

**UP CLOSE &
PERSONAL**
with SUTHUKAZI AROSI

AROSI[®]

SUTHUKAZI



ProLife 2013



UBUNTU

Unearthing Africa's Abundant Talent™



AROSI

SUTHUKAZI

Menu



Tours & Projects



Biography



Albums



Awards

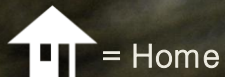


Press Write-ups



Picture Gallery

Click any of the above icons or use arrow buttons. Enjoy





Biography

Born in “ Cala Eastern Cape is where I was born and raised where I was first introduced to music. It was here that my early experience influenced my decision to study ballet and modern jazz in Cape Town. I completed my studies and journey at to Johannesburg to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. It was during this time that I was blessed to work with Gibson Kente. The highlight of my career has been in the creation of songs. With every song I write, sing and perform, I try to take my audience on a spiritual journey. I try to introduce them into my world. A word that has seen the many faces of pain and abuse.

When I am asked what the best album that I have recorded is, my response is All I’ve Ever Done And Will Ever Do. My latest work, Ubuntu, is an album that reflect the times that we live in and the turmoil raging in our society. It speaks to us to be humane. In away it calls on us to respect ourselves, and in doing this it will be much easier to respect those who cross our lives every day.

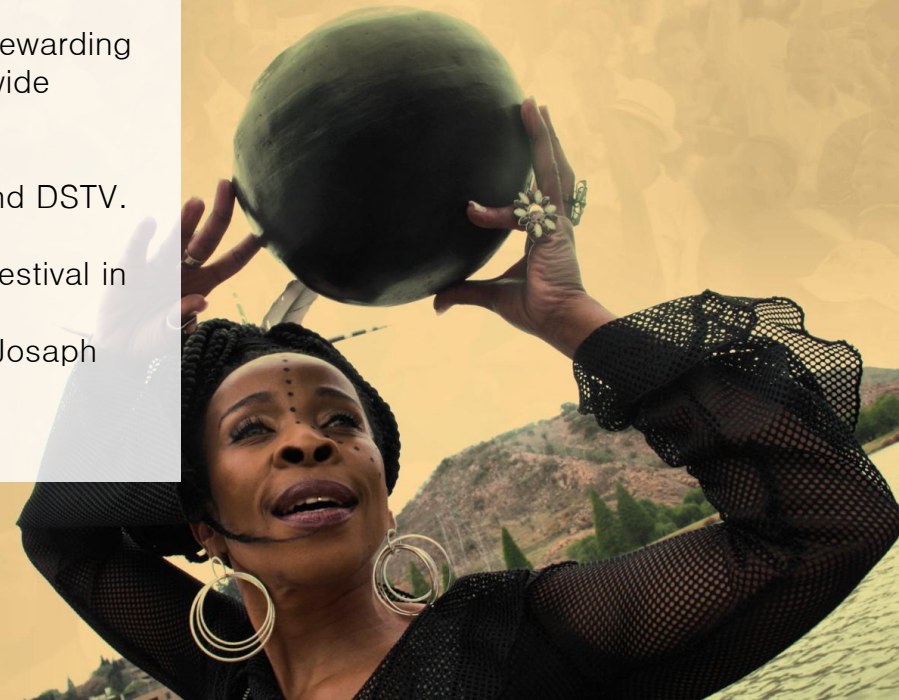
My songs are about emotion. Amanyala reflects a tremendous amount of pain… Pain in the form of abuse. It tells us that when we abuse our women and children we tear at the very fabric of our society, as well as those around the word. This is a global issue. An issue that touches the hearts of each of us” .





Tours & Projects

- ❖ First duet Album created with “Oshakati”
- ❖ Worked with world renowned artists such as: Caiphus Semenya, Letta Mbulu, Hugh Masekela
- ❖ Jonas Gwangwa, Miriam Makeba and Others.
- ❖ Featured on project with Chico Twala including : Staring in Laduma, which toured for the World Indigenous music Festivals
- ❖ Afrovibes Festival: Holland and Germany
- ❖ Raymond Vuyo Mantinyane Fundraising Project
- ❖ International of Joy of Jazz Festival, Johannesburg, August 2002
- ❖ Performed for the President Thabo Mbeki of south Africa and Government Minister
- ❖ For an Internal Award Ceremony at the Union Building in Johannesburg
- ❖ Performed for Mr. Nelson Mandela’s birthday
- ❖ Performed for Royalty the King of the Xhosa people King Xolisizwe when they rewarding Mr. Nelson Mandela of ISITHWALANDWE for his contribution on the people worldwide
- ❖ Performed for the royalty the king of the Zulu’s King Zwelithini on his birthday
- ❖ Toured with the Lion King _ USA in 2003
- ❖ Composed music for film production called Jacob Cross for M-NET, SABC 2 and DSTV.
- ❖ 2007 invited by the president of Botswana for the fund rising charity.
- ❖ 29th May 2009 Performed Meriam Makeba’s songs with her band in all Africa Festival in Germany in tribute of Mama Africa Meriam Makeba.
- ❖ 2009 August invited by the Nchabeleng Royal Family for the unveiling of Prince Josaph Nchabeleng.





PERFORMED IN LONDON FOR VARIOUS OCCASIONS

- ❖ For heritage day 2005
- ❖ Black history month 2005
- ❖ Invited for performance by the S.A. Embassy in London
- ❖ For I.M.O. organization Co. 2005
- ❖ Invited by the municipality of Endhoven in Netherlands for the HIV / AIDS
- ❖ project in 2005 Did workshops and performance
- ❖ Did a front cover magazine in London called Modern Africa Generation in London 2005
- ❖ 2004 Performed for the Cape Town International Jazz Festival
- ❖ 2006 Performed at Sun City for the Extravaganza Musical called Afro Dissiour
- ❖ 2006 Performed in Israel for the 20th Red Sea Jazz Festival IN EILAT
- ❖ 2006 November/December Performed in



Tours & Projects





TOUR LOCATION

- ❖ United Kingdom
 - ❖ Zambia
 - ❖ Zimbabwe
 - ❖ USA
 - ❖ Germany
 - ❖ France
 - ❖ Portugal
 - ❖ Switzerland
 - ❖ Singapore
 - ❖ Japan
 - ❖ United Arab Emirates
- And many others



Tours & Projects





- ❖ Duet: Oshakati – Fire
- ❖ Suthu Aros – Umziwasha
- ❖ Suthukazi – Ayeza
- ❖ Sabela – Abelungu Abamnyama
- ❖ Mahube – Maheba
- ❖ Suthukazi – Ubuntu
- ❖ The Best of Suthukazi
- ❖ The journey
- ❖ And many others



Albums



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- ❖ 1997 KORA Awards for best Southern Artist (First female recipient).
- ❖ 1997 FNB Vita Award for Best Leading Actress in "The Game".
- ❖ 2002 SAMA Awards for Best Xhosa Album.
- ❖ 2009 To be honoured by DRAKENSBERG PROMOTIONS and the Minister of Arts and Culture for the contribution in the South African Music Culture and Heritage.
- ❖ Nominated for Africa unsigned Artist.



Awards





Arosi to bring ubuntu lu

Star of music and drama to officiate in bumpe

By CITIZEN REPORTER

RENOWNED musician and actress Suthukazi Arosi will grace the Lot-R20-m jackpot prize and double-ups in divisions two and three.

Born in Cala, Transkei, Arosi has been engrossed in music since childhood.

At a tender age, she started studying ballet and modern dancing, skills that are still very prominent in her stage performances.

At this year's Sama awards, she

walked away with the Best Traditional Xhosa Album for her latest release, *Ubuntu*.

She has worked with many renowned artists, including Letta Mbulu and Miriam Makeba, and is to embark on an international tour later this year, performing in Holland and Germany.

Arosi believes her music "touches the soul".

"I've always made music for the people, not the industry. I get my inspiration from watching ordinary

people and their everyday life experiences. Unfortunately, Africans are losing some of their traditions, including the special gift God blessed us with, ubuntu.

"It has always been the key to our lives," said Arosi, who has also been nominated for the Shoprite-Checkers Woman of the Year Award.

She is also an accomplished actress. She was the first South African woman to win the prestigious Kora Award, and received the

Best Actress role in *The C*. She ranked 30 and 45 as

bers. "If I win, I will improve myself. I can change my hope, which I need support and money to do."

"It's not just about that one virtue."



Press Write-ups



Arosi

Star of music

By CITIZEN REPORTER
RENOWNED musician and actress Suthukazi Arosi will grace the L.A. R20-m jackpot prize and double-up in divisions two and three.
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At this year's Sama awards,

HELPING OUT:
Solif Keita, and Suthukazi Arosi, below, have contributed to a recording that will help ease Third World debt. Picture of Keita by Reuters and Arosi by Tiadi Khuele



Musos for debt relief

BONGANI MAHLANGU
MILLIONS of children die every year in Third World countries because of poverty and lack of proper medical treatment.

Government budgets in these countries are crippled by their having to pay off their debts to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the United Nations Development programme Tanzania allocated 46 percent of its 2000 budget to the reimbursement of its debt and spent only 15 percent on social services.

In the same year Kenya used 40 percent of its national budget to pay off debt, Cameroon 36 percent and Ivory Coast 35 percent.

Africa, Latin America, and Asian continents still owe \$2 044 billion (R20,4 billion) to the IMF and World Bank.

This debt has for years exposed Third World countries to exploitation by the First World.

The billions paid to the IMF and



is a role they can play to help reduce the debt. Frenchman Francois Mauger organised musicians from Third World countries to contribute to scrapping Third World debt.

Mauger is a sales manager of Tassa Africa, a world music label that houses African stars such as Cesaria Evora, Oliver Ngoma, Melway and Bonga.

The Frenchman is compiling an album, called *Say It Loud*.

Mali's Solif Keita, Cape Verde's Cesaria Evora, Zimbabwe's Oliver Mtshali, Cameroon's Sally Nyolo and South Africa's Brenda Fassie and Steve Dyer are among artists who contributed a song each.

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Press Write-ups



SUNBUZZ

YOUR DAILY FUN GUIDE

A tribute to a great friendship

By **BONGANI HLATSHWAYO**

HAD to laugh the other day when Afro-jazz musician Suthukazi Arosi said she had released a best of... album. I immediately asked her if she was getting old or preparing for death. We had a good chuckle.

Arosi is an unsung heroine of South African song. She possesses one of the most inspirational voices within the industry, which puts her on the same level as some of the most celebrated musicians in South Africa.

The Best Of... has been compiled for a good reason. This production is in aid of the



Anneline was rehearsing with the group Laduma, which consisted of former exiles. They were scheduled for shows in the United States, Thailand and Japan. "They were rehearsing and at the end of it she introduced me.

"I had to join her in song, improvising as best as I could. That was my lucky day. The band decided to include me on their tour," she says.

"Chicco Twala who also produced some of my songs, agreed to release the tracks for the benefit of Anneline," she says. Enoch



Suthukazi Arosi is a kind-hearted musician who has pledged a percentage of her royalties to Anneline Malebo's four children after Aids left them without a mother.
Photo by Sipho Maluka

SPREAD THE MESSAGE



Press Write-ups



Het Pa

MAANDAG 10 JUNI 2002



AFRO VIBES
Suthukazi Arosi
en haar vrienden
laten een week
zien hoe het moet.



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RENOWNED
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At this year's Sama award

16 HOLA AUGUST 11 2002 SOWETAN SUNDAY WORLD

MUSIC

TODAY

BASSLINE 7th Street, Melville, Johannesburg. Carlo Mombelli and The Prisoners of Strange perform from 8pm. Admission is R50. Phone (011) 482-6815.

JOBURG FREE CONCERTS Music in Public Places presents traditional music group Izintombi Zika Shaka from 1pm at Joubert Park, Johannesburg.

ATERIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY HALL Pretoria. Gospel group Soul Masters perform from noon. Admission is R10. Phone 082-410-0972.

MABUTHO'S PLACE Tshilawelo, Soweto. Every Sunday from 8pm Mo Funk Entertainment Production presents Djs Digwele, Lungso, Kunta, Claude, Shirlex Mthokozisi and Crooks, who play the latest deep house music. Admission is free. Phone 083-455-8163.

BIG APPLE The jazz club presents a session in memory of their late member Joe Khakhane from noon at 2549 Block L, Soshanguve, Pretoria. Phone 082-818-2238 for details.

JAZZ MASTERS Stages a session from 2pm at Rosy Fountain Nite Club, Mohlakeng, Randfontein. Call 082-363-1633.

BOPHELO JAZZ ENSEMBLE The band performs from 3pm at Duduza Resource Centre in a session organised by the Reitumetse Jazz Club. Phone 072-355-3016.

COMING UP

BASSLINE 7th Street, Melville, Johannesburg. Guitarist and singer Gito Baloyi performs with Nibs van der Spuy on Tuesday. Saxophonist Moses Khumalo entertains on Wednesday and Gito Baloyi and Nibs van der Spuy return on Thursday. Zim Ngqawana plays at this lively venue from Friday until next

GUMBA



EVENTS

GOLD REEF CITY CAS Johannesburg. The final for the Mr. Miss and Miss African Remains SA pageant are on Sat. Contestants aged between three and 24 can enter. Phone 083-747-7877.

WINDYBROW CENTR for the Arts in Hillier Johannesburg. You are invited to hang out with poets for a stimulation session every Wednesday 7pm. Phone (011) 720- for information.

CONTESTANTS aged are invited to enter Miss Dineenon 2002. 1 073-253-1441.

TECHNIKON FREE 51 1 Park Road, Willow, Bloemfontein. The tescon hosts a cultural f on Friday and Saturd There will be dance a music, food stalls and bittons of African art. Admission is R5. Pho (051) 507-3702.

GIRLS aged 16 to 24 are invited to audition for SA Lovely Face. Phot 083-339-0987.

MARY FITZGERALD SQUARE Newtown, Johannesburg. The V in Poetry event starts 3.15pm and features Masello "Modjadji" Nohwazi "Nomkhubi Makhathini and Lets Mashile. Admission 1

MISS KAIZER CHIEF!



Press Write-ups



French praise for SA diva

By Glynis O'Hara

SOUTH Africa's winner in the Kora African Music Awards, Suthukazi Arosi, was the hit of an awards function in Paris last week, surprisingly dominated by women.

The winners were gathered in a hotel a stone's throw from the Champs Elysees, its 2km stretch from the Arc de Triomphe to the Obelisk decked out in dazzling white Christmas lights, to receive their cash prizes of R150 000, their every move recorded by a large press contingent; including at least three TV stations.

The ceremony follows the October function held at Sun City, where the winners were first announced.

"I don't know of any similar award that gives money prizes," said Ernest Adjovi, the businessman turned music promoter from Ivory Coast behind the two-year-old event, "and this serves to show that we do actually give money; that it's not a hoax. What we say, we mean."

Arosi delivered two passionate songs from her album, recorded under the name Sabela, and had the crowd, the *creme de la creme* of the Francophone music industry, on its feet. She was the only winner to perform during the event, the other entertainers being young up-and-coming women artists from West and Central Africa.

Adjovi rushed to the stage afterwards to hug a tearful Arosi and to tell the audience that she had been one of the discoveries of the awards and that she was looking for an international contract. At least three record companies approached them later.

At the event, which also served to launch the 1998 awards with a new category of Best African-American artist, were Senegal's Ismael

Lo; Cape Verde's Cesaria Evora; Reunion winner for Best East African artist, Ziskakan; and Benin's Angelique Kidjo. Immensely popular with the crowd, Kidjo came over to hug Arosi after her performance and said that she loved playing in South Africa in September-October and that the audience there were "fantastic".

On the presentation of her cheque, Arosi burst into song again with a few powerful lines of praise, again bringing the house down and prompting a fan to shout: "Sabela, we love you, you're gorgeous!".

Financial reward

Edith Lefel, from the French Antilles and winner of the Best Artist from the Diaspora category, gave her cheque to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund which was accepted by an embassy representative.

She explained later that she did it because she had been "very moved by South Africa" when she was there in October. "Also, I'm a mother. I have twins, so when it's about children, it concerns me. I never expected a financial reward for the Kora anyway".

Kidjo electrified the place when she spontaneously delivered two a cappella songs, one in Fon and one in French, on receiving her cheque. Then came the big moment for Cesaria Evora (56), the barefoot diva who won in three categories, notably best West African artist, best African album and a judge's merit award.

The audience earlier gave her a standing ovation when she arrived and now they gave her another, but it took Kidjo's warmth and energy to coax a few lines of her hit *Sodade* out of the "very tired" grand dame of Creole-Portuguese Island music.



Suthukazi Arosi



Press Write-ups



A COMPARISON between Suthukazi Arosi's performance and her watershed debut release with Busi Mhlongo is inevitable.

She unveiled her evocative voice to throngs of music lovers at the Mega Music last Saturday and she shared the stage with the Afrikanda Marimba band, which raised the curtain.

'Arosi's style is rooted in the rich heritage of the Xhosa people.'

Arosi's style is rooted in the rich heritage of the Xhosa people. Wiggling her body like jelly in the true style of ukutyityimba (a famous Xhosa dance), she easily reminded one of Madosini - the queen of Xhosa music.

Her voice, which is like a famous painting because it is easy to remember for its uniqueness, displays an expansive range of deep emotion when she calls on black people to wake up. A conscious call made earlier by legends who have left their musical footprints to social commentary in Amanyalala, which is honest and revealing.

The gig was a soulful savour and heart stirring and Arosi's vocal range was accompanied by highly talented musicians who also helped to produce and write some of the songs in this album.

Herbie Tsoali and Andile Yenana - both of Voice - who have just cut their new project Quintet Legacy and the lead guitar of Louise Mhlanga were equally stunning.

Afrikanda has a long way to go when it comes to live performances. It might seem easy to play the marimba and sing at the same time.

But the group lacks musical discipline but it will surely overcome this with more gigs in store.

And Arosi has a bright future ahead of her as a recording artist and seeing her performing is energising.

LUWI

THE South African Designers Association (SAFDA) is a profit national professional association dedicated to promoting the visible empowerment of its membership; understanding and value that diverse perspectives contribute to world commerce.

This is the first wholly black organisation dedicated to address unique needs of African design professionals and its 2000 members includes professionals practicing in the disciplines relating to fashion.

The participants will be judged in categories - most innovative national costume, haute couture and designer collection.

As part of an effort to catapult culture into the limelight SAFDA has the past six years hosted the Standart Vukani Fashion awards which is an

'Our theme for this year's awards is Africa Reclaiming the 21st century is a reclamation of the times we live in.'

honour and proclaim "our contribution design professions now and through history so that they will no longer be ignored especially African designers" "Above all we are about giving support to our members' growth industry," said Sonwabile N

SAFDA. "Our single mission with the showcase is to reach out and serve communities in which we live with our use, energy and vision.

"Our theme for this year's Africa Reclaiming the 21st century is a reflection of the times we live in.

"Our commitment is to invigorate regenerate our professions to create moments where diversity is imperative and our members are not unknown but recognised," said Ndum Finalists for this year's competition Ronnellie van der Merwe.



Press Write-ups

Arosi
Star

By CITY
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Arosi to bring
Star of music and drama

By CITIZEN REPORTER
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RHYTHMS | WORDS RICHARD KWAMBA PICTURES IKAGENG MUGABETHOKDANE/HOT TOFFEE COMMUNICATIONS

Suthukazi Arosi

STOIC SONGSTRESS

Award-winning Suthukazi Arosi is a fighter. She has to be, if she is to survive the South African music industry that takes no prisoners. When she left her birthplace Cala, somewhere in the middle of the Transkei, Suthukazi was determined that she would not be among those who would see their dreams evaporate in the din of South Africa's largest city.

Not wishing to rush things, as soon as she arrived in Africa's wealthiest city she started by singing backing vocals to some of the country's big-name acts – Hugh Masekela, Caiphus Semenya, Letta Mbulu, Jonas Gwangwa and, of course, the late great Miriam Makeba. Indeed, it was Makeba who more than anyone else inspired her.

"Mama Miriam Makeba is the icon that influenced me to take up music," she purrs over the phone. "Obviously there were others like Sisi Letta Mbulu, Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson, Sarah Vaughn and Nina Simone. As you can see, I have been influenced by musicians in both Africa and America, and even street musicians. But the main inspiration has always been Mama Miriam."

Suthukazi Arosi read about the travails of Miriam Makeba who, even though born in Johannesburg, also did not have it easy. So when the deal that Arosi had with the label that released her first two albums *Ubuntu* and *The Journey* turned sour, she decided to go independent by forming her own recording company, Suthukazi Productions. It is under this label that she now provides the soundtrack for *Jacob's Cross*, a television series that has arrested the attention of viewers across the African continent and the USA. Arosi could not help but shed more light on what went wrong with her previous record company.

"The marketing of my music was very poor," she says matter of factly. "Bra Hugh (Masekela) used to say to me, 'You are so talented but you are in the wrong company. Your music just sits there like an ornament!'"

It takes a very brave soul to chuck away a three-album contract in favour of going it alone. Many musicians have done the same, citing poor marketing of their music and other grievances, only to go back to the same companies they



Press Write-ups



UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

with SUTHUKAZI AROSI

BONGANI MAHLANGU

Spending a day with pint-sized singer Suthukazi Arosi requires a lot of stamina.

So the first thing we did before our meeting was to fuel our bodies with an energising breakfast at Montecarlo's restaurant in Randburg. Arosi chose cappuccino, an omelette and toast.

The singer, also known as Suthu to her fans, had slept over at a friend's place in Bordeaux, Randburg, where we spent the rest of the day, mostly viewing video recordings of her recent performances in Germany and the Netherlands.

"I incorporate theatrical dance moves into my perfor-



motionless as she related the story of her childhood.

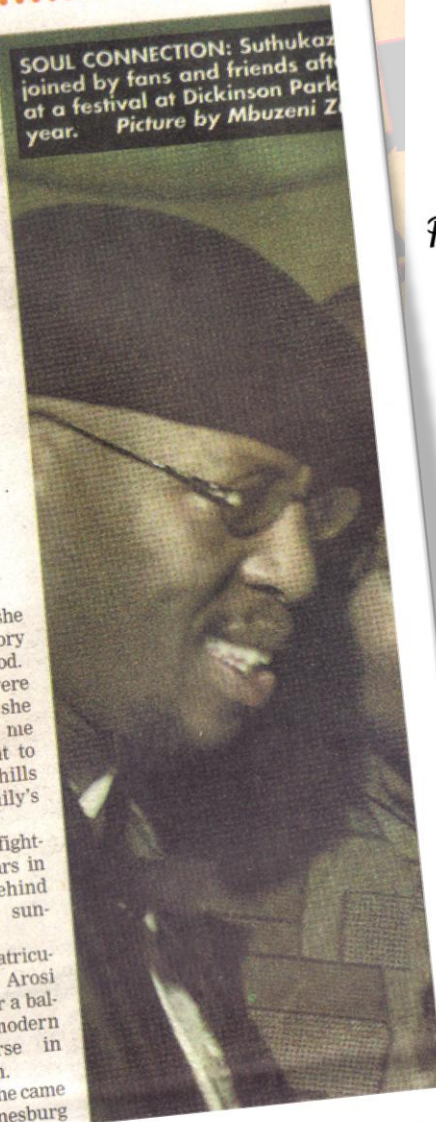
"There were times when she would send me alone at night to search the hills for the family's lost cows."

She was fighting back tears in her eyes behind light blue sunglasses.

After matriculating Arosi enrolled for a ballet and modern jazz course in Cape Town.

At 21 she came to Johannesburg

SOUL CONNECTION: Suthukazi joined by fans and friends after a festival at Dickinson Park year. Picture by Mbuzeni Z



Press Write-ups



Sisters notch up hits in winning Afro-style

Blacks make strides

THE SUCCESS OF WINDYBROW CENTRE FOR THE ARTS UNDER WALTER CHAKELA IS BAFFLING CRITICS WHO HAD CAST DOUBTS OVER BLACK COMPETENCE.

Windybrow Centre for the Arts now in its fifth year under black management continues to make strides in the delivery of quality productions.

If its outstanding flagship, the Windybrow Arts Festival is anything to go by, black theatre administration of the centre is coming of age.

The success of the centre under artistic director Walter Chakela is baffling critics who had cast doubts over black competence.

The real test for Windybrow, however, lies not so much in the annual festival, but in its capacity to survive without the support of the Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal which is being stripped of its privileged grants over the next three years.

"We weathered the storms after taking over this

theatre house in 1993 and we will meet the challenges ahead," said Chakela.

The centre boasts of a young, gifted and committed team comprising Ali Hlongwane, Nomsa Manaka and Thabiso Leshoai.

These young visionaries are out to prove a point. The offerings of this year's festival are testimony to that.

The strength of the event lies in the diversity of acts transcending arts disciplines.

Included in the programme is a book launch featuring the Congress of South African Writers magazine, Staffrider.

The dramatisation of Okot P'Bitek's Song of Lawino by students of the Fuba Academy, which also forms part of the programme,

underlines the link between the written word and life.

Also in the programme is an unprecedented profile on poetry.

A series of poems hosted by Lesego Rampolokeng will give a voice to oral and contemporary poetry.

The music programme dubbed Our Voice, Our Music, featuring big names such as jazz innovator Macoy Mrubata and dynamic Suthukazi Arosi makes it a draw card.

The inclusion of bands such as Emzansi and Julian Bahula's Jazz unlimited adds a cherry on top of the cake.

In the dramatic arts, the festival breaks new ground.

Simomondiya, a slang word for a beautiful woman, leads the pack. Penned by the husband and wife team

of Maropodi and Thandiwe Mapalankanye, Simomondiya charts on an unexplored territory.

It highlights the futility of the liberation struggle for the common folk after independence.

Active in cultural resistance circles in the 70s and 80s, the couple fled the country and returned recently.

The festival will also feature Circus Jimma, a group of Ethiopian school children, giving a commentary on the socio-economic realities of contemporary Africa in their play titled Shoemaker.

Circus Jimma is one of several children theatre groups in Ethiopia utilising the acrobatic circus arts in theatre.

This group of 33 hails from the Ethiopian town of Jimma and this will be their first performance outside their country.

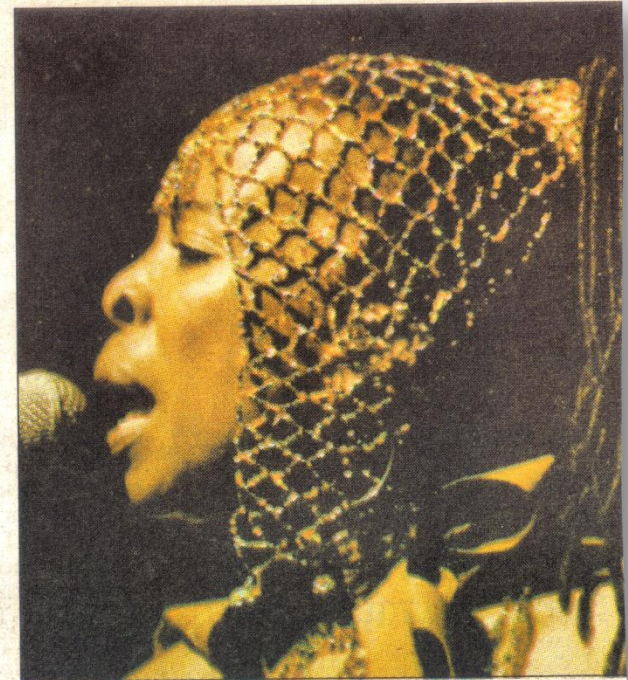
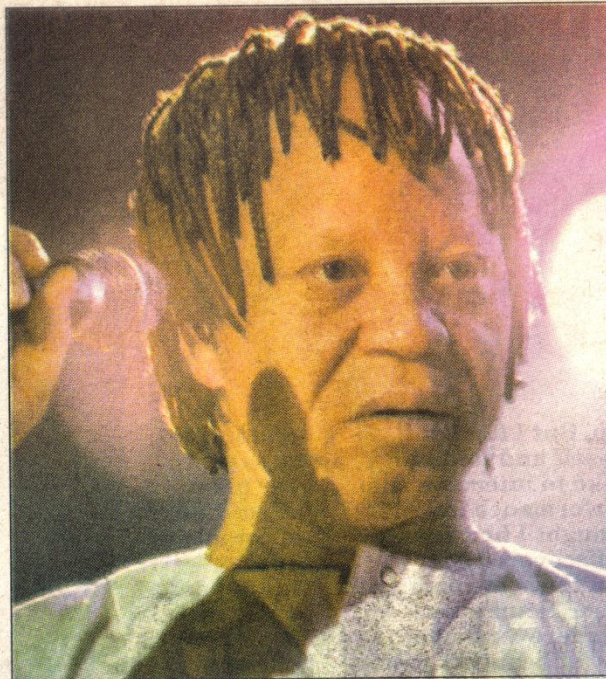
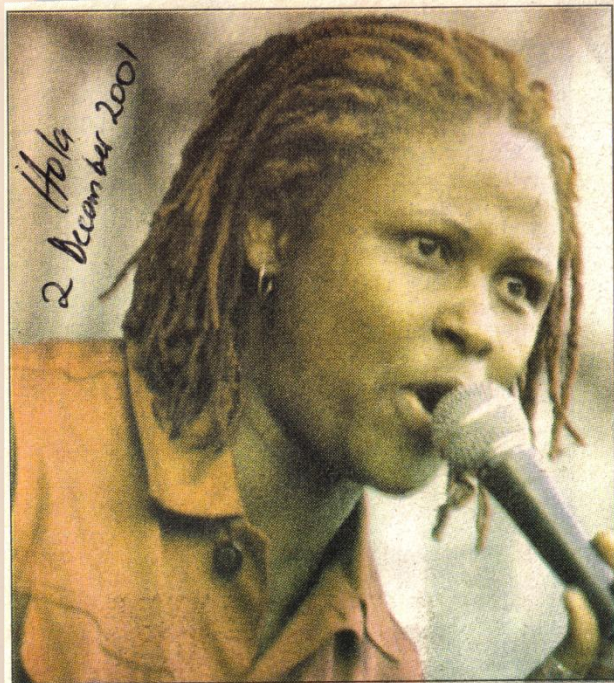


Suthukazi live . . .

- Singer Suthukazi Arosi's debut album released by Taquilla Records this year titled "Ayeza" is one of the best selling albums presently. If you want to catch her live, come to the Windybrow Arts Centre, corner Nugget & Pieterse Streets, Hillbrow tonight at 8pm.



Press Write-ups



Pure joy: Gloria Bosman, left, Salif Keita, middle, and Suthukazi Arosi are three of the artists who will perform at the jazz festival



Arosi in running for 3 Samas

*Journalist
15/04/07*



Press Write-ups

Arosi in running for 3 Samas
Star of music and drama to officiate in bumper
By RENOWNED Suthukazi Arosi to show R20-m jackpot p in divisions two and three Born in Cala. Transkei, Arosi has been engrossed in music since childhood. At an early age, she started studying and music are still ing, skills age perform ent in her's Sama
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Arosi in running for 3 Samas

Suthukazi 18/04/02

By Gugu Sibiyi

The recent announcement that she is a nominee in three categories of the Sama Awards was music to her ears.

Suthukazi Arosi has been nominated for awards in all three of the following categories: Best Adult Contemporary Album: African, for *Ubuntu*; Best Female Artist and Best Xhosa Music.

The first nomination sees her pitted against the likes of Jeff Mankwe, Themba Mkhize, Tlokwe Schume and Medu as well as Umanji. In the second the gloves are off for Brenda Fassie, Judith Sephuma, Lungiswa and TK. In the last, her contenders are Lungiswa and Njembo.

"I can't believe it's happening to me. It's really exciting, humbling and educative. Good things do come to those who wait."

"No! Patience is the mmm... perseverance is the mother of success. Oh, you know. The painful and penniless years appear to be finding their way into the dark dustbin of history."

"But I don't wish them away because they've made me who I am," Arosi bubbled. "I'm glad I stuck to my guns. Everybody making money tried to persuade me to abandon traditional music. I admit it was tempting but I'd remind myself that my soul wasn't for sale."

"I believe in the genre and I knew that one day people would retrace their steps to their roots, including music."

"This is the second time we've come together to celebrate what's theirs, including music."

The second time we've come together to celebrate what's theirs, including music. In 1997 she was honoured as the first female singer to win a Kora



Ubuntu singer Suthukazi Arosi.

she found herself walking away with the FNB Vita Award for the Best Leading Actress for her portrayal in the play *The Game*.

Ubuntu, the album responsible for her good fortune, is a collection aimed at recreating pride in and awareness of *ubuntu*, the rich fibre of African identity lost during our acculturation.

Arosi's career was launched on stage while featuring in township theatre guru Gibson Kente's *She fears the Night*. "I have had it good though, arriving in Joburg and landing a job like that," she says.

"But I had to constantly remind myself to concentrate on what drove me to the City of Gold and unfulfilled promises. Music was at the core, so I teamed up with Velaphi to form a duo known as Oshakati."

She later made a small detour via *Cheek-to-Cheek* before striking out on her own.

"Winning would be good but it's not so much about winning as about the recognition of dedication and hard work."

The lesson is, if you believe in yourself, you can't go wrong," she said, unable to disguise her delight at the turn of events.

That long journey of determination, tenacity and talent



Perseverance pays off, as Suthukazi Arosi proved.

Suthukazi 10/5/2002



Press Write-ups

Arosi
Star of m

By CITIZEN REPORTER
RENOWNED musician and
Suthukazi Arosi will grace
to show tonight to give a
R20-m jackpot prize and do
in divisions two and three.
Born in Cala, Transkei,
has been engrossed in mus
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At a tender age, she
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Perseverance pays off, as Suthukazi Arosi proved. Her life experiences, unfortunately, Africans are losing some of their traditions, including the special gift God blessed us with, ubuntu. "It has always been the key to our lives," said Arosi, who has also been nominated for the Shoprite-Checkers Woman of the Year Award.

She is also an accomplished actress. She was the first South African woman to win the prestigious Kora Award, and received the

Best Actress role in *The O*. She rando 30 and 45 as bers. "If I wi improve c can chang hope, wh need sup money v "It's that on virtue



An evocative voice from the eastern cape bears new gifts, writes **bongani mahlangu**

Love her
Sydney World
14/10

Those who remember the band Sabela and are fans of Mahube, a band of leading Southern African musicians, will know of Suthukazi Arosi.

She is the lead vocalist on the song *African Sunset*, featured in the Mahube project.

Arosi was born in the Cala district of Transkei in the Eastern Cape.

After matric, she enrolled for a ballet and modern jazz course. She then left home at 21 and came to Johannesburg, landing a role as an actor, dancer and singer in Gibson Kente's play

She Fears the Night.

music lovers an expect to learn a lot while they are being entertained'

A year later, she left Kente's stable to focus on a career as a musician. She joined Cheek to

Cheek, one of the top female groups of the 80s.

"I became a backing singer for local legends such as Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, Jonas Gwangwa, Busi Mhlongo and Caiphus Semanya," says Arosi.

She formed the band Oshakati in 1987 with Velaphi Mnisi, but the band fell apart when Mnisi left to join the cast of *Sarafina*.

Her debut album, *Umziwasha*, was released in 1990, and was followed a little later by *Ayeza*.

All this time, Suthukazi's evocative voice did not go unnoticed. Sello "Chicco" Twala, the composer and producer, made her the leader of Sabela, a band he

formed to experiment with his compositions.

Sabela became popular with its controversial hit *Abelungu Abamnyama*.

In 1997, she became the first South African female musician to win a Kora award.

That year she also won a Vita Award for best leading actress for her role in the stage play *The Game*.

Arosi was nominated to become part of Mahube, a band featuring great Southern African music stars such as Oliver Mtukudzi, which has toured Africa, Europe, America and Asia.

On Saturday, Suthukazi will be launching a new album, *Ubuntu*, at the Mega Music Warehouse in Newtown, Johannesburg.

She and the Afrida Marimba band, who play marimba and African drums, will be the opening acts for the Algerian musician Rachid Taha, who plays rai music.

"My new album has a crossover appeal for jazz, mbaqanga and African contemporary music fans," she says.

"I produced the album with Andile Yenana and Herbie Tsoaeli.

"Music lovers can expect to learn a lot while they are being entertained with the music on this project," says Suthukazi.

The album includes a balladlike version of the hit *Abelungu Abamnyama* and a remixed *Umziwasha*.

Wemntomnyama Vuka Emaqandeni is a mbaqanga tune that advises black people to go back to their cultures.



High note: Suthukazi Arosi is a skilled musician

ubuntu WITH CROSSOVER appeal



Press Write-ups

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12 TIME OUT Sowetan
Thursday April 12 2001



Suthukazi Arosi released her latest album called Ubuntu last weekend.
PHOTO: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

Arosi's flair gets her to the top

By Eddie Mokoena

SHE'S not only one of the rare breed of fine performers that this country has, but Suthukazi Arosi is also a vocalist of note who has worked with leading South African musicians.

Last weekend Arosi exhibited her flair and style when she performed at the Mega Music Warehouse during the launch of her album *Ubuntu*.

Like Busi Mhlongo, Arosi's performances are hypnotic and have in the past kept audiences spellbound. "When I'm on stage I feel totally surrounded by music," she says in an interview with *Time Out*.

Despite having worked with world-renowned musicians such as husband and wife Letta Mbuli and Caiphus Semenya, Cheek II Cheek, Chicco, Chimora and Mahube, Arosi says her project is an effort to establish herself as a force to be reckoned with both locally and abroad.

Though humble, Arosi's face will from time to time twist in anger, her eyes burning with fury when she speaks of her struggles. However, she says she's always had a feeling that someday lady luck will smile on her.

Arosi, who started her musical career in the '80s as a backing vocalist for township pop duo Cheek II Cheek, got her break when Oswald Velaphi Mnisi, one half of the group, gave her an opportunity to record *Umuzi Uyasha*.

Even though the song was good, Arosi says the promotion was bad and people were not yet attuned to that kind of music.

"After this album I approached companies trying to get a recording

deal, but I was told that my repertoire was too upmarket," she says.

Propelled by her never-say-die attitude, Arosi joined Chicco's band Chimora as a backing vocalist. Soon she was fronting for a Chicco project, Abantwana Boxolo. The project featured the hit song *Abelungu Abamnyama*.

"It was a big break for me and obviously I thought the music industry would embrace me. Sadly that didn't happen," she says about the record that went on to earn her a Kora All Africa Music Award.

However, that didn't dampen her spirits and other musicians took note of her. Musician Steve Dyer hand-picked Arosi alongside other renowned musicians, including those from across the Limpopo river, for his collaboration of Southern African musicians called Mahube.

The singer says the project was able to introduce various sounds from Southern Africa.

"One can safely say the project was in line with the African renaissance as it allowed the people to appreciate other sounds from neighbouring countries."

Arosi says her latest project was inspired by the fact that people have lost their sense of self-respect, dignity, love and unity - hence the album's title *Ubuntu*.

"We have lost that special gift that God blessed us with, that is ubuntu (humanity), yet ubuntu is the key to our lives."

Ubuntu, says Arosi, addresses all these issues.

"It's about people's experiences in life, what they have gone through and what they have become."



Press Write-ups

Star

By CITY RENOWNED Suthukazi A to show ton R20-m jackp in divisions Born in childhood. At a ter studying banet and ing, skills that are still very promi- nent in her stage performances. At this year's Sama awards, she

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Press Write-ups

Your Stars

ARIES: Mar 21 – Apr 21.
Embrace your opportunity to live up to your own ideals. Concentrate on realising your burning ambitions. You have your chance to prove your ability and to put yourself in a class by yourself. Determine to make others look up to you.
(PHONE 083-914-0501)

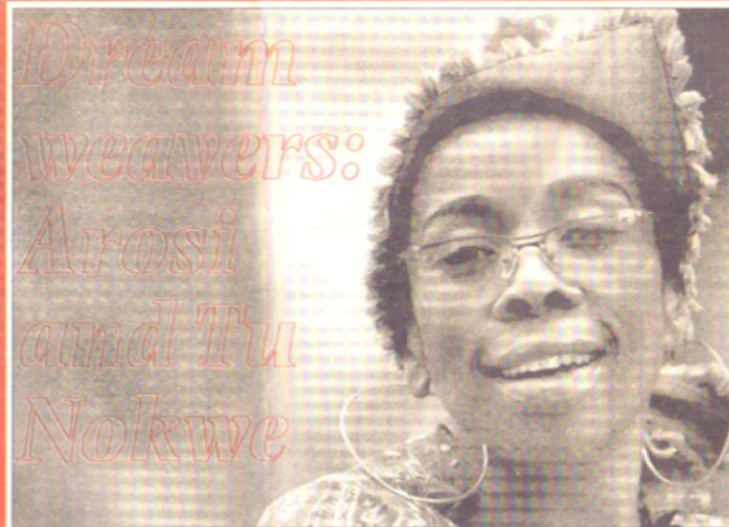
TAURUS: Apr 21 – May 21.
Business and financial ideas shared with trusted and reliable people ought to work out quite satisfactorily. This appears to be a significant time for putting your professional prospects on a better basis so concentrate on that aim.
(PHONE 083-914-0502)

GEMINI: May 21 – Jun 22.
A time to be wholly unselfish in order to come up trumps for those who are in need. Favour your friends yet do not turn away others who are genuinely suffering misluck. Your considerate deeds will gain extra credits from providence.
(PHONE 083-914-0503)

CANCER: Jun 22 – Jul 23.
Because you are now very likely to shy away from people, and also due to your current preference for solitude, you will work best on your own. You are sure to make a vital breakthrough if you are left to your own devices for a while.
(PHONE 083-914-0504)

LEO: Jul 23 – Aug 24.
You now have a splendid chance to bridge the yawning gap that exists between you and your personal dream. However, you must move deftly and swiftly in order to do so; cannot expect to win the race if you adopt a careless attitude.
(PHONE 083-914-0505)

VIRGO: Aug 24 – Sep 23.
Set about improving your knowledge and skills so as to prime yourself for future endeavours. Life in the commercial zone becomes increasingly competitive so you must keep in step with new developments in order to show up admirably.



QUEEN OF ROOTS FUSION: Suthukazi Arosi is one of this year's recipients of the Tribute to SA Heroes Music Concert 2009 awards. The other heroine of SA music is Tu Nokwe.

Gugu Sibiya

SUTHUKAZI Arosi and Tu Nokwe are the recipients of the Tribute to SA Heroes Music Concert 2009.

The concert takes place at Moretele Park in Mamelodi ya Tshwane on Sunday, August 30, from 10am. Arosi is one of our most talented female musicians.

She has performed with icons such as Caiphus Semanya, Letta Mbulu, the late Miriam Makeba, Quincy Jones and Brenda Fassie. Her distinctive voice has soared on international stages as she criss-crossed the world with these musical legends.

A gutsy Eastern Cape girl who came to Johannesburg to seek fame and fortune, she stuck to her guns, fusing Afro-pop and deep traditional music. She distinguished herself with music full of pride in our culture.

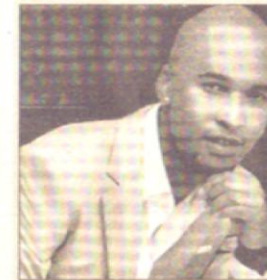
Tu Nokwe comes from a Durban artistic family that has in their own right inspired, discovered and nurtured much talent.

As a guitarist and composer, she takes pride in homegrown sounds and is forever teaching youngsters the rudiments of their craft. She played a major role in bringing many of the *Sarafina* stars to centre stage.

Hers is a family of art

practitioners, from her actor and actress parents, Alfred and Patty, her backing vocalist sister Marilyn and her niece Ayanda Nhlangothi. Nokwe and Arosi deserve the awards: their focus is to preserve our cultural heritage.

Set to keep you at Moretele until the wee hours with the singers are Caiphus Semanya, Mathapelo, Lira, Dr Malombo, Thandiswa Mazwai, Lucky Dube's Band, The Jaziel Brothers, Rhythmic Elements, Ringo Madlingozi, Freshlyground, Tsepo Tshola and Malaika. Tickets are available from Computicket, Shoprite and Checkers.



New Afro-pop star on the block

Edward Tsumele

SOUTH AFRICA has a new Afro-pop star in the making – the well-connected Vusi Ndimufumene – whose new album is reportedly making waves on the market.

Released three weeks ago through EMI, the sales have now reached thousands of copies, and the future appears to be looking good for the well-travelled Ndimufumene.

He told *Sowetan* that he was happy with the turn of things.

With sales having reportedly reached 3 000 copies within three weeks, and still going up, this compares well with sales for established artists.

"It is quite amazing how people have reacted to the album, especially for a debut album with almost every station playing the music, with the exception of one," he said.

"I have travelled and performed in Zambia and Mozambique in the past, but this is my first album, and I'm quite happy with it."



Picture Gallery





Picture Gallery





Picture Gallery





Picture Gallery





Picture Gallery



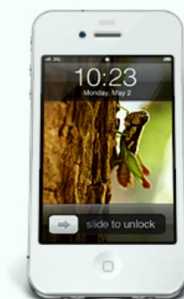


Picture Gallery





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