

The City of Johannesburg, The Johannesburg Development Agency and #ArtMyJozi present a collaborative exhibition and performance by resident Orange Grove Artists - ‘The Birds of the Grove’ Presented at Spark Gallery and the Orchards Project, the performance represents the culmination of themes and project outcomes intended for implementation in Paterson and Short Road Parks – bringing to life local legends of the Paterson Park upgrade area. This event embraces the place making through art narrative along the Louis Botha Development Corridor.

Since engaging artists and community members in Orange Grove and Norwood over the past year, The #ArtMyJozi programme has encountered a significant network of performers, designers, poets and visual artists, all of whom have an interest in how public spaces can perform better in terms of artistic practices.

In order to extract community-based design, local resident and theatre director Myer Taub was engaged to (in conjunction with the performer’s network) design a performance piece inspired by the Paterson Park upgrade and the greater area.

The method of production design for the performance piece served simultaneously as narrative and design – thinking, towards a range of artistic outcomes for the park such as; mural artworks, furniture, sculpture and environmental installations.

The exhibition and performance, taking place over 3 nights – 22-24 June, will give the surrounding residents and greater ArtMyJozi network the opportunity to review and assess the various prototypes and works in progress.

# **Birds of the Grove**

*loosely based upon Aristophane's "The Birds"*

(and singularly slightly draws upon

Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*)

By Andrew Thabo Zitha, Billy Marumo,  
Camelia Mokwele, Christopher Makeketa,  
Collin Modise Mapitsa, Greta Kasongo,  
Lawrence Mandla Hlatshwayo, Lazarus  
Mpala, Letlhogonolo Manyanda, Mabolai  
Kgoete, Mfundo Sithole, Obusitswe  
Seage, Pahlo Mtangai, Raymond.B.  
Makhaya, Rosemary, Sfiso Khoza,  
Siphesihle Shandu, Xolani Sithole, Zimvo  
Makaula, Sibusiso Tshabalala, Ben Amato,  
Tamara Guhrs, The Trinity Session and  
Myer Taub

## **Notes from our Creative Director**

Birds of the grove is in essence an exploration of translation.

Translation of exchange – between design, manufacture and performance.

Translation of adaptation.

Translation of community arts protocols.

Translation of environmental realms in the interest of public space, public art and ecology.

Translation of the activation of the dormant.

Translation of methodologies of production.

Translation of experience.

The work presented today is both archival and immediate, and will hopefully continue to portray all the above, as much as activate a translation between performance and audience, and audience and performer. And some part of that, is the acknowledgment of an incredible growth for all artists involved in the project, including myself, crossing into known and unknown and lesser known paths of making, manufacture, performance and activation.

- **Myer Taub**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**City of Johannesburg  
The Johannesburg Development Agency  
Ward Councilor Eleanor Hugget  
The Trinity Session**

### **ArtMyJozi Crew**

Zivanai Matangi, Thusi Vukani, Sparks Napoli,  
Marion K Nowak, Tari Moyo, Barry van der  
Westhuizen

**Creative Director/Cartographer/Co-creator:**  
Myer Taub

**Designer/Design and Manufacture facilitation:**  
Tamara Schulz

**Administration & Assistant to Creative Director  
(on site):** Zimvo Xeevo Makaula

**Assistant (Assistant) to Creative Director  
(off site):**  
Zeno Jacobs

**Assistant to Designer/Design and Manufacture**

**facilitation:** Nthabiseng Malaka

**Stage management:** Pumzile Mlungwana

**Catering:** ZamamboDee

**Flying House:** Tamara Schulz, Nthabiseng  
Malaka, Nthabiseng Seane

**Audio Visual**

BS Sound and Lights

**Additional lighting supplied by**

iGuzzini

**Curating team**

Sarah Boshoff, Sfiso Khoza, Billy Marumo

Lethuxolo Chanza

## **Design and fabrication working groups:**

### **Bird feeders**

Desh Dube, Sibusiso Tshabala, Lawrence  
Mandla Hlatshwanyo, Sfiso Khoza,  
Zimvo Makaula

### **Benches**

Siphesihle Shandu, Christopher Makekete,  
Lazarus Mpala, Mabolia Johannes Kgoete

### **Sculpture and costumes**

Rosemary Mashaba, Phahlo Mtangai,  
Letlhogonolo Crouch Manyanda, Mfundo  
Sithole, Obusistwe Seage, Linda Njeya,  
Lethukuthula Lethu Mbili,  
Collin Modise Mapitsa

### **Mural**

Gretha Kasungu, Raymond Makhaya, Andrew  
Zitha, Billy Maruma, Xolani Sithole,  
Camelia Mokwele

## **Performers**

Petrus: Lawrence Mandla Hlatshwanyo

Lucky: Lazarus Mpala

Crow: Collin Modise Mapitsa

Tereus: Obisistwe Herman Seage

Troichullus: Sibusiso Tshabalala

Vulture: Phahlo Mtangai

Flamingo: Desh Dube

Sparrow/Pigeon: Lethukuthula Lethu Mbili

Crane: Letlhogonolo Crouch Manyanda

Wall: Gretha Kasungo, Raymond Makhaya,  
Andrew Zitha, Xolani Sithole, Camelia Mokwele

Understudy/Phoenix: Linda Njeya

Falcon: Billy Maruma

Dove: Zimvo Xeevo Makaula

## **Special Thanks to:**

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Alex isaacs and Pikitup

Nandi Nyembe

3-6 Sacred Heart

Norwood Primary

St Luke's Kitchen Crafts