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Woensdag, 11 Februarie 2015 | Tel: 021 910 6500 | e-pos: nuus@tygerburger.co.za | [www.tygerburger.co.za](http://www.tygerburger.co.za)

**Makietie**

**13-15 Feb** Kom kuier by die **Tyger Burger Makietie Teetuin**

kykNET Buite Ekspo, Möreson Plaas, Malmesbury 30min vanaf Kaapstad op die N7 en 10km vanaf Malmesbury

## Atlete met sang aangemoedig

Leerlinge van die Hoërskool Eben Dönges geniet hulself gate uit by Vrydag se ko-ed-atletiekbyeenkoms in die Bellville-stadion. Die hoërskole Brackenfell, Eben Dönges, Parow en HTS Bellville neem jaarliks aan die byeenkoms deel. Brackenfell het die atletiek gewen, terwyl Parow met die sangbeker weggestap het.

FOTO: DESIRÉE RORKE



MUSIC: AN OPERATIC MUSICAL GIVES BLOEKOMBOS YOUTH A MEANS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

# Comfort found in choir

DESIRÉE RORKE  
@dezziemorke

**C**omfort ye, comfort ye my people... – a poignant and famous line from Handel's epic masterpiece, *Messiah*, is now the title of an operatic musical born from dusty Bloekombos streets.

Unforgettable childhood moments often shape the rest of our lives; personalities are moulded by them and are hopefully wholesomely nostalgic.

But not for everyone, especially those who grew up in impoverished Cape Town com-

munities.

Mali Kwatsha (19), from Bloekombos was only five when he learned he was abandoned on a dumpsite by his mother.

An alcoholic, Mali's mother was lost to the thriving shebeen life in the township, where a string of social ills are employed to cope with everyday reality. "Neither my father nor I ever knew why she did it, but I believe that alcohol had killed her love for me," Mali says in an interview with *TygerBurger*.

His anguished father, a construction worker, found him later that night after returning home from work and raised his son

alone. His mother never returned.

Mali is one of 24 teens of the Bloekombos Secondary School choir who will be performing in this much anticipated musical theatre production which has been a year and a half in the making. Mali's story and those of his peers outlines the autobiographical texts and songs for *Comfort Ye*.

"I wanted them to create their own story, which started in a 10-day workshop during December 2013. They penned their stories and I collaborated it to write the text," German stage director and librettist Robert Lehmeier explains. Lehmeier is associated to

Umculo Productions, an international music organisation that supports lasting social change through music in South Africa.

He describes the piece as heart-wrenching and gripping, with a deeply spiritual undercurrent.

"It is stories of love and death in the midst of abject poverty, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies and the title *Comfort Ye* brilliantly encompasses the theme of the production. How to overcome and find hope when everything seems so desperate," he says.

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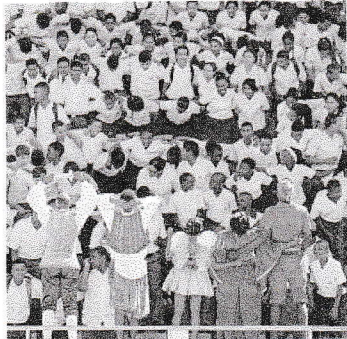
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Foto's



Hoërskool Parow, Hoërskool Eben Dönges, Hoërskool Brackenfell en die Hoër Tegniese Skool Bellville het op Vrydag 6 Februarie in die ko-ed-atletiekbyeenkoms by die Bellville-stadion deel geneem. Hou ook 'n oog op ons webtuiste vir foto's en video's van vanjaar se MTBS wat op Vrydag 13 Februarie by die Jan Burger-sport-kompleks sal plaasvind.

Competitions

There are three copies of Dillon Lerm's new album, *Jou tyd is jou tyd*, three Wunderbags and vouchers for the Make My Magnum experience to be won. Also up for grabs are tickets to the KykNET Buite expo, *Lets make Music* with Alistair Izobell, Hillcrest Quarry's Valentine's concert with Just Jinjer, Stef Boss' show at the Castle of Good Hope and Feast of the Grape.

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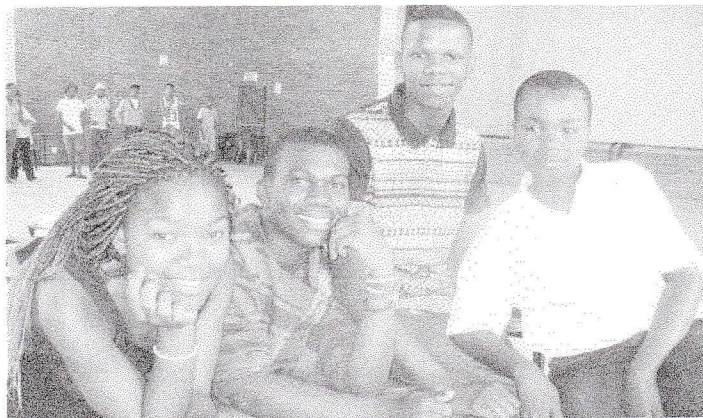
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"The main story line revolves around one day in the life of a young man in Bloekom-bos. It's six o'clock in the morning, he kisses a girl, then runs away as the police arrive. It is a dark story, full of ambiguity and shadow, but finds its way to an optimistic conclusion."

Formerly, the laughing stock of the choir world, the 24-piece ensemble of Bloekom-bos Secondary choir will sing and act alongside eight professional singers and actors and a baroque chamber orchestra in this piece



Nasiphi Ntosimbi, Jason Make, Mall Kwatsha and Sibuyiselo Nywilli during rehearsal last week.  
PHOTO: DESIRÉE RORKE

that encompasses several choruses and arias from *Messiah*.

Final rehearsals started two weeks ago, and Bloekom-bos Secondary is a hive of activity every weekday afternoon.

Lehmeier and director Shirley Anthonj agree: "These youngsters are great and we are very impressed with them. It was a joy to work with them. They are talented and their performances are honest and powerful with a stage presence that is hard to emulate."

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Jason Make (17) says this experience has changed his life for the better.

"It motivated me and made me wiser. It taught me how to make good decisions in life and how to distinguish the right path from the wrong," he said.

"As a performer it taught me confidence and how to project and act."

Both Sibuyiselo Nywilli (15) and Nasiphi Ntosimbi, are excited to perform on the same stage that brought soprano Pretty Yende fame.

"We had so much fun and can't wait for the opening night. Being part of *Comfort Ye*, made us proud and gave us courage," Sibuyiselo says.

Although most of these youngsters feel a career in the performing arts is not what will ultimately lift them out of poverty, they agree the experience have given them the courage and willpower to finish school, advance tertiary education and work towards their respective dreams.

"I never knew I could sing this well, but coming from a poor home, I can't pin my dreams on singing alone," says Mali.

"I will have to study and find a good job to support my father and I, and build a better life for my family."

One thing is sure though, come 6 March, many a childhood dreams will come true. The world premiere performance of "Comfort Ye" which has already received international invitations, takes place at Artscape's Drama Theatre on 6 March, at 19:00, with further performances on 7 and 8 March at 15:00. Tickets are available at Computicket and Artscape Box office. They range from R50 - 120 per person.

# No safe places left in city

MICHELLE LINNERT  
@linnertmb

There are no more safe havens in the city.

This seems to be the overall sentiment of patrons of the Tyger Valley Shopping Centre who have taken to social media since Monday to make their discontent clear after an armed robbery at a popular family restaurant.

The Spur in the shopping centre was robbed by five men near closing time on Sunday evening. The robbers posed as clients before holding up staff and patrons and fleeing with cash and digital goods. Shopping centre spokesperson Laretha Blom confirmed the robbers had fired one shot at security guards giving chase, then fled in a silver vehicle.

Some of the comments on TygerBurger's Facebook page included one from Cheryl Willems, asking: "When will this madness end???" (sic)

Stefan Eksteen said: "They're gonna eat us! I'm going to Australia. Sad and angered. Next you'll see diners with glocks and 9 mm at the tables. Feeling concerned."

Ivan Vanhooydonck said: "No ways. It's getting closer to our doorstep," with Tracey Lee Appolis Johannes adding: "And we ate here a few nights ago! Scary."

Ruth Slabbert Frazer said in Afrikaans: "One is not safe anywhere in the country anymore. Spur is not seeing me again soon..."

Hadlay Mclean said none of his friends had heeded his warning to steer clear of the steer chop shop: "I keep telling you people to stay away from Spur. No one ever listens. Sucks that this happened though. Hectic."

These were just some of the hundreds of comments posted as the story published on the TygerBurger website started circulating on Monday. In the meantime, police have



The Spur in the Tyger Valley Centre was robbed on Sunday.

PHOTO: DEON RAATH

had no luck making any arrests.

Provincial police spokesperson Captain FC van Wyk, said the (getaway) vehicle was later spotted in Nyanga by police.

"The suspects tried to evade the police and they shot at police members and a chase ensued," said Van Wyk.

He said the car stopped at the corner of New Eisleben and Klipfontein Roads and the suspects jumped out and fled on foot. "Some of the stolen items and cash were recovered. It was found that the Golf was hijacked in Mitchell's Plain on Friday 6 February." He asked the public's help to find the perpetrators.

"Police are investigating a business robbery, attempted murder and hijacking cases and request anyone with information that could lead to the arrest of the suspects to please contact Crime Stop on 08600 10111."

Provincial community safety minister Dan Plato said the only way to get rid of the scourge of business robberies, was to invest heavily in additional security measures.

"We are very worried about the increasing number of robberies at centres.

"This shows a great measure of desperation from the syndicates to lay their hands on money. "Added security measure will come at a great cost, but this is the price we will have to pay to get rid of this scourge," Plato said.

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