



MEDIA RELEASE

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Women's day comes alive in the heart of knysna

Celebrate National Women's Day with a variety performance to remember.

For decades, the women of South Africa have helped build our country and drive change. National Women's Day on the 9th of August commemorates the 1956 march of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, in order to petition against the country's pass laws that enforced segregation.

The first National Women's Day was celebrated on the 9th of August 1994, and today, National Women's Day draws attention to significant issues that women in South Africa and the rest of the world still face.

In many respects, South Africa is alive because of its women and the extraordinary efforts they continue to make every single day. What better way to celebrate this in the heart of the Garden Route than with a jubilant performance to get the blood pumping and the hands clapping.

This National Women's Day, the Knysna Municipality in conjunction with the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports will be hosting an exciting variety extravaganza celebrating women in the Arts and the women of Knysna.

The occasion will take place on Wednesday 9 August at the Knysna Primary School. A special pre-event will be held on Tuesday 8 August at the Hornlee Civic Centre.

The afternoon's line-up will feature the dynamically talented cast of *Tip-Ex* – the best of Zabalaza Theatre Festival winner for 2016, written and directed by Lauren Hannie, and performed by Lauren Hannie, Melissa Johannisen and Maxine Caeser.

Additional performances will include Jazzart dancers, Black Pearl, Lana Crowster and her all female band, female storytellers and many more local artists. There will also be an appearance by Special Guest Jill Levenberg (Moena from Suidooster).

The Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports and Knysna Municipality has partnered with a local production company, Re-Defined 101. They will be performing a drama piece titled, "unspoken words of a woman." Furthermore, Re-Defined has collaborated with local female singers who will be on the day's entertainment list.

Proceedings will start at 12 pm sharp with a welcome and opening address and the singing of national anthem led by the Knysna Municipal Choir.

This will be followed by a welcoming speech by the Mayor of Knysna a strong, inspirational woman herself Cllr Eleanore Bouw-Spies

The rest of the afternoon until 4 pm will be filled by a variety of performers and speakers, including a key note address by Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport MEC Ms Anroux Marais.

Entrance for the show is free, and everyone is welcome to come and join in this extra special occasion. On the day, donations towards Knysna fire victims will be accepted and appreciated – preferably in the form of toiletry items for women – so please bring down whatever you can.

A special thanks to the local establishments accommodating the visiting artists and helping to make this celebration possible: Knysna Wayside Inn, Knysna Glampackers, Bamboo Guest House, Premier Hotel and the Protea Hotel.

ENDS

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