Colab

**Principles (people) involved:** Jacqueline van Meygaarden (Producer & Director) and Rumbi Katedza (Co-producer)

**Form:** Documentary Short Film

**Country of Origin:** South Africa

**Biographies:** **Jacqueline van Meygaarden** is an accomplished producer and director from South Africa. She has 20 years experience as a storyteller, initially in multimedia feminist visual theatre, then working in non-fiction filmmaking to create impactful stories. She has spent many years developing content about the climate crisis, environmental justice and regeneration. Jacqueline was awarded the Commonwealth Vision Award (2007) for her short film *Free Energy*; She has produced climate justice campaign content for 350.org in Africa; produces factual content for the SABC; and has directed a number of short documentary films. She is currently co-producing and directing on HOTSPOT, a 6-part documentary series on Southern African climate justice activists. She is the co-producer of Water Stories, an interactive storytelling platform about freshwater & ocean pollution. Jacqueline is the co-chair of Mycelium Media Colab, a co-operative sharing stories about African regenerative solutions. She is based in Cape Town and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Witwatersrand.

**Rumbi Katedza** is a filmmaker and writer, who produces independent fiction and documentary content through her production company, Mai Jai Films. Her films have screened across Africa and at film festivals and conferences around the world. Rumbi has directed segments for the BBC, Al Jazeera and Apple TV. She is a former Festival Director of the Zimbabwe International Film Festival. She was the JMD Manyika Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research in 2019 and an Honorary Fellow at the The Film Study Center at Harvard University 2019-2020. She is a 2-time Zimbabwe National Arts Merit Award winner. In 2022 she released her first feature documentary, *Transactions*, which has won several awards at international film festivals.

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3) **Project name:** Congo en Panne: stories about energy and human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**Short description:** 'Congo en Panne' is a thrilling podcast series set at the intersection of energy access, climate issues and human rights. These issues are unpacked through the stories of four young activists in a compelling narrative series. Only 10% of the population in the DRC has access to electricity. The situation is stunting the development of the country, while current developments are also threatening its natural environment. Young people's lives and their plans for the future are particularly affected, but they are mobilising and innovating to spark change. The series is an integral part of a Congolese civil society campaign demanding more transparency and consultation in the negotiations concerning mega projects such as the Inga 3 dam, as well as a commitment to fairer and more sustainable energy development for all in the DRC.

**Organisation name:** Radio Workshop

**Principles (people) involved:** Bob Yala (Reporter/Producer) and Amélie Guyot-Staal (Dissemination strategy, impact measurements and project oversight)

**Form:** Podcast Series

**Country of Origin:** Democratic Republic of Congo

**Biographies:** Journalist, **Bob Yala**, is in love with Kinshasa, the city where he was born. It was in 2001 that he made his debut in the world of radio: after a professional internship at Réveil FM, he was recruited to the team as radio host and journalist. He joined RTG@ many months later, and worked there as a journalist-reporter until 2004. In January 2005 he moved to Mbankana (150 km from the centre of Kinshasa). In this region of the rural world he worked for 5 years as director of a local radio station set up by the Intergovernmental Organization of La Francophonie (OIF). In 2010, he returned to Kinshasa and was immediately recruited as project manager in the DRC by RFI planet radio. Bob has been working for Children's Radio Foundation since 2015.

**Amélie Guyot-Staal** has a background in Sustainable Development (MPhil), Social Development, and Complexity thinking. She has consulted on various research in the field of social entrepreneurship and climate change. She has worked at the Children's Radio Foundation since 2015, where she currently is the senior monitoring evaluation and learning manager.

**Social Media handles:** Facebook: Bob Yala, Twitter: Bob Yala, Integram: Bob Yala II  
<https://soundcloud.com/childrensradiofoundation>, <https://twitter.com/crfprojects/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/childrensradiofoundation/>,  
<https://www.instagram.com/childrensradio/>, <https://vimeo.com/childrensradio>,  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfbqu71u9n9mYjpR4R9-sog?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfbqu71u9n9mYjpR4R9-sog?view_as=subscriber)

4) **Project name:** The Conservationist

**Short description:** In the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe encounters with wildlife are on the increase and the danger of poaching and unlicensed hunting threatens this wildlife-rich area. In a growing climate crisis, access to scarce natural resources heightens this tension. One local woman is working to restore the balance between rural communities and nature through community based conservation. Moreangels Mbizah trains women as community guardians and teaches them to collar and track

lions in the mystical Nyami Nyami region of the Matusadona National Park, near Lake Kariba. These women are a representation of the future of conservation and of Moreangel's legacy. Dealing with the often challenging bureaucracy of local government and National Parks, she and her team find innovative and sometimes unexpected ways to effectively build the resilience of communities by improving livelihoods and protecting the wildlife.

**Organisation name:** Mai Jai Films

**Principles (people) involved:** Rumbi Katedza (Director/Producer) and Siza Mukwedini (Producer)

**Form:** Documentary Film

**Country of Origin:** Zimbabwe

**Biographies:** **Rumbi Katedza** is a filmmaker and writer, who produces independent fiction and documentary content through her production company, Mai Jai Films. Her films have screened across Africa and at film festivals and conferences around the world. Rumbi has directed segments for the BBC, Al Jazeera and Apple TV. She is a former Festival Director of the Zimbabwe International Film Festival. She was the JMD Manyika Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research in 2019 and an Honorary Fellow at the The Film Study Center at Harvard University 2019-2020. She is a 2-time Zimbabwe National Arts Merit Award winner. In 2022 she released her first feature documentary, *Transactions*, which has won several awards at international film festivals.

**Siza Mukwedini** is a film and new media content producer and founder of Matamba Film Labs for Young Women. This programme trains and capacitates young women to use new media storytelling tools like 360 Virtual Reality and Animation. She believes that change is influenced by perception and film is the ultimate tool to inspire that. In 2015, Siza was selected for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders for her role in using film as a tool for social engagement. Her 2018 film on fatherhood, *Mukanya*, screened at international festivals in Canada, Kenya and Australia. She has produced current affairs and documentary features for international platforms like the BBC. In 2021 she produced the award winning *Transactions'* a documentary on migration and remittances, directed by Rumbi Katedza and co-produced by STEPS. *Transactions* recently had its European Premiere at IDFA.

**Social Media handles:** LinkedIn & Facebook: Rumbi Katedza ; IG & Twitter: @rumbikatedza || <http://matambafilmlabs.com/siza/%20> @SizaMukwedini

##### 5) **Project name:** Forest Spirits of AZIBO

**Short description:** *Forest Spirits of AZIBO* is an original African folk tale created and directed by Naledi award winning artist, Menzi Mkhwane. It tells the story of the village AZIBO and its people who live near a sacred forest protected by ancient African spirits. The forest is under threat as a ruthless factory owner, Mr Shima, plans to extend his business. Little Amara who is born and raised in the village of AZIBO is worried about the forest and prays to the forest spirits to protect the trees which will be cut down to make more paper for the engulfing factory. To her surprise the spirits respond by selecting her to save the forest. By giving her the powers of Mother Nature she must fight to protect the forest and the animals of Azibo from extinction. The production is a physical theatre storytelling experience especially designed to

teach a young audience (aged 7-13) about the climate crisis and its causes. The work raises awareness of the importance of protecting natural resources.

**Organisation name:** Menzi Mkhwane Creations

**Principles (people) involved:** Menzi Mkhwane (Theatre Practitioner) and Sbusiso Mngqobi Mhlongo (Theatre Performer)

**Form:** Theatre

**Country of Origin:** South Africa, Durban

**Biographies: Menzi Mkhwane** is an independent producer, director and published playwright. He studied and graduated at the Durban University of Technology where he attained his dramatic arts and television production studies qualification in 2010. He worked in Holland for a few months on an international cultural exchange production of Oliver Twist. On his return to South Africa he worked with eminent directors such as Ralph Lawson, Bheki Mkhwane, Neil Coppen, Branden Grealy and many more. He then started creating his own work and staging it on professional platforms such as the Playhouse company. This is where he got invited to conduct masterclasses at AFDA based on his work as well as other universities such as the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He launched his own theatre company and employs actors full time and tours works to over 240 schools in KwaZulu-Natal., more recently branching into Gauteng. Menzi Mkhwane continues to facilitate, create, direct and build his company full-time.

**Sbusiso Mngqobi Mhlongo** was born 11 July 1997 in Durban at the King Edward hospital. Sbusiso attended Weenen Combined School for his elementary and secondary education. During his high school days he spent his free time in the library, together with his friends, reading books where he discovered himself as an actor and fell in love with acting by reading a book by Stanislavski. He then changed his hobbies and started watching movies, and attending community theatres. Sbusiso continued with art until he went to Kcap to complete his first class in acting, and graduated there. Sbusiso elevated his acting skills at the Playhouse company.

**Social Media handles:** LinkedIn - Menzi Mkhwane, Instagram - Menzitheartmaker, Twitter - Menzi Mkhwane, Tiktok - Menzitheartmaker and Facebook - Menzi Mkhwane  
Instagram- @Nqoba Mhlongo Facebook- Nqoba Mhlongo

6) **Project name:** Namaqua - The Green Frontier

**Short description:** The film tracks the impact of green extractivism in the Northern Cape. Told through the life stories of women community leaders who are struggling against transnational corporations and the state, and are resisting the impact of mining on their communities in the Namaqualand.

**Organisation name:** WoMin African Alliance and Haroon Gunn-Salie Studio

**Principles (people) involved:** Haroon Gunn-Salie (Director and Executive Producer) and Alexandria Hotz (Producer and Executive Producer)

**Form:** Documentary Short Film

**Country of Origin:** South Africa

**Biographies: Alexandria Hotz** is the South African Lead Organiser at WoMin African Alliance, an African ecofeminist alliance, where she leads the South African program working on movement building and organising around mega extractive projects, building ecofeminist politics and visioning of ecofeminist development alternatives to

the neoliberal extractive model. Alexandria is in the process of completing a Master of Philosophy degree in Human Rights Law, and considers herself a feminist, anti-racist, legal scholar, writer, organiser and activist working on decolonisation, gender, sexuality, race, land and gentrification. She is passionate about building an anti-racist, anti-capitalist feminist politics that can build alternatives to the crisis that South Africa find themselves in, and globally, as a result of capitalism, racism and patriarchy. She believes in the importance of building feminist principles and values centred on collective care and justice in which women and queer people are included. Alexandria is committed to social justice and centres this in all the work she does.

**Haroon Gunn-Salie** (Cape Town, 1989) is an artist and activist who believes that art has real potential to effect changes in society. Gunn-Salie's multidisciplinary practice draws focus to forms of collaboration based on socially engaged dialogue and exchange. Gunn-Salie's work has been included in significant exhibitions: New Museum Triennial (2018); Frieze Sculpture, Regents Park (2018); South African Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia (2015); and 19<sup>o</sup> Festival de Arte Contemporânea Sesc Videobrasil (2015) and solo exhibitions include Zeitz MOCAA (2021). Gunn-Salie completed a BA Hons in sculpture at the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art and has been awarded the SP-Arte/Videobrasil prize (2016), and the FNB Art Prize (2018).

**Social Media handles:** @alex\_hotz@womin.africa, [www.womin.africa](http://www.womin.africa) || <https://haroongunnsaliewww.haroongunnsalie.studio/>

#### 7) **Project name:** Nakhodha and the Mermaid

**Short description:** This VR mixed media is a climate change story told through a lovechanting affair between a dhow sailor, the Nakhodha and a mermaid. Audio spatial recorded chants of men and women of the fishing community and underwater sounds in the 360 sound headsets, along with 360 video mapping projected live-action images, are the backdrop scenario of the encounter of a sailor fisherman with an invisible sea creature under the "Al Suhail" star constellation. The magic realism embedded in this century-old maritime culture is brought to life through the immersive documentary storytelling of sea chants and songs, the past, the present, the future and the ecological local knowledge within the traditional maritime Swahili culture of the Island of Mozambique, as it draws attention to the imminent threat of rising sea levels that can destroy the coastal fishing communities around the isle.

**Organisation name:** YC Productions

**Principles (people) involved:** Yara Costa (Creative Director)

**Form:** Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Media

**Country of Origin:** Mozambique

**Biographies:** **Yara Costa** is an African creative female director based on the world heritage Island of Mozambique. Her work reflects her questionings about contemporary Africa and through storytelling she wants to share her vision of the world, using immersive technologies to merge sound, film, tradition, culture and environment while engaging with the community and promoting local change and resilience. She has directed 4 films, featured in festivals around 40 countries and on international television channels. In 2013, Yara was one of the 6 selected film directors to direct and produce a film for Al Jazeera television. Her creative work intersects arts,

culture, environment and sustainable community development, while training and immersing young people in artistic and cultural hubs.

**Social Media handles:** <https://www.instagram.com/ycproductions/>  
<https://web.facebook.com/yc.production.creative>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/yc-production/>

8) **Project name:** Adam's Harvest - Africa will feed the world

**Short description:** In a remote village in Uganda, Ada Adongo, aged 104, throws her frail frame at the weeds in her cassava field. 'The rains come late, the trees are cut down and the fish are gone.' Climate instability is devastating livelihoods in Africa. It is predicted that the continent will be home to half the world's malnourished people by 2080. Yet, Africa has enough natural resources to feed the world. As a rural girl born over a 100 years ago, Ada was forbidden education, yet she laboured to send her grandson, Adipala, to school. Despite brutal conflict and the collapse of schools, the village boy became a leading international agricultural scientist. Under the repressive government of Idi Amin, he went into exile, to return years later to build Africa's most powerful network of universities, training thousands of young agricultural scientists. Their mission: working with farmers to co-create climate solutions and fight food insecurity. As Professor Adipala's beloved Ada nears her end, young African women changemakers visit to learn from her wisdom and show their gratitude. *Ada's Harvest* is a story of stubborn optimism. It answers an urgent call to marry science and traditional knowledge in order to build resilience against the climate crisis and find pathways to feeding the world.

**Organisation name:** GoTrolley Films

**Principles (people) involved:** Joanna Higgs (Director) and Liezel Vermeulen (Producer)

**Form:** Documentary Feature Film

**Country of Origin:** South Africa, filmed in Uganda

**Biographies:** Joanna Higgs, a skilled filmmaker, narrator and communicator, internationally award-winning director/producer has been a journalist, editor, producer and director for both local (South African) and international television networks, including Reuters and the BBC. She started Go Trolley Films in 2007. Working with the ethos that 'anything is possible', the team has grown into a family of talented, committed professionals. Jo is a specialist in media for development on the African continent with particular skills working in higher education, science, technology and innovation. Her vision is to marry entertainment with social transformation – to tell valuable stories that effect positive change.

Liezel Vermeulen is a highly experienced documentary film producer and creative project development specialist, starting her career in teaching television theory at Rhodes University. She has extensive experience in administering the DTIC Film and TV incentive for film projects including 80 hours of nature programming, the biggest 4K delivery out of SA to date. Her most recent factual series Anatomy of a Wildfire for ITV Global studios examined the impact of climate change on the global management of wildfires.

**Social Media handles:** Twitter - @josiehiggs @gotrolleyfilms  
<https://www.facebook.com/gotrolleyfilms/> | Twitter - @vermeulenliezel / Facebook -  
<https://www.facebook.com/liezel.vermeulen> / Instagram - @liezel.vermeulen

9) **Project name:** Ulwandle Lushile – Meeting the tides

**Short description:** *Ulwandle Lushile* is an evocative short documentary about a group of traditional marine fisher-women in rural KwaZulu-Natal. On the doorstep of the world-renowned Isimangaliso Wetland Park are the homes of the poorest and most marginalised coastal communities, who depend on harvesting from the sea for survival. The film follows a group of brave village women as they face treacherous sea conditions and legal persecution to provide for their families. The film invites us to take a walk in their shoes, along the winding forest path to the ocean. Here they share their struggles and talk about the dwindling access to marine resources, their indigenous knowledge passed on through generations of mussel harvesting, and what they hope for in future.

**Organisation name:** n/a

**Principles (people) involved:** Tembisa Jordaan (Director and Producer)

**Form:** Documentary Short Film

**Country of Origin:** South Africa, Durban

**Biographies:** **Tembisa Jordaan** is a Marine scientist and the Biodiversity Stewardship and Biodiversity Economy acting manager, at Ezemvelo KZN wildlife. She is passionate about sectoral transformation in the biodiversity space, and the improvement of conservation models to be more people oriented. She recently starred in "Our Oceans", a 3-part marine conservation documentary commissioned by Off the Fence, which won the N.E.W Film pitch competition at the Nature, Environment and Wildlife Film congress. Her short film, "Ulwandle Lushile" is a result of the work she did for many years in marine resource management with Kwazulu-Natal coastal communities. The short documentary has been selected for 9 international festivals and hopes to build on this success to drive an impact campaign. Tembisa received her MSc in Marine Biology from Rhodes University.

**Social Media handles:** Instagram @ulwandle\_lushile and @tembisa\_cooks