

## **NAC launches two special projects at the National Arts Festival 2009**

The National Arts Festival in Grahamstown is abuzz with South African and international artists and festival goers. The National Arts Council (NAC) is a premier sponsor of Africa's biggest annual artistic showcase, the National Arts Festival. This year, the NAC has funded over 45 productions showcasing at what is proving to be one of the most popular festival editions with sell-out shows daily.

For the first time this year, the NAC has extended its funding activity to include two NAC special projects designed to accelerate growth in the craft and theatre sectors.

### **Special project 1:**

The NAF Craft exhibition features 11 of South Africa's finest crafters offering a range of South African craft products that illustrate creative innovation and artisan excellence. The NAC is marketing and promoting the crafters and the exhibition in a bid to increase access to markets, boost sales and build profile for the artisans and their unique works.

### **Special project 2:**

Script Reading Festival: *So you think you can write?* - A script development initiative created by the Theatre and Musical Theatre Advisory panel.

Script writers will be taken through an innovative three phase script development masterclass. A combined approach including mentorship, interactive script readings to audiences and competitive evaluation has been devised to ensure that the scripts are developed to the highest quality standards before going into production.

9 scripts have been rehearsed with theatre directors and script readers (drama students from Rhodes University) over the past two months. Dramatic readings of the scripts will be presented to a distinguished panel of theatre professionals during the weeklong programme.

A series of insightful papers will be presented during the programme. Presenters include:

- Vusi Kunene: Acting for theatre
- Fatima Dike: writing as an isolated work
- Malcolm Purkey: writing workshop: "Workshop 71"
- Lara Foot-Newton: New voices, New Writing

***For more information contact:***

***Carol Maluleke: 072 460 8968/ Peter Tshabalala: 083 679 3416***