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**HERE, THERE, NOW: Ongoing Exchange**



**GETRUDE MUNHAMO** is a performance artist with wide experience in theatre, television and radio. She is also a storyteller and writer of several theatre plays, and has conducted workshops on acting and writing. Getrude performed at festivals in Bulawayo and Harare, and beyond our borders in seven African countries, Scotland and the Netherlands. In 2021 The Zimbabwe Theatre Academy recognised and honoured Getrude's commitment and investment towards the development of theatre in Zimbabwe.

The digital collaboration between young women artists of Bulawayo and London continued in June with online exchanges and the development of monologues by the participants. The storytelling project is carried out in a partnership between Nhimbe Trust with the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre of London and the British Council, under Nhimbe's long-running Women in Theatre & Television programme.

In the project blog at <https://www.nhimbe.org/projects/here-there-now> one of the senior participants, Getrude Munhamo, wrote:

“Intercultural exchange on the female experiences that I personally had in the “HERE, NOW, THERE” project were quite intriguing, in the fact that inasmuch as we were all from different continents (Africa and the UK), we were one in the social vices that we go through as women. Abuse in all forms, self-hate, vulnerability, loss of identity and imposed circumstances due to biological or geographical locations. The joys too are shared. Some pains louder than others but one in womanhood. We shared our stories on the meaning of being a black woman, how race has been rationalised since time in memorial and still is an ‘issue’ to some uncouth individuals although we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Amazing discoveries in theories of upbringing, norms, practices and customs of different backgrounds in people. I learnt the diversity in reaction to any type of scenario and also that power is always loud but subtle in its delivery. Silence being protection from racism, love and acceptance from your very own as being security in the world at large and being human enough to see everyone as yourself as a root to unconditional love, which is a battle to the egocentric. /Cont...

[www.nhimbe.org](http://www.nhimbe.org)

**Online resources:**

[Nhimbe Trust 2020 Annual Report](#)  
[Bulawayo Arts Festival 2021 Programme](#)

Through this project I managed to unleash my writing skills too as we were given an opportunity to delve into the inner most parts of our imagination to draw an image that we would take a journey through as we shared various scenarios in literary work. Despite the timeframe I managed to exchange works and pieces and share writing techniques with the Zimbabwean and UK ladies. I learnt different styles of expression that I found interesting. The level of openness and vulnerability one can get even in the midst of a group was impeccable.

Thanks to this project by Nhimbe’s Women in Theatre & Television programme and Lyric Theatre, we had an opportunity to not only write but also exchange works and perform them on camera, an experience that prepared us for this digital era that has begun and I believe is the new normal. Gratitude to our female facilitators for pulling all together and being able to work well with us - thanks Noma and the team from the UK.

To the world out there, I hope you will enjoy our journey with us and share your own stories with us.

Cheers to womanhood, power, new friendships and love!!! HERE, THERE, NOW!!

- By *Getrude V. Munhamo*



**SHAMMAH BANDA**

“For me the exchange was an eye opener, I got to feel that I have sisters on the other side of the globe who appreciate and support African beauty. While I was reading the monologue, I really felt what my UK sister was typing. It’s really heart-warming to know that we can relate despite the difference of state.”



**PRIVILEGE MATHEMA**

“I enjoyed reading the UK lady's monologue, because it was similar to mine, which was a surprise. The main difference was that it portrayed her mother as a religious woman, where mine is more of an African traditionalist. I was frightened by the cameras because it was my first time in front of them, but the camera lady taught me a technique and Lady Tshawe guided me. After a few tries, I ended up nailing it. I learnt that there’s a first time for everything and if at first you don't succeed be sure to always try again till you nail it. I can now boldly say that I am now comfortable as ever!”

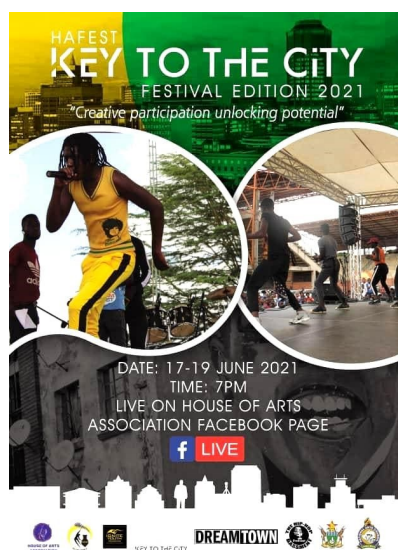




## Yellow World: The KEY TO THE CITY Festival



Pride 'Mentor' Mujoli  
Founder, Yellow World



Nhimbe Trust were happy to support publicity and streaming of the KEY TO THE CITY Festival from 17-19 June 2021. Online with artists from Harare and Bulawayo, the three-day festival was a youth initiative by **Yellow World** led by Pride 'Mentor' Mujoli (19), in partnership with House of Arts Association, Zimbabwe and supported by Dreamtown, Denmark.

A participant of Nhimbe's Children in Theatre and Television (CiTT) programme in 2017-18, Mujoli received training on media, the making of short films, scriptwriting, editing and videography, from professionals in the field such as acclaimed actor and director Memory Kumbota, filmmaker Johanne Mpofu and actress Charmaine Mudau among others. Equipped with these skills, he became involved in a programme by Plan International where he worked on documentaries and short films and the 'Safe and Inclusive Cities' project. He welcomed an opportunity to travel to Abu Dhabi, UAE, and grew his idea of creating Yellow World.

Mujoli says "Yellow World is a youth-led organisation that consists of artists who work with community development through art. Our vision is simply to see a change in our communities so that we start embracing arts and culture. The organisation was founded in 2018 and has been growing for the past three years. In 2020 we were registered as an association with the Zimbabwe Youth Council and the National Arts Council. The registration provided legitimacy for us, granted us permission to operate with young people and boosted our confidence as an association."

Yellow World includes or works with former fellow CiTT students Linos Tapera, Mzingaye Ngwabi, Kumbilani Ncube, and volunteers from other organisations from time to time.

"We have one clear mission; to have an empowered and innovative youth that actively participate in decision-making" said Mujoli. "Our main objective as an organisation and as young artists is to increase the participation of young people living in less resourceful communities. We are here to create opportunities and networks for young people through advocacy and education. We want to empower young artists and cultural institutions who support youth-led initiatives through development."

I dream about having a space for us as an organisation, so people know where to find us. Currently, we have 75+ members, actively participating in our activities. A lot of the young people come from the streets, and do not have access to neither smartphone or computers. Therefore, they struggle to get the information about our activities. We do not want to be an association that is only for

privileged youth with access to the internet, we want to be able to reach all youth groups. Therefore, I wish that we will have a youth center one day, that is made by young people. A space where young people can ease their mind, and find support for what struggles they have.

My biggest dream for Yellow World is to see the organisation moving forward, working hand-in-hand with decision makers in the government and with cultural institutions. If we continue to evolve like we have done for the past three years, we will one day grown in to a strong platform for young people, especially artists, who wish to develop their communities through art. I dream about youth being included in policy-making, and being regarded as important influencers of our society.”

Next up for Yellow World is the Street Cinema Tour - producing a film with young people in the community, and streaming it in different communities as a way of addressing vital and sensitive things that affect youths.

The name *Yellow World* refers to the sun rising.

<https://www.facebook.com/yellowworld1>



## Bluez Café Renovation: BRICK BANK APPEAL

### The bold vision

The bold vision to create a multi-disciplinary arts centre in the heart of Bulawayo, continues unabated in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic raging across the world.

First established in 2017, the burgeoning Bluez Café under Nhimbe

Trust was forced to relocate to 97A Lobengula Street, an old townhouse donated to Nhimbe by the Youth Contact Centre. It requires major renovation to be able to provide a dedicated centre for the city’s producers of culture, which is unreachable without financial support.

Nhimbe set up the BRICK BANK appeal in January 2021, to start work on the physical, structural needs of the new premises - and invites all contributions.

The National Arts Council of Zimbabwe applauded the development, and stakeholders in Bulawayo’s cultural industries have expressed their strong support for the refurbishment plan.

***Nhimbe invites and urges all stakeholders and supporters of this crucial development to donate to the Bluez Cafe Brick Bank. The cost of a single brick is pinned at USD 0.35.***

Donations can be made directly to Nhimbe Trust through [admin@nhimbe.org](mailto:admin@nhimbe.org).



COVID-19 is unravelling a decade of progress on the status of the artist and cultural professionals in the City of Bulawayo. The social and economic impact of the pandemic has already taken a toll on the city’s arts industry. Bulawayo, which is recognised as Zimbabwe’s Cultural Hub, currently has the highest nation-al prevalence rate of COVID-19 cases.

**NHIMBE TRUST IS COMMITTED TO RAISING USD 150,000 TO KEEP ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS IN BULAWAYO SAFE FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.**

Nhimbe Trust aims to alleviate this hold-up for vulnerable artists and cultural professionals in Bulawayo by directly supporting at least 1500 artists and cultural professionals especially youth, women and the elderly who have disproportionately been impacted by COVID-19. Nhimbe Trust's response will cover the entire cultural community of Bulawayo. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be implemented in cooperation with the Bulawayo City Council.

This appeal is to people from all walks of life to donate towards the cause in support of our vulnerable artists and cultural professionals. No amount is too small.

**Please Donate!** Donations should be directed to the Facebook page at

[https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser\\_source=external\\_url](https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser_source=external_url) which displays as *'Ezra's personal emergency fundraiser'* – (Fundraiser for Josh Nyapimbi by Ezra Tshisa Sibanda).

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