

All aboard for 'The Last Ride' at Artscape Arena

Arts writer

ARTSCAPE celebrates diversity in style with *The Last Ride*, staged as part of the *Heritage Festival* from September 20-21 at the Artscape Arena.

The Last Ride is written and directed by Thando Baliso. It stars Masizole Marafana, Ziyanda Siyondo, Nceba Mpilisiwano, Ayavuya Cekiso and Dumisani Siziba. The production was one of the top two productions of the 2009 *Ikhwezi Theatre Festival* at the Baxter Theatre.

The story is presented by Theatre Through Motivation Productions and explores the theme of identity, morality and culture through the life

'Heritage Festival' aims to contribute to social cohesion, cultural diversity

of Makhosandile, a boy raised by a grandfather who believes in honour and dignity. When a young boy wants to go for initiation, paternity becomes an issue.

His grandfather, who raised him after he was abandoned by his mother, sends him on a journey to Cape Town before he can perform the ritual for him.

The journey uncovers scenes of contested disputes and an uncomfortable collection of memories linked to his family.

The *Heritage Festival* aims to contribute to social cohesion, integration and inclusion of previously disadvantaged communities and to contribute to the cultural diversity of our society.

"The new challenge facing our youth is the acquisition of skills, and only through learning new skills can they add value to themselves, their future careers and their communities," says Marlene le Roux, director for audience development and education at Artscape.

● Tickets are R50. Call 0861 915 8000.