

The logo features a stylized white graphic of three overlapping circles of increasing size, resembling a sound wave or a vinyl record, positioned to the left of the text.

# GROOVE Biennale

A PARTY PAVILION

BY

DORMANTYOUTH

AND JÄGERMEISTER x NIGHT EMBASSY

MARCH / APRIL 2026



## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

GROOVE BIENNALE IS A 3 DAY BI-ANNUAL ARCHITECTURE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL FOUNDED BY THELMA NDEBELE, WHO PERFORMS AND PRACTICES AS DORMANTYOUTH, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JÄGERMEISTER x NIGHT EMBASSY. THE FESTIVAL'S EVENTS HAPPEN TWICE IN A CALENDAR YEAR, IN-PERSON OVER 2 DAYS AND ONLINE IN 1 DAY.

THE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE ALTERNATIVE NIGHTLIFE SCENES THAT ORIGINATE, FIND HOME, OR GROW IN JOHANNESBURG. THE FESTIVAL PROMOTES INCLUSIVITY IN BOTH IDENTITY AND MUSIC GENRE AND FOSTERS EXPERIMENTAL INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN TO ENGAGE THE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION WITH YOUTH CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE.



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## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

AMONG THE SEA OF AMAPIANO LOG DRUMS,  
THIS FESTIVAL REINTRODUCES GQOM,  
BALLROOM, JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB,  
(DETROIT / CHICAGO / DURBAN) HOUSE  
MUSIC, TECHNO, CHICAGO FOOTWORK, AND  
DRUM N BASS/JUNGLE INTO OUR SCENE,  
PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED DIVERSITY FOR  
THE POLYRHYTHMIC, AFRICAN GROOVIST.

THE SMALL, LOW RISK, OUTDOOR EVENT  
(<1500 PEOPLE) FOCUSES ON CHAMPIONING  
ALTERNATIVE AND HARDER SOUNDS THAT  
ALSO MAKES UP THE COLOURFUL  
JOHANNESBURG MUSIC PALETTE.



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THE MAIN CATEGORY THAT THE FESTIVAL FALLS INTO IS PERFORMANCE, AS A BROADLY ENCOMPASSING CATEGORY. SPECIFICALLY, THE FESTIVAL IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY OFFERING, INTERSECTING AT 3 ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES:

- **PERFORMANCE**  
*IN THE FORM OF ARCHITECTURAL  
INSTALLATION, DJING, AND BALLROOM  
RUNWAY EXTRAVAGANZA/SHOWCASE.*
- **MUSIC**  
*IN THE FORM OF PRODUCING AND  
CELEBRATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND  
GLOBAL BLACK ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC.*
- **VISUAL ARTS**  
*IN THE FORM OF ARTISTIC EXCHANGE  
WORKSHOPS DURING THE DAY, AND VIDEO  
PROJECTIONS ON EVENT NIGHT.*



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BARRIERS

**2 PRIMARY GOALS THAT THE FESTIVAL AIMS  
TO ACHIEVE AS CORE CONCEPTS / DRIVERS:**

- **ARCHITECTURAL BUILD**  
*SCAFFOLDING STRUCTURE AS STAGING  
AND GREEN ROOM. THE 2025 TEMPORARY  
RIG WAS FOR THE PERFORMERS. LIMITED  
ACCESS TO TEMPORARY STRUCTURE  
STAGE AS A DESIGN INFORMANT.  
ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS COMPLETE THE  
NECESSARY PARTS TO ACTIVATE A  
CONTEMPORARY CLUB SPACE, AN  
EXERCISE IN PLACEMAKING AT 1:1 SCALE.*
- **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE**  
*DEDICATED IN-PERSON VISUAL ARTS AND  
MUSIC WORKSHOPS ALONG WITH A PUBLIC  
HYBRID SALON DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE  
INTERNATIONAL CREATIVES, BOTH IN SOUTH  
AFRICA DURING THE LIVE EVENT DAYS AND  
ONLINE.*





## 2 SECONDARY GOALS THAT THE FESTIVAL AIMS TO ACHIEVE AS CORE CONCEPTS / DRIVERS:

- **IMMERSIVE SOUND**  
SOUND AS THE MAIN EXPERIENTIAL CONCEPT; THE BLURRING BETWEEN SOFT SPACES & HARD SPACES. ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT OF BALANCE TO BE APPLIED HERE. SOUND SYSTEM AND ITS PLINTHS DESIGNED TO BE PART OF THE TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL BUILD.
- **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ARCHIVING**  
DEDICATED IN-PERSON VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC WORKSHOPS ALONG WITH A PUBLIC HYBRID SALON DISCUSSION. LIVE CONTENT TO HIGHLIGHT PROJECT PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL ACTS, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS.  
ARCHIVING CONSISTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA POPULATION (HASHTAGS / REELS / LIVES) AND A STANDALONE WEB PAGE (WIP).



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A 24 HOUR PROGRAMME OVER A SPAN OF 3 DAYS,  
SET INSIDE A TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL  
PAVILION (DESIGNED BY DORMANTYOUTH)  
ENCAPSULATES  
THE GROOVE BIENNALE EXPERIENCE:

2 DAYS OF IN-PERSON EVENTS OCCUR DURING  
1 WEEKEND AT THE END OF THE MONTH IN THE  
FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR.

1 DAY OF HYBRID VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON  
PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OCCURS  
DURING DESIGN / ART WEEK IN THE SECOND HALF  
OF THE YEAR.

THE 2026 EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL CONTINUES  
TO LEAN ON THEMES OF QUEERING,  
TEMPORALITY, WORLDBUILDING, AND  
PLACEMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND WHAT THIS  
CAN LOOK LIKE IN THE CONTEXT OF NIGHT TIME,  
QUEER COMMUNITIES, AND CREATIVE  
ECONOMIES.



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THE FESTIVAL SERVES 4 SPECIFIC  
JOBURG GROOVISTS ON EACH DAY:

THE LGBTQ+ AND WOMAN ARTIST AND MAKER

THROUGH ARTISTIC WORKSHOPS  
THAT INTRODUCE INTERNATIONAL  
VISUAL / MUSIC / MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
ARTISTS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
CREATIVES IN DORMANTYOUTH'S  
QUEER CREATIVE COMMUNITY, AND  
ENCOURAGES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THE ENGAGEMENT WILL BE PART OF  
THE GROOVE BIENNALE FESTIVAL  
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION  
GOAL, AND WILL BE A HALF DAY EVENT,  
HAPPENING DURING THE DAY, ON  
FESTIVAL DAY 1.



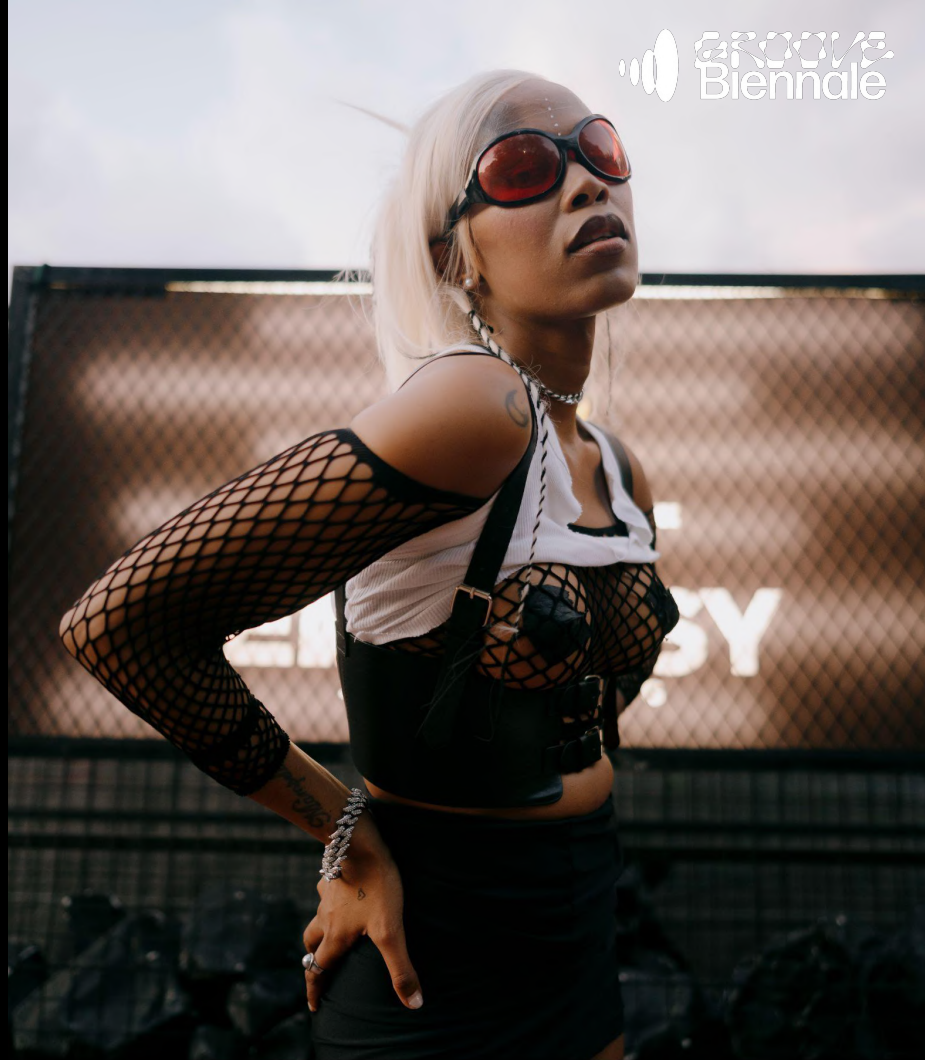


THE FESTIVAL SERVES 4 SPECIFIC  
JOBURG GROOVISTS ON EACH DAY:

THE BLACK JOBURG RAVER

BY BOOKING ACTS THAT PIONEER AND  
CHAMPION THE ALTERNATIVE /  
UNDERGROUND GENRES THAT DON'T  
NECESSARILY PENETRATE THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN MAINSTREAM AND REGULAR  
CLUB NIGHTS IN THE CITY, BUT ARE  
CONSTANTLY THE MOST SONICALLY  
INNOVATIVE, INTERESTING, AND  
GLOBALLY INFLUENTIAL.

THIS IS A HALF DAY EVENT, HAPPENING  
AT NIGHT TIME, ON FESTIVAL DAY 1.



THE FESTIVAL SERVES 4 SPECIFIC  
JOBURG GROOVISTS ON EACH DAY:

THE QUEER / BALLROOM HOUSE(S)

THROUGH A KI KI, AS AN INNOVATIVE EVENT  
FORMAT IN THE CITY, PROMOTING NEW  
ENERGY WITHIN THE EVER GROWING  
LGBTQ+ EVENT SPACE.

THIS KI KI REINTRODUCES THE  
COLLECTIVE-STRUCTURED FORMAT OF  
THE BALL TO THE MORE ESTABLISHED,  
INDIVIDUAL-BASED QUEER EVENTS IN  
JOHANNESBURG.

THIS IS A HALF DAY EVENT, HAPPENING AT  
NIGHT TIME, ON FESTIVAL DAY 2.





THE FESTIVAL SERVES 4 SPECIFIC  
JOBURG GROOVISTS ON EACH DAY:

THE CURIOUS CREATIVE

THROUGH A HYBRID SALON, DISCUSSING  
STRATEGIES TO TACKLE IMPORTANT  
ISSUES SUCH AS ARCHITECTURE'S ROLE  
IN CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, VENUE  
ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY FOR  
BLACK AND QUEER EVENTS, LINE UP  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OF WOMEN  
AND LGBTQ+ INTO THE OVERALL SCENE.

THIS IS A HALF DAY EVENT, HAPPENING  
DURING THE EVENING, ONLINE IN Q3 OF  
THE FESTIVAL YEAR.



## A RAVE, A BALL, AND ARTISTIC EXCHANGE

*THE PARTY PAVILION IS AN ARCHITECTURAL  
PROTOTYPE OF 'AN EVENT PLACE FOR  
OTHERNESS' THAT HOUSES 4 ACTIVITIES THAT  
EMBODY AN ALTERNATIVE JOHANNESBURG  
EXPERIENCE:*

- *A RAVE FEATURING UNDERGROUND  
MUSIC CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE  
CURRENT GROOVE CAPITAL OF THE  
WORLD.*
- *A LARGE SCALE BALLROOM KI VOGUING  
BATTLE AND SHOWCASE.*
- *WORKSHOPS ON THE VISUAL SIDE AND  
SPATIALITY OF URBAN NIGHTLIFE.*
- *CURATION / PROGRAMMING / DESIGN  
PRESENTATIONS.*





**GENERAL IN-PERSON FESTIVAL  
PROGRAMMING / OUTLINE - Q1/Q2**

*ON THE FIRST DAY WE KICK OFF THE  
FESTIVITIES WITH ARTISTIC WORKSHOPS  
AND PRESENTATIONS. WE THEN INTRODUCE  
THE MUSIC PROGRAMME WITH AN  
ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC RAVE FROM  
SUNSET TO SUNRISE.*

*THE SECOND DAY AND NIGHT WE CLOSE  
THE GROOVE ASPECT OF THE FESTIVAL  
WITH A HOUSE-CENTERED BALLROOM KI.*

*THESE ENGAGEMENTS ARE CONSECUTIVE  
AS THE JOBURG PARTY SCENE IS  
RELENTLESS; AS THE SAYING POPULARISED  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA GOES,*

***"IF YOU REST, YOU RUST!"***



**GENERAL VIRTUAL FESTIVAL  
PROGRAMMING / OUTLINE - Q4**

*THIS HYBRID FORMAT IS A NEW ADDITION  
TO THE FESTIVAL STRUCTURE. PREVIOUS  
ITERATIONS OF THE FESTIVAL HOSTED  
ALL 3 DAYS IN-PERSON OVER 1 WEEKEND  
AND CLOSED OFF THE FESTIVAL WITH  
SALON DISCUSSIONS.*

*2026 INTRODUCES AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
PROLONG THE WRAP UP OF THE  
FESTIVAL, WHILE REACHING  
INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES AND MORE  
TARGET AUDIENCE MEMBERS ON A  
LARGER SCALE AT A MORE OPPORTUNE  
AND CONVENIENT TIME AND FORMAT.*





# GROOVE BIENNALE II - 2025

A NIGHT EMBASSY JHB + DORMANTYOUTH COLLABORATION

LE GRUNGE BALL + A DIASPORIC RAVE

DRAG PERFORMANCE: PHOENIX ST ANNA  
BALL RUNWAY HOST: BABA GANOOSH  
LOTON

LENAYA DGR  
CALVOMUSIC USA  
TAH

DORMANTYOUTH  
SUCCESS SA  
MDU'SCABHA  
JUMPING BACK SLASH  
PHATSTOKI  
PONA COLADA  
S'BO GYRE  
LOVING PARENTS  
PRIDE DJ  
ARYU JASSIKA  
OMAGOQA  
MENZI  
DUCE DUCE

GOOM — BALLROOM — JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB — HOUSE — TECHNO — CHICAGO FOOTWORK — DRUM N BASS

DY DORMANTYOUTH  
NIGHT EMBASSY  
30 — 31 JAN  
1c Grand Brand  
#NO

biennale

DAY 1  
A DIASPORIC RAVE

LENAYA  
LENAYA  
JUMPING BACK SLASH  
MENZI  
ARYU JASSIKA  
TAH  
OMAGOQA  
CALVOMUSIC  
LOVING PARENTS  
KMAT

#NO

GOOM — BALLROOM — JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB — HOUSE — TECHNO — CHICAGO FOOTWORK — DRUM N BASS

biennale

DAY 2  
1c Grand Ball

PHOENIX ST ANNA  
PRIDE DJ  
PHATSTOKI  
PONA COLADA  
S'BO GYRE  
LOTON  
BABA GANOOSH  
HABUS CATEGORIES  
MDU'SCABHA  
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES  
SUCCESS SA

L60

GOOM — BALLROOM — JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB — HOUSE — TECHNO — CHICAGO FOOTWORK — DRUM N BASS

biennale

DAY 3  
VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOPS & SALON DISCUSSIONS

1200 — Introduction  
1215 — Ball Runway Workshop  
1230 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1245 — Bay Area Workshop  
1260 — Introduction  
1275 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1290 — Bay Area Workshop  
1305 — Introduction  
1320 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1335 — Bay Area Workshop  
1350 — Introduction  
1365 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1380 — Bay Area Workshop  
1395 — Introduction  
1410 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1425 — Bay Area Workshop  
1440 — Introduction  
1455 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1470 — Bay Area Workshop  
1485 — Introduction  
1500 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1515 — Bay Area Workshop  
1530 — Introduction  
1545 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1560 — Bay Area Workshop  
1575 — Introduction  
1590 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1605 — Bay Area Workshop  
1620 — Introduction  
1635 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1650 — Bay Area Workshop  
1665 — Introduction  
1680 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1695 — Bay Area Workshop  
1710 — Introduction  
1725 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1740 — Bay Area Workshop  
1755 — Introduction  
1770 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1785 — Bay Area Workshop  
1800 — Introduction  
1815 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1830 — Bay Area Workshop  
1845 — Introduction  
1860 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1875 — Bay Area Workshop  
1890 — Introduction  
1905 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1920 — Bay Area Workshop  
1935 — Introduction  
1950 — Pona Colada Workshop  
1965 — Bay Area Workshop  
1980 — Introduction  
1995 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2010 — Bay Area Workshop  
2025 — Introduction  
2040 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2055 — Bay Area Workshop  
2070 — Introduction  
2085 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2100 — Bay Area Workshop  
2115 — Introduction  
2130 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2145 — Bay Area Workshop  
2160 — Introduction  
2175 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2190 — Bay Area Workshop  
2205 — Introduction  
2220 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2235 — Bay Area Workshop  
2250 — Introduction  
2265 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2280 — Bay Area Workshop  
2295 — Introduction  
2310 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2325 — Bay Area Workshop  
2340 — Introduction  
2355 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2370 — Bay Area Workshop  
2385 — Introduction  
2400 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2415 — Bay Area Workshop  
2430 — Introduction  
2445 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2460 — Bay Area Workshop  
2475 — Introduction  
2490 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2505 — Bay Area Workshop  
2520 — Introduction  
2535 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2550 — Bay Area Workshop  
2565 — Introduction  
2580 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2595 — Bay Area Workshop  
2610 — Introduction  
2625 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2640 — Bay Area Workshop  
2655 — Introduction  
2670 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2685 — Bay Area Workshop  
2700 — Introduction  
2715 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2730 — Bay Area Workshop  
2745 — Introduction  
2760 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2775 — Bay Area Workshop  
2790 — Introduction  
2805 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2820 — Bay Area Workshop  
2835 — Introduction  
2850 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2865 — Bay Area Workshop  
2880 — Introduction  
2895 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2910 — Bay Area Workshop  
2925 — Introduction  
2940 — Pona Colada Workshop  
2955 — Bay Area Workshop  
2970 — Introduction  
2985 — Pona Colada Workshop  
3000 — Bay Area Workshop

GOOM — BALLROOM — JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB — HOUSE — TECHNO — CHICAGO FOOTWORK — DRUM N BASS

GROOVE Biennale

EXTENDED DEADLINE  
21 JANUARY

OPEN CALL

VISUAL ARTS  
WORKSHOPS  
& SALON  
DISCUSSIONS

This is an open invitation for up to 50 applicants to participate in an in-person Visual Arts Workshop at Groove Biennale II, during the day on Saturday, 1 February 2025.

Supported by  
BRITISH COUNCIL

QUEER — BLACK — FEMME — ARTISTS — CREATIVES — EXPERIMENTAL — MUSIC — SPACES — (B)ODICULTURES

A NIGHT EMBASSY JHB + DORMANTYOUTH COLLABORATION

GROOVE Biennale

TOWN  
TAG A FRIEND  
IN THE COMMENTS  
SHARE THIS POST  
ON YOUR STORY

[TAG @JAGERMASTERSOUTHAFRICA]

GOOM — BALLROOM — JERSEY / BALTIMORE CLUB — HOUSE — TECHNO — CHICAGO FOOTWORK — DRUM N BASS



## GROOVE BIENNALE II - 2025



CONSTITUTION COURT, JOHANNESBURG  
30 JAN - 1 FEB 2025



## GROOVE BIENNALE I 2022

GROOVE BIENNALE IN 2022 SAW THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST BALLROOM KI KI IN JOHANNESBURG, HOSTED IN ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP SITUATED ALONG THE PERIPHERY OF AFRICA'S RICHEST SQUARE MILE.

THIS PROVIDED A NOVEL ENERGY INTO QUEER NIGHTLIFE AS WE KNEW IT, GIVING A FUN AND LOOSE VIBE, BUT STILL RETAINING CORE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS OF BALLROOM CULTURE SUCH AS CATEGORIES, TROPHIES, JUDGES AND HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN AND QUEER PEOPLE ON THE PERFORMANCE LINE UP.



BALLROOM CATEGORY OTA



BALLROOM CATEGORY OTA



UNTICIPATED SOUNDZ

## GROOVE BIENNALE I 2022

AS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NIGHT OF THE GROOVE BIENNALE, WE REACHED A CAPACITY OF 420 PEOPLE IN THE UNIQUE AND PERI-URBAN VENUE, MEGALO IN ALEXANDRA, THE HOME OF AMAPIANO IN JOHANNESBURG ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE M1.

THE VIDEOS SHOW EXCITING AMAPIANO ACTS SUCH AS PABI COOPER AND FAKE LOVE, INCLUDING FOOTAGE OF THE KI KI BALL CONTESTANTS AND DURBAN GQOM PIONEERS UNTICIPATED SOUNDZ (PREVIOUS SLIDE).



PABI COOPER PERFORMANCE



FAKE LOVE PERFORMANCE

# THE PARTY PAVILLION 2022



VEILED PLATFORMS 3D RENDER

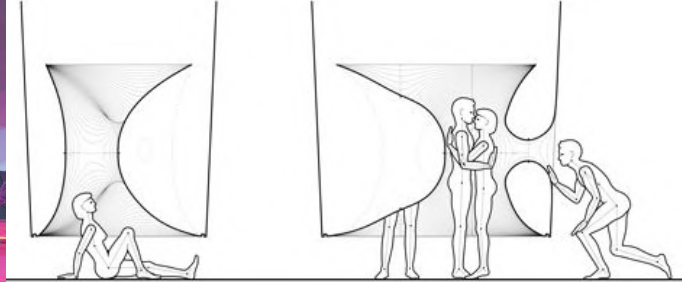


STRUCTURE BUILD UP LIVE PRODUCTION DAY 1





## EXPERIENTIAL REFERENCES



THANK YOU!



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY

NOMONDE MTETWA

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY BY

TWOFOLD