

# LADYBUZZ

Issue 2024:4  
22 November



## Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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Ronél Henning

### Next generation

Alumni's children joining in 2025

It is indeed an honour for us when alumni enroll their children. For next year we are blessed to receive five very young students of alumni for various programmes. We are consequently privileged that these alumni trust our standards and commitment to arts learning for their children.

At the end of 2023, our top echelon of music performers and visual art students left to go to their various choices of tertiary studies. However, the past year has seen the rise of a new generation of very young and upcoming students in music, drama, and visual art. Some of them were out in public for the first time and participated in the year-end student art exhibition, Fun Art on 30 October, and the concert production Very Best Times on 2 November. We hope to see more who have progressed well to come out with their artworks and performances next year.

At the end of every Ladybird term, I am always amazed to see what has been achieved. Sincere thanks to all our parents, students, and staff for a truly remarkable year of arts learning at Ladybird.



Ilona Knot

### Very Best Times

Ending the year on a yay!

This year-end concert, Very Best Times on 2 November, was a potpourri of music performances, art displays, and spiced-up with dramatic arts improvisations by Pippa Hobson. Guest musicians who honoured us with their participation, were Patron Wilna Leech (cello), with alumni Joané Beukes (flute), and Joshua Knibbs (violin).

The Ensembles, along with Encore Maluti provided a counterpoint to the solo performances. The conductor for the evening was the talented Katleho Mothae. Percussionists who enhanced the music performances were Tumi Mokoma and Caleb Gualt.

Special thanks to Andrew van der Linde, our Junior Concerts Manager, and his crew, Gideon Knot, Sarah van der Linde, and Hannah Hamilton for the logistical operations of this concert. You are the 'wind beneath our wings' for these events!

The next big Ladybird production coming up will be our annual Autumn Canticles on 15 March 2025.



Little ones 'abounding' at Ladybird - such a joy! A new generation to behold.



### Graphic Design Rolling out in 2025

Pinkie Thulo

Take note of the opportunities on offer for Graphic Design courses in 2025.

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### Fun Art Show Exhibition 2024

Thandi Sliepen

The arts students excelled in the many creative artworks that were on display at their annual exhibition on 30 October. We share some visuals...

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### Alumni news Snippets to enjoy

Ronél Henning

Read more about the inspiring work some of our alumni are doing in the 'real world' of the music industry...

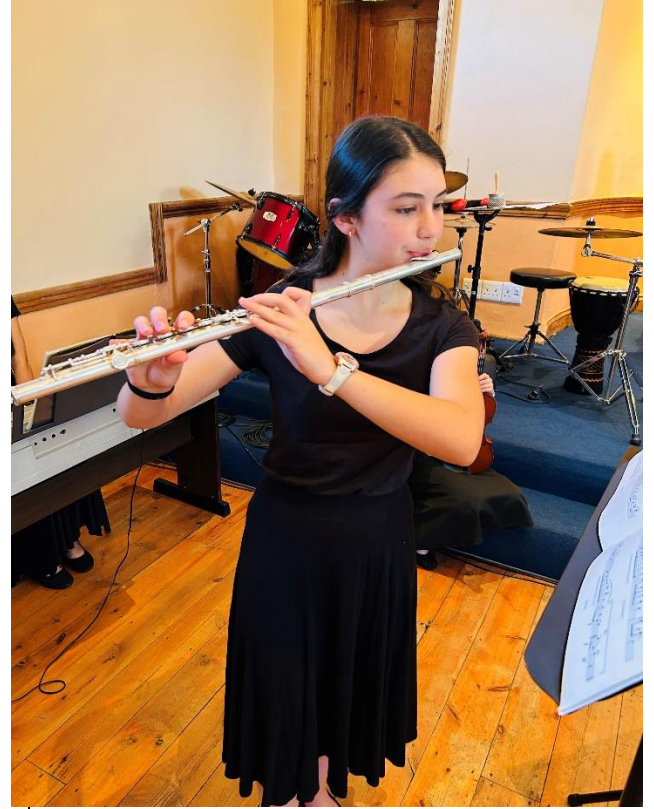
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## Year-end show

Best times - continued from page 1





# Join our arts family!

Arts  
learning  
for  
flourishing  
lives

Enrolment  
Open  
2025

MUSIC  
ART  
DRAMA  
COOKING  
DIGITAL DESIGN

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Pinkie Thulo

# Graphic Design

Grand Finale

Journeys often hold a special place in our hearts, filled with experiences that shape who we are. As these journeys come to an end, we reflect on what has been.

This term Bongo has been working on polishing and refining his skills as a design student. He worked on a poster design, though he had designed before, this time he was advertising a product and what it featured. He moved from creating a vector-based poster to a pixel-based one, which entailed adding images to his design.

He then worked on creating a repeat pattern on packaging to learn about the different ways there are to apply designs on different packaging. He continued by creating a repeat pattern on packaging to learn about the different ways there are to apply designs on different packaging.

Various graphic design projects by Bongo Sixishe.



Bongo Sixishe

Ronél Henning

# Bongo Sixishe

Getting in motion

Bongo Sixishe is a young upcoming digital artist and graphic designer who achieved a Ladybird Graphic Design certificate this year under the artistic guidance of the course presenter, Pinkie Thulo. His Basotho-inspired designs are minimalist with a feel of Art Deco retro. Congratulations to Bongo. We wish him the very best wishes for his future entrepreneurial endeavours in the meta world of digital art.



Left: Bongo Sixishe with Pinkie Thulo

Below: Bongo with his mother, Thato Sixishe at his Graphic Design graduation event.

**Koenigsegg**

# JESKO ATTACK

Koenigsegg twin turbo aluminum VS  
1400 kg

SPECIFICATIONS	Power Output	Downforce	Light Speed Transmission
1600 HP	5.0 LITER	9 SPEED	8.6:1 Compression

Introducing the ghost of Sweden. One of the great innovative, cutting edge, and holds the Guinness record of 277 mph. The Jesko model range is named after Jesko von Koenigsegg, the father of company Founder and CEO, Christian von Koenigsegg.

They feature a redesigned 5.0 litre twin-turbo VS engine producing 1280 hp on standard gasoline and 1600 hp on E85 biofuel (in some markets) alongside the revolutionary new 9-speed Koenigsegg Light Speed Transmission (LS1) system. Advanced aerodynamics offer over 1000 kg of downforce, making it the ultimate track weapon.



Ronél Henning

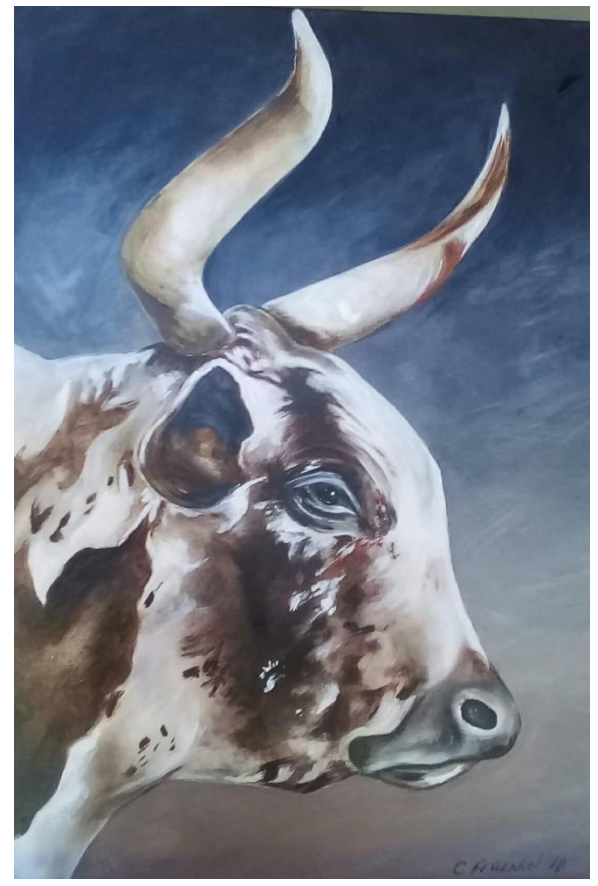
## Head of Visual Arts 2025

Announcement

Thandi Sliepen will be visiting her children and family in New Zealand in the first two terms with open-ended status for 2025.

We are privileged to be welcoming the well-known Ladybrand artist, Chantelle Fraenkel, as locum visual arts educator on the Ladybird staff, for the duration of Thandi's overseas travels.

Here are some of her works to enjoy!



Thandi Sliepen

## Joyful Art Show

A term for creating art



The Ladybird International Arts Academy

# 2025 Calendar



## TERMS

13 January – 28 March

21 April – 13 June

21 July – 19 September

13 October – 21 November

The Arts Academy will be open for classes and lessons on South African and Lesotho PUBLIC HOLIDAYS during Ladybird terms.

## EVENTS

Weekly Wednesday Soirées @ 5pm

Soundcheck, warm-ups and stage rig @ 4.30pm

19 Feb • ABRSM Aural & Accompaniment workshops @ Wed 3.30pm

15 Mar • Autumn Canticles @ Sat 11am

19 Mar • ABRSM Aural & Accompaniment workshops @ Wed 3.30pm

23 Apr • ABRSM Aural & Accompaniment workshops @ Wed 3.30pm

May • ABRSM, Rockschool, Trinity digital exams advanced grades

7 May • ABRSM & Rockschool internal exams @ Wed

15 May • Trinity Speech & Drama internal exams @ Thu

13 Aug • Junior Quick Study Soirée @ Wed 5pm

20 Aug • Senior Quick Study Soirée @ Wed 5pm

15 Oct • ABRSM international Music Theory exams @ Wed 2.30pm

1 Nov • Very Best Times Concert @ Sat 11am

5 Nov • Student Art Exhibition @ 11am - 5pm



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## Art Show 2025





# Mature culinarians!

Ladybird International Arts Academy  
in collaboration with



NEW OFFER 2025

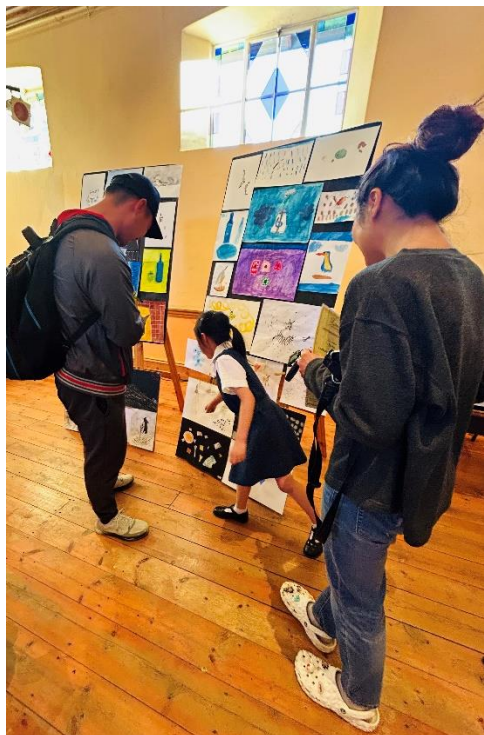
for  
aspiring  
culinarians

COOKING for ADULTS  
8-week short course

Presenter CHEF RONÉL VAN BILJON

Enquiries WhatsApp RONÈL  
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# Something new!

Ladybird International Arts Academy

2025

**ART CLASSES ADULTS**  
**8-week short course**  
Presenter **CHANTELLE FRAENKEL**

Enquiries WhatsApp RONèL  
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# Upcoming Event

The Ladybird International Arts Academy  
presents

## AUTUMN CANTICLES

Sat 15 Mar

2025

11h00

Ladybird Auditorium  
Ladybrand  
South Africa

Entrance R100  
Ladybird students FREE

Booking WhatsApp  
+27 (0)82 561 8842

[www.ladybirdarts.com](http://www.ladybirdarts.com)

Chantelle Sousa

## Aromas of wellness from the Little Chefs

Impressive menu to end a great year of cooking!

- Creamy Tomato Rigatoni Pesto Pasta
- Rice Crispy Treats
- Golden Tumeric Butternut Soup with Cheesy Toast
- Puff-pastry Apple Tart with Vanilla Ice-cream
- Spaghetti Meatballs
- Fruit and Yogurt Smoothies

The Little Chefs are awarded a star as Masterchef for each year that they have been in the cooking programme of Chef Chantelle Sousa.



Little Chefs that were awarded Ladybird Masterchef status stars this year are:

- Mark Su - 5 stars
- Bronwyn du Preez - 3 stars
- Matsepo Thulo - 2 stars
- Maphunye Thulo - 2 stars
- Myles de Bruyn - 1 star
- Liam du Plessis - 1 star



# Invitation to enroll



**DIGITAL DESIGN**  
**1-year certificate**  
**10-week short course**

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Ronél Henning

## Alumni news

Always exciting to hear...

**Madelaine Naudè** is the 'new voice' at Mielie FM, a community radio station broadcasting from Bloemfontein. She achieved her ABRSM Grade 4 Solo-singing certificate at Ladybird in 2018 and sang for many years in the Cantu Maluti Youth Choir. She toured South Africa and Namibia with this group and was part of SABC TV productions during this time. All under the artistic direction of her brother, Werner Stander.

She is married to singer JD Naude, who is also a Ladybird alumnus. They have two very musical daughters, Numeri and Aria, and we will be curious to see how their musical futures unfold.

Soprano, **Emily Dangwa** launched her new album, *Courage through Fear*, in October. We wish her the very best with the album featuring her compositions.

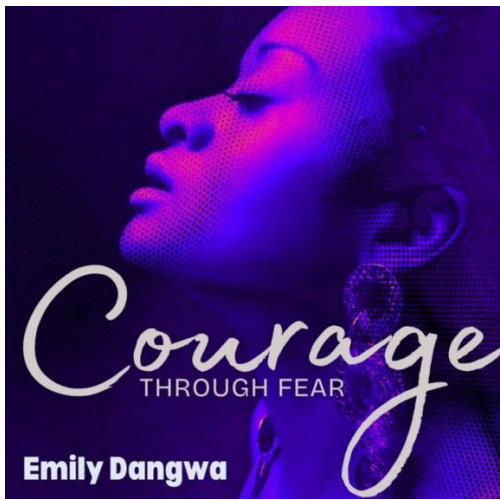
**Simon Vander Plaetse** and his Trio Ado have had a busy touring circuit in Europe over the last season. Congratulations on their fully booked concert season.

We are inspired by the Artistic Director of the Bloemfontein Children's Choir (BCC), UFS Campus Choir, and the two choirs of Oranje Meisieskool, **Werner Stander's**, very successful past season. He toured the Southern and Western Cape with the BCC, and their year-end concert in Bloemfontein was an awesome success. His Oranje girls choir won double gold awards at the Free State Eisteddfod. His choirs collaborated, under his baton, with the Free State Symphony Orchestra with two major choral works, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Beethoven's Choral Symphony No.9 in November. His BCC will be touring Europe during the Christmas Season in December 2025

Flautist, **Joané Beukes** is the co-owner of Scores2Duo in the Western Cape, and is busy supporting music theory students to write their custom-made material based on the syllabi of international exam boards. Congratulations on the remarkable work you are doing to change children's lives through music.

We hear that **Crystal Hamilton** is finishing her third academic year of bachelor's in music, and is very active as a violinist in the University of Cape Town Symphony Orchestra. Well-done.

Below: Crystal Hamilton (violin) in the 2024 year-end concert of the UCT Symphony.



Katleho Mothae

## Dramatic Arts

Benefits for children's education

Much like other hobbies or clubs in academic settings, by creating bonds between actors, crew members, and drama leadership, drama creates a strong community for everyone involved.

A great drama program encourages students to read and analyse their scripts, absorbing their characters' personalities. This improves reading and comprehension as well as enhancing critical thinking.

Peer-to-peer relationships are developed through emotional connections in theatre. It helps students understand and empathize with their fellow man, creating a strong emotional intelligence. Empathy is gained through the study of people outside the student's circle or people from history. It creates more well-rounded, educated citizens of the world, capable of empathizing with people, past and present.

The 'drama space' provides a safe, warm, and supportive environment for all ages and skill levels to explore and develop their emotions and enhance self-confidence. Over time this confidence will seep into other areas of the student's life.

An emphasis on science, maths, and design comes up when students are required to design and construct sets, props, and costumes. These tasks involve math and science, the understanding of materials, and the principles of light and sound.

Students can feel free to discuss their mental health struggles more openly, reflect on their mental states, and build empathy for others suffering from similar issues. This open and honest environment leads to healing, and a mentally strong student will excel both in after-school and classroom activities. Open communication is encouraged.

Apart from learning hard skills, doing dramatic arts improves various necessary soft life skills, like time management, leadership, public speaking, stress management, and adaptability to excel in the real world.

Performance Arts actresses, Mia Bak and Pippa Hobson in an improvisation about a contentious issue on a soap advert.



Top to bottom:  
Madelaine Naude  
Emily Dangwa  
Simon Vander Plaetse  
& Trio Ado  
Joané Beukes  
Werner Stander &  
Bloemfontein  
Children's Choir





Wherever you're going...  
**ENJOY A BLESSED FESTIVE SEASON!**

