

curriculum vitae

Rucera Seethal

Arts programming and curation, concerning African contexts, special interest in futuring, feminist and funga perspectives



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020.01 – current

Artistic Director
National Arts Festival
Makhanda (formally Grahamstown), South Africa
[LINK](#)

2021.01 – 2022.03

Member of Festival Programme Team
Theatrefestival Basel
Basel, Switzerland
[LINK](#)

2013.11 – 2020.12

Programme Manager for the Performing Arts (SADC region)
Pro Helvetia, The Swiss Arts Council
Johannesburg, South Africa
[LINK](#)

2004.10 – 2011.10

Artistic Director & Production Manager
Chimurenga
Cape Town, South Africa
[LINK](#)

AWARDS

2011 Principal recipient of the annual global Prince Claus Awards
Chimurenga
[LINK](#)

EDUCATION

2001 National diploma design
Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa

CURRENT SPECIAL PROJECTS

2021.12.01 – 2023.04.01 (Stage 1)

Portals Next

[LINK](#)

Project description:

Portals Next aims to become a sustained network of residency structures, connecting to expanding networks of artists and curators attentive to the local and the global. The 2-year project considers exchange, collaboration and presentation through residency formats within artist-led structures.

Project inception partners:

Kaserne Basel (Switzerland); National Arts Festival (Makhanda, South Africa); camaguTshawe (Gqeberha, South Africa); Sahyande Theatre (Attappadi, India). Stage 1 is supported by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council

Participating Artists & Practitioners:

Maria Jose Cifuentes and Cecilia Checa (representing [NAVE](#), Chile); [Eisa Jocson](#) (Philippines); Sandro Lunin (representing [Kaserne](#), Switzerland); [Venuri Perera](#) (Sri Lanka); [Bouchra Triki](#) (Tunisia); Sankar Venkateswaran and Satoko Tsurudome (representing [Sahyande Theatre](#), India), Aurelien Zoukri and Marielise Aad (representing [Hammana House](#), Lebanon), Matchume Zango (representing [Nzango Artist Residency](#), Mozambique), Vusi Mdoyi (representing [Impilo Mapantsula](#), South Africa); [Boyzie Cekwana](#) (representing camaguTshawe, South Africa); Rucera Seethal (representing [National Arts Festival](#), South Africa)

2022.01 – 2023.10

Listening Bodies

[LINK](#) to follow

Project description:

Listening Bodies is a podcast series in which selected African artists from the field of dance and performance talk about their working methods, personal careers, references and the socio-political roots and potentialities of their art. Each artist featured runs institutions or companies on the continent and/or tours internationally. The overall collection of podcasts provides the opportunity to consider the varying approaches, influences and orientations of these selected artists while giving insight into current trends in the performing arts in Africa.

Created as a resource for performing artists and professionals practicing in Africa as well as for arts professionals and audiences outside of Africa, the series is an attempt to analyse and discuss the performing arts in non-academic terms. It is a proposition of knowledge based on different artistic positions; an examination of performance which expands the vocabulary for discussing African performing arts. It seeks to enable a more sensitive and informed reception of productions from the African continent while also disseminating practice reference to African practitioners.

Project inception partners:

Idea- Sarah Israel; Concept- Sarah Israel, [Patrick Acogny](#), Rucera Seethal; Moderation- Patrick Acogny, Rucera Seethal; Production/Editing- Sarah Israel; Technical direction/Postproduction- Richard Aking Behin/Refuge Worldwide Radio; Funding- Goethe Institut Munich, Department of Dance and Theatre and the International Theatre Festival SPIELART

Selected Artists:

[Fatou Cissé](#) (Senegal), [Serge Aimé Coulibaly](#) (Burkina Faso), [Julie Iarisoa](#) (Madagascar), [Edna Jaime](#) (Mozambique), [Ogutu Muraya](#) (Kenya), [Qudus Onikeku](#) (Nigeria), [Chuma Sopotela](#) (South Africa), [Snake Zobel Raul](#) (Cameroon), tbc: [Nadia Beugré](#) (Côte d'Ivoire/France)

2021.12 – ongoing

Charter

[LINK to follow](#)

Project description:

Charter is a values-based framework of collective accountability, transparency and solidarity aimed at creating safer, more enabling conditions for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer or questioning, intersex and non-binary (LGBTIQ) people in the South African arts sector. It aims to proactively challenge the current culture of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the South African arts sector by enjoining individuals, collectives and organisations to adopt its five core principles: Transparency and Accountability; Challenging Unequal Power Relations; Recognition of Unique Vulnerabilities; Taking a Stand on Believability; Safe to Create Together.

By promoting proactive steps sector stakeholders can take, Charter is a self-regulatory framework that can pre-empt and inform legal developments within the largely unregulated environment of the South African arts sector, facilitating adoptees to develop their internal capacity to both prevent and effectively respond to GBV.

Project inception partners:

The [National Arts Festival](#) (NAF); [GALA Queer Archive](#); The [Centre for the Study of Race, Gender & Class](#) (RGC), University of Johannesburg; The [Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa](#) (ISLA)

Project working group:

Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi (RGC Director), Keval Harie (GALA Director), James Macdonald (RGC Research Coordinator), Naadira Patel (Designer & RGC affiliate), Sibongile Ndashe (ISLA Executive Director), Dr Ruth Nekura (ISLA Legal Director), Rucera Seethal (NAF Creative Director), Amie Soudien (Arts Writer & GALA affiliate).

JURY PARTICIPATION

- 2022.08 – WITS Young Artist Award Jury member
WITS University School of Arts, Johannesburg, South Africa
[LINK](#)
- 2021.05 – Horizon - Performance Created in England, International Reviewer, second round
Horizon showcase of performing arts situated within the Edinburgh Festivals, funded by Arts Council England
[LINK](#)
- 2020.08 – Goethe-Institut Project Space (GPS) Grant Jury member
Goethe-Institut Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
[LINK](#)
- 2020.08 – Pan-African Telematic Art Project Grant Jury member
Vrysaat Kunstefees, Ars Electronica, Fakugesi digital arts festival
Bloemfontein, South Africa
[LINK](#)
- 2016.09 – ZKB Patronage Prize and Acknowledgement Prize Jury member
International festival Theatre Spektakel, Zurich, Switzerland
[LINK](#)

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL INVITATIONS & VISITS

ArtsAbility Festival, Cape Town, South Africa (2015, 2016, 2018)
Ba re ne re Festival, Maseru, Lesotho (2013)
Chale Wote Festival, Jamestown, Ghana (2018)
Fari Foni Waati, Bamako, Mali (2018)

Rucera Sharlene Seethal / curriculum vitae / ruceras@gmail.com / page [3]

Festival d'Art Urbaine, Antananarivo, Madagascar (2015)
 Harare International Festival of Arts, Harare, Zimbabwe (2014)
 Ice Hot Nordic dance, Helsinki, Finland (2022 Invitation, unfulfilled re mobility restrictions)
 Kinani Contemporary Dance Platform, Maputo, Mozambique (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021)
 Mapas Mercado Cultural professional performing arts market, Canary Islands, Spain (2021 Invitation, unfulfilled due to mobility restrictions)
 Live Art Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa (2019)
 My Body My Space, Machadasdorp, South Africa (2018)
 National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)
 Qdance Gathering, Lagos, Nigeria (2019)
 Rerouting Festival, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (2018, 2019)
 Ruhrtriennale, Essen, Germany (2018) Invitation: NRW KULTURsekretariat [LINK](#)
 Shared Space Meeting, Durban, South Africa (2016)
 Spielart festival, Munich, Germany (2017, 2019) Invitation: International Spielart Festival [LINK](#)
 Terms of Engagement Gathering, Johannesburg, South Africa (2018)
 Theatre Spektakel, Zurich, Switzerland (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022)
 Theatre Festival Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2022)
 TPAM, Yokohama, Japan (2018) Invitation: The Japan Foundation Asia Centre Invitation Programme [LINK](#)
 Vrystaat Kunstefees, Bloemfontein, South Africa (2018)

PANEL PARTICIPATION

2022.08.12

Panel participation:
The Essential Work of Arts Managers in the Music Community and the Important Contributions of Women in the Administration of South African Music
 Playhouse Company, Durban, South Africa
[LINK](#)

2021.08.25

Panel participation:
International Festivals: How we work now
 A British Council event as part of Edinburgh Fringe, Edinburgh, Scotland
 LINK no longer available

2022.08.

Panel participation:
The State of The Performing Arts 3.0
 Physical Festival, Chicago, USA
[LINK](#)

2021.08.01

Panel participation:
The State of The Performing Arts 2.0
 Physical Festival, Chicago, USA
[LINK](#)

2021.11.05

Panel moderation:
Moving Without Bodies - A panel on how concepts and ideas travel
 Spielart Festival, Munich, Germany
[LINK](#)

2021.01

Invitation to contribute to Goethe Institut 'Power Talks' research
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 Closed interview, no public link

2021.09.30

Curated conversation participation:
Patterns of Connection
 A Drama School of Mumbai, Unrehearsed Futures series, Mumbai, India
[LINK](#)

2020.12

Panel participation:
Perspectives of the creation and circulation of the performing arts. Reality and virtuality
 Seminario Internacional El Pauer / Circulart - Conferencias Artes Escénicas
 Medellín, Colombia
[LINK](#) and [LINK](#)

2020.08.29
Panel participation:
The Digital Divide Problems + Solutions
Currents New Media Festival, Santa Fe
NM, USA
[LINK](#)

2020.08.28
Lecture to Post Graduate Diploma
Heritage Management Students
Rhodes University, Makhanda [formally
Grahamstown], South Africa
Closed interview, no public link

2020.08.27
Panel participation:
*Performance, Publics and the
Pandemic*, As part of “How to be
Together” digital conference
Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Zurich,
Switzerland
[LINK](#)

2020.08.13
Panel participation:
Intersections
The Culture Summit and the Edinburgh
International Festival, Edinburgh,
Scotland
[LINK](#)

2020.07.17
Panel participation:
The Future of the Performing Arts
Physical Festival, Chicago, USA
[LINK](#)

2020.05.03
Panel participation:
International Working and Sustainability
Gateshead International Festival of
Theatre, Gateshead, England
[LINK](#)

2020.04.23
Panel participation:
*Back to Live: Programming in the Era of
Physical Distancing*
The Festival Academy, Brussels,
Belgium
[LINK](#)

SELECTED TEXTS

2022.06
Written interview with Rucera Seethal
Creative Feel Magazine
[LINK](#)

2021.05
“Recognising and Extending the Role of the Arts in Society”
by Rucera Seethal
[LINK](#)

2020.04
“The Artistic Director of the National Arts Festival envisions a virtual event under lockdown”
by Rucera Seethal
[LINK](#)

REFERENCES

Available on request