

Die Bannelinge | [Media Release](#) | [Friday 13 March 2009](#)

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Rhodes University Drama Department presents

Die Bannelinge

An ABSA KKNK première | Sanlam Prize for Afrikaans Theatre entrant [SPAT]

Written by Bauke Snyman

Directed by Heike Gehring

ABSA KKNK Première

Tue | 7 April | 19:00 | Griesselsaal

Thu | 9 April | 15:00 | Griesselsaal

Rhodes University

Wed | 22 April | 19:30 | Main Theatre

Thu | 23 April | 19:30 | Main Theatre

Fri | 24 April | 19:30 | Main Theatre

When SANLAM extended an invitation to enter the SPAT competition, Heike Gehring jumped at the chance to involve Rhodes University Drama Department in this exciting clash. Rhodes entered three plays, of which *Die Bannelinge* by Bauke Snyman was chosen to be in the top four challengers.

This is the first time an English institution is presenting an Afrikaans production at the competition. It is of special significance that Rhodes Drama Department was chosen out of so many applicants and even more exciting that it is the only English institution being represented.

Age recommendation | sixteen and above

Ticket price | ABSA KKNK | R50 | Computicket

Ticket price | Rhodes University | R20 & R25 | Theatre Café, Theatre Foyer

Duration | one hour & twenty minutes no interval

Language | Afrikaans

Late-comers will not be admitted

Artistic credits

Director | Heike Gehring
Design | Roux Engelbrecht
Lighting Design | Bauke Snyman

About the playwright | Bauke Snyman

Bauke Snyman did his Drama Honours, PGCE and his Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Communication at Potchefstroom University.

After his studies, he did freelance writing, designing and directing for Industrial theatre, advertising, and corporate companies in Johannesburg.

Bauke started teaching full-time in high schools in 2000 and in the afternoons he worked with young offenders as a drama therapist for the NGO, Restorative Justice Centre (RJC) in Pretoria.

In 2004 he was appointed the National Drama Examiner for IEB schools in South Africa. He is currently the Head of Dramatic Arts at the Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) in Grahamstown.

About the director | Heike Gehring

Heike Gehring is a lecturer in Speech Communication and Contemporary Performance at the Drama Department of the University of Rhodes. She has a Masters Degree in Theatre and Performance from the University of Cape Town. As theatre maker, director, teacher and performer, she is mainly concerned with performances that challenge traditionally held notions of gender and cultural identity in a South African context.

She has collaborated with various Grahamstown – based artists and her latest productions include *Lady Anne* and *Vrypas*, which was produced by the First Physical Theatre Company and received a Kanna nomination for Best Dance Production. Other productions are *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*, performed at the Rhodes Drama Department and the National Schools' Festival 2005, and *Mina Nawe*, a theatre production on violence against women, for the Eastern Cape Theatre Company, UBOM!

In November 2004, she was assistant-director to Chris Weare for the production *African Star*, which was performed at the *10 Years of Freedom Celebrations* in Copenhagen, Denmark and in April 2001 she was co-director with Chris Weare for *The Suit*, which won the Marta Award at the Setkane Theatre Festival in Brno, Czech Republic.

Gehring is also an active performer. Her latest performance was in *Chaste* by Acty Tang.

Heike received the Rhodes Women of the Year Award for outstanding achievement in the Dramatic Arts in 2006.

Cast | Alphabetically

Ignus Vermaak
Madelé Vermaak
Shaun Acker
Tristan Jacobs
Zanne Solomon
Rowan Roux

Synopsis

Die Bannelinge is a contemporary South African version of the Oedipus story and deals with issues of heritage and land redistribution.

Ani is a modern Antigone that has to do an autopsy on her brother. Family secrets reveal themselves as she tries to come to terms with the curse that is placed upon her and her family.

The production is performed by a group of dynamic, talented performers from the Rhodes University.

The Writing Process

Greek tragedies are based on Greek mythology. In our country many people are the living characters of a South African tragedy (crime and poverty), but what is the myth we base our tragedy on?

Amongst the ideas I drew on while writing *Die Bannelinge* is the question 'who owns the land?' I was also inspired by the intense love South Africa inspires through her soil, dust and ground.

About SPAT | Sanlam Prize for Afrikaans Theatre

Sanlam press release on SPAT

Four institutions to contest 2009 SPAT Theatre Prize

For the first time since its inception, the 2009 Sanlam Prize for Afrikaanse Theatre (SPAT) will be a tussle between four tertiary institutions. Two regular contestants, the universities of Stellenbosch and the Free State, will be challenged by the drama departments of Rhodes University and the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria.

This battle on stage, the sixth of its kind, will take place from 6 to 10 April next year at the Absa KKNK arts festival at Oudtshoorn.

The plays in the final are:

Die Bannelinge by Bauke Snyman, entered by Rhodes University;
Die Wagkamer, by Frans Josias Hamman (Stellenbosch);
Karakters, by Jané Dowd (Tshwane University of Technology); and
Spokie Snygans maak sy buiging, by Jeanne Goosen (Free State)

At the KKNK the best play/playwright, actors and directors are crowned.

The competition makes prize-money of R270 000 per annum available for the development of new theatre productions in Afrikaans. It is open for the drama departments at any South African institution for higher education that also undertake Afrikaans productions.

As an additional stimulus the scripts of the winning dramas are published. *Lewensreg* and *Die Begrafnis*, the winning scripts of 2007 and 2008, were introduced earlier this year and copies are available from Joho Printers (Bev Maritz, 021 521 2000).

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Sanlam Group Communications

End release

Three pages | Media Contact: Kate Bold katherine.bold@ru.ac.za 046 603 8542

Photographs available on request