

# FINAL OUT IN AFRICA FOR 2011



## FILM FESTIVAL

**THE Out in Africa South African Gay & Lesbian Film Festival will be holding their final round of screenings in Cape Town and Joburg at the end of October.**

THE festival, which launched in 1994, has become a key event on the South African Film festival calendar. The festival aims to raise the visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex individuals (LGBTIs) in South Africa, and show positive images of these previously marginalised groups.

The Festival is based at Nu Metro V&A Waterfront and Nu Metro Hyde Park and takes

place from 21-30 October 2011. Features this time around include *The Adonis Factor*, *Breaking out of the Box*, *Going Down in La-La Land*, *Gun Hill Road*, *Heartbeats*, *Heart Breaks Open*, *Howl*, *Pariah*, *Room in Rome* and *Whisper Not*. The three shorts are *Fuck Buddies*, *Drives* and in Cape Town, *It Gets Better*.

*Breaking Out of the Box* will be making its World Premiere on Sunday 23 October 2011 in Johannesburg and on Saturday 29 October in Cape Town. Directed by Busi Kheswa and Zethu Matebeni *Breaking Out of the Box* is a documentary about the lives of Black lesbians in South Africa. The six women are Mary Hames of UWC's

Gender Equity Unit; Dr Yvette Abrahams of the Gender Commission for Gender Equality, traditional leader Fikile Vilakazi of the Coalition of African Lesbians, Out in Africa's own Theresa Raizenberg, activist and film buff; Jozi FM DJ Charmaine 'Fino' Dlamini and soccer star Portia Modise.

The other local feature is *Whisper Not*, a companion piece to Openly Positive's recently published book of short stories of the same name. Directed by Derrick Fine and Elaine Maane, *Whisper Not* is a documentary about people living with AIDS. The book had 15 authors and 14 of the them are featured in the film, they come from all over Africa, including

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi and the DRC.

The movie screens alongside *Breaking Out of the Box* on Sunday 23 October in Johannesburg and Saturday 29 October 2011 in Cape Town.

Of the international picks, *Pariah* looks set to be a fan favourite. Directed by Dee Rees it made it's premiere at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. *Pariah* tells the coming of age story of 17-year-old African American lesbian Alike. Spike Lee is one of the movie's executive producers and cinematographer Bradford Young won the Excellence in Cinematography Award at Sundance.

The other highly awaited

feature is *Howl*, which tells the story of beat poet and writer Allen Ginsberg. James Franco plays the lead role in this biography directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein. The movie screens in Cape Town on 20, 22 and 25 October and in Johannesburg on 19, 27 and 29 October 2011.

Tickets for opening night cost R100 while other nights are R47 in Johannesburg and R45 in Cape Town.

To find out more about Out in Africa and the featured productions you can visit their website at [www.oia.co.za](http://www.oia.co.za), visit their Facebook page or view trailers of the movies on their Youtube channel.

**Kate Hodges**

## NO SURPRISES IN SABC REPORT



## SABC

**THE SABC's Annual report for 2010/2011 is a 156 page document, but we trawled through it so you don't have to.**

THE biggest take away from the document is the fact that the SABC's Total Comprehensive Loss for the year ended 31 March 2011 was R214 million, although this is an improvement of R272 million from the previous year's R486 million loss, it remains a shockingly high figure.

According to the report Expenses were R4.97 billion, R19 million (0.4%) higher than the previous year (R4.95 billion). The news of these expenses and losses is a further source of exasperation for taxpayers in light of the report by *Eyewitness News* on 10 October 2011.

*Eyewitness News* reports that the SABC spent R20 million on luxury vehicles (including

brand new Mercedes Benzes). However the vehicles have remained gathering dust at various SABC parking lots due to the fact that the cars are uninsured and were purchased in violation of the SABC's tender processes and a ruling that outlaws the leasing of new vehicles.

The report, backed up by internal correspondence at the SABC, shows that 86 new vehicles were procured in September this year. The SABC has also had to deal with media reports of inappropriate behaviour by officials while on a business trip to London. These reports do nothing to reassure taxpayers that the SABC is committed to turning around their financial difficulties and delivering a quality broadcasting service.

In good news from the report, Advertising Revenues showed a 19% increase year-on-year from 2009/10 to 2010/11. That percent-

age translates into R3.5 billion revenue from R2.9 billion the year before. The report breaks down where the SABC receives its revenues from, stating: "The SABC is heavily reliant on commercial revenues, which make up 76% of the total revenue for 2011; this trend has not changed over the past five years.

Advertising Revenues make up 67% of the Total Revenue and Sponsorship Revenues make up 9% of the revenues. Licence fees make up only 17% of the revenue for the SABC."

The Performance against predetermined objectives 2010-2011 makes for interesting reading. Most objectives seem to have been met (and in the case of condom distribution exceeded) but corporate affairs appears to be an area in which the SABC is struggling to achieve their objectives. One major objective which the SABC says they have achieved is "Improve Universal Access through installation of low power transmitters to reach 5 million South Africans without access to SABC radio and TV."

In terms of television news the report's findings are optimistic, with a finding that SABC 1 and SABC 2 were retaining and improving on their viewership for news bulletins, however SABC 3 continued to struggle with retaining viewers for the evening news bulletins.

An area of concern is English language current affairs shows, with the report stating: "The SABC's current affairs

bouquet delivered mixed performance for the year, with programmes such as *Asikhulumelume*, *Leihlo la Sechaba*, *Ngu-la Yavutivi* and *Zwa Maramani* improving their ratings above levels achieved a year ago whilst others, such as *Cutting Edge*, *Fokus* and *Special Assignment*, continued to drop audience ratings."

One area where the SABC is reporting success is in content sales. This includes the sales of DVDs and International sales of content. While the numbers are not particularly high for DVD sales (the report says the top seller was *Orkney Snork Nie 4* at 4 300 copies), efforts are being made to market older content. In addition the report claims that hundreds of hours have been sold into African countries this year, and mentions plans to expand into South Korea, Japan other South East Asian territories.

The report heavily refers to the 2010 FIFA World Cup, claiming that while the event disrupted several programmes and strategies, the broadcaster's handling of the cup was considered a success.

One of their key objectives for the year ahead is the roll out of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), and the broadcaster has a wide-reaching plan in place for the conversion. South Africa's target for Digital Migration completion is the end of 2013, and South Africa will be moving across to the DVB-T2 standard. The SABC aims to have increase their channel offering to ten or

more to accommodate the increased bandwidth provided by DTT.

The report states: "The creation of a number of extra channels on the DTT bouquet will allow the SABC to offer a greater range of content in all official languages; increased regional representation; and to drive industry development in building capacity for new and existing producers, particularly in the regions. Considering the need to provide a large and diverse range of services, the SABC strategy is intended to deliver channels that meet the diverse audience needs of the country."

It continues: "The most important differentiator for the SABC's DTT channel line-up is its emphasis on driving Public Value. Specific focus will be on increasing content delivery in areas such as children's programming, news, sport, regional content, youth, women and education, as well as more comprehensive services in all languages and to communities with disabilities."

All in all there were few surprises in the report. People know the SABC is losing money, and that due to frequent changes to the board the broadcaster is in a state of disarray. The SABC is looking ahead to Digital Terrestrial Television, and for the sake of local content creators, one hopes the additional channels will see the SABC pick up the amount of content they are commissioning.

**Kate Hodges**