

Phakama

Annual Report 2008/09



The Trashcatchers' Ball (Lift Festival, London, UK, 2008). Photograph by Tim Mitchell

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A collaborative arts organisation producing work based on the combined personal experiences of young people from all over the world. Working across the arts and in unconventional sites, Phakama enables young people to explore and test issues that are relevant to them. Phakama aims to produce high standard learning processes and performances that create life-changing experiences for artists and audiences alike that are raw, emotionally powerful and utterly indelible.

Executive summary

As one of 12 companies selected to take part in the internationally acclaimed *Contacting the World 08*, Phakama embarked on a year-long collaboration with young theatre makers from around the globe. Phakama's final piece, *When Time is Not*, premiered at Theatre Royal Stratford East as part of IFEA (International Festival of Emerging Artists) before travelling north for the *Contacting the World Festival* – part of *The European Capital of Culture* celebrations in Liverpool.

In partnership with EEA (Emergency Exit Arts), Phakama developed a project around the theme of recycling entitled *The Trashcatchers*. *The Trashcatchers' Ball*, a celebration of beauty created out of rubbish, was one of the undisputed highlights of the Lift Festival in Stratford.

In November 2008, Phakama joined forces with colleagues from South American organisations and Phakama South Africa to deliver a two-week creative process leading to a site-specific performance as part of Phase 2 of our UK/South-America exchange.

In the last year, as well as securing RFO (Regular Funded Organisation) status from Arts Council England, Phakama has also become a creative partner in residency at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Through this partnership, Phakama will develop new initiatives in the academic arena strengthening the company artistically, educationally and organisationally.



Connections beyond Frontiers (Salvador, Brazil, 2008). Photograph by Lulu Pugliese

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A year of strategic thinking and organisational growth

With the support of two major core funders (the Baring Foundation and Arts Council England) Phakama has been able to strengthen its core activities and grow organisationally.

Time and resources have been invested in staff training, in developing the organisation's brand and in building a new website. We have secured in kind support from design company Crescent Lodge and web developer Working Web Company who are working around the clock to produce an exciting new international website.

We have strengthened the organisation's international networks by producing a project with partners from South America and by participating in *Contacting the World*.

Our new commission for the Lift Festival at Stratford Park, *The Trashcatchers*, enabled us to collaborate with EEA, Londonmet, Newham Recycling Centre and Newham College.



The Trashcatchers' Ball (Lift Festival, London, UK, 2008). Photographs by Tim Mitchell

Artistic highlights

When Time is Not

Contacting the World, run by Contact Theatre, is a pioneering international theatre project that redefines how young people communicate with each other on a global scale. *When Time is not*, Phakama's final piece, was created out of the collaboration with our twin, C.A.T (Creative Arts Team) from New York, USA. Phakama's young performers premiered their piece at Theatre Royal Stratford East as part of the *International Festival of Emerging Artists* and then travelled to Liverpool for the *Contacting the World Festival* for a week-long exchange of ideas, practices and ways of working with 11 other international companies.

The Trashcatchers

The Trashcatchers was devised in collaboration with 20 young participants. *The Trashcatchers* created beauty from rubbish through the design, fabrication and animation of sculptures and costumes from discarded materials. Through public workshops and the project's finale – *The Trashcatchers Ball* – audiences were encouraged to reassess the beauty and use of the things that get thrown away and imagine a world where the lack of resources make this an imperative.

Connections beyond Frontiers

Phase 2 of our South America project, an ongoing training programme involving international exchanges amongst emerging and established artists, community leaders and young participants from Fundacion Defensores del Chaco (Argentina), Cia Novos Novos (Brazil) and Phakama. Phase 2, staged in Salvador, Brazil in November 2008, involved young people from the participating organisations and from Phakama South Africa. After a two-week process exploring differences and similarities, links and barriers, a promenade performance entitled *Connections beyond Frontiers* was presented at the Vila Velha Theatre.

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Partnerships

In the past year Phakama has developed an important partnership with Goldsmiths College, University of London. Phakama moved offices to the Goldsmiths campus in 2009 and will be working closely with the MA Applied Drama and Research Departments.

New partnerships have been forged and existing ones strengthened. Some of the organisations Phakama has collaborated with in the past year or is planning to work with in the near future include: LIFT, Emergency Exit Arts, RYAN (Refugee Youth Arts Network), Orpheus Centre, Graeae Theatre Company, Canadian High Commission, Index Arts, Contact Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East.



When Time is Not (London/Liverpool, UK, 2008). Photographs by Wendy Preston

Watch this space

The Phakama Book and International Conference (South Africa, 2011)

In 2011 Phakama will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary. To mark the occasion, we are planning an international conference in South Africa. Central to the conference, will be the launch of the Phakama Book. Currently being planned, our book will document the company's 15 years and map out Phakama's development within the young people's intercultural theatre arena.

Phakama new global website

In June 2009 we will be launching our new website designed by Crescent Lodge and developed by Working Web Company.

www.projectphakama.org



Phakama

Annual Financial Report
Financial year ending 5 April 2009

Income 2008-09	£
Core grants and donations	94,670.00
Project grants and commissions	17,870.70
Bank interest	7.69
Total income	112,548.39
Expenditure 2008-09	£
Salaries and wages	49,049.00
Marketing and communications	370.50
Admin and office costs	793.85
Projects and public performance	47,392.71
Workshop costs	731.18
Training and conferences	662.21
Retrospective payments	6,295.78
Total expenditure	105,295.23
Unrestricted funds carried forward	£7,253.16

Accounts audited by:
PAUL PERLIN & CO
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Project Phakama UK funders:



Project Phakama UK supporters:

Crescent Lodge
Goldsmiths, University of London
Lift
WDA
Working Web Company

If you would like to get involved and support our work,
please get in touch with us.

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