

Waldorf School Windhoek goes massive with “Hit The Beat”

The Warehouse Theatre lit up with a bevy of performances, thanks to Waldorf School Windhoek’s 80 pupils – in collaboration with team leaders – who executed a stunning show last Friday evening.

“Hit The Beat”, an annual event hosted by the school, united pupils through cultural diversity and spoke volumes in the rhythms of dance, song and drums.

And speaking of unity, the team sang ‘Aladdin’s’ ‘A Whole New World’ in co-ordination, as high school pupils should. “I am diversity,” Charles Bennafield said, speaking on stage with all the confidence in the world. “Our lives burn longer.”

The next thing you know, the pupils switched to their next performance as a live band shimmied with a live acoustic version of Michael Jackson’s ‘Billie Jean’. But there was no time to flinch, as the next group of students gathered in unity with drums in tow.

The hard thump of the traditional drums began, like Africa’s heartbeat calling out to the ancestors – harmonised and passionate, as should be – mellowing down to a calm thud with the lead drummer, Tapuwanasche Munyani, who showed off the power of his hands in the background. Simply beautiful.

Carmen Nothando-Voigt was among those who danced her way to freedom to Taylor Swift’s ‘Trouble’, while Faizel Brownny, Sarah Situde and their crew leapt, bent and tumbled up and down in transcendence, the audience was mesmerised by their choreography to Adele’s ‘Make Me Feel My Love’.

Another notable performance was the ‘Mexican Dance’ led by Retha Landsberg, who showed that age is nothing but a number when she and the pupils nailed the traditional Jarabe dance in gorgeous yellow skirts, lighting up the stage as if they were powered by the sun itself.

And the crowd cheered them on, as the merrymaking brought joy to the building – and what a wonderful evening it was.

Not to mention the choirs, which was one of the best parts of the show – where the voices of all the pupils came together as one.

Singing in languages like Tswana, Zulu and even Hebrew, the pupils belted out their best. But Sarah Situde, a former pupil of the school and now a teacher, stole the show with her strong voice and serious conductor skills.

From serious rap performances to ‘garbage music’ where ladders and brooms were used as instruments to create some cool tunes, overall, ‘Hit The Beat 2016’ was well worth the N\$80, with over three hours of fun included.

“This time last week, we were worried about not getting the space full, but thank you,” Simone de Piccoto, project leader and choir project, drumming workshop and garbage music workshop leader, said.

With Voight, Mia Röbßler, Markus Sprengler, Brownny, Landsberg, Gerrit von Schouwenburg and the band consisting of Günther Geiger, Adam Brandon-Kirby and Conrad Hegarty leading the team in terms of vocal coaching, improv, dance and all things music, it was easily noticeable that the pupils had more than enough guidance to help the show become a stunning success.