



URBAN AFRICAN CULTURE LUNCH HOUR CONCERT



African Music and Dance 3A students perform on stage.

The School of Arts (Music) recently presented their first Lunch Hour Concert for 2015 with African Music and Dance (AMD) 3A students performing on stage at the Howard College theatre under the theme: Urban African Culture.

The concert, headlined by Ms Nomfundo Zuma, Mr Thamsanqa Silindana and Mr Lindani Phumlomo, featured various styles of dance which the audience enjoyed, including the Township City Africa Dance choreographed by Phumlomo which showcased a combination of urban dance 'Nae Nae' from the suburbs, 'Kwasa kwasa' from the township, and a mixture of a West African dance called 'Kuku'.

Discussing the arrangements and choreography of his selected dances, Silindana said: 'The Bhekuzulu- Dance (Umzansi) was choreographed in memory of King Cyprian Bhekuzulu Nyangayezizwe Solomon, one of the late Kings of the Zulu nation (1948-1968), son of King Solomon Dinizulu and father of King Goodwill Zwelithini Bhekuzulu.

'Umzansi is the traditional Zulu dances and is regarded as a war dance, usually performed at weddings. The dancers of Umzansi usually use a military drum and the style is common among the people of Emsinga and Bergville. Umsanzi originated from the areas of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe.'

Also performed onstage was an arrangement of Zulu wedding songs, Umshado. 'These Zulu wedding songs were usually sung during traditional weddings which are often held at the home of the family of the groom. After the church, the bride and groom then change clothing and wear the traditional gear. When two Zulu people

marry, the marriage unites two families and also the ancestors of the two families,' explained Silindana.

Zuma, on the other hand, composed a Imbokodo (women) Style: Afro Jazz number. 'The song is about women in general who are not taken seriously and not given the respect they deserve. The song specifies the duties and sacrifices that women make like giving birth but are still taken for granted.' Her composition included a recital of the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou.

The concert was a huge success with many audience members stating that they were keen to attend the next one.