

Winners announced for the 2017 National Arts Festival Awards

The Fringe at this years' National Arts Festival saw more than two hundred productions premiere, with the Ovations Awards panel making their way through the festival's theatres to select work that stood out and made audiences stand up.

The 2017 panel was convened by Tracey Saunders. Panel members were Jade Bowers, Lara Bye, Motlatji Ditodi, Mhlanguli George, Caryn Green, Mwenya Kabwe, Lliane Loots, Zanele Madiba, Alby Michaels, Jayne Morgan, Nobesuthu Rayi, Sarah Roberson, Warona Seane, Mareli Stolp, Hugo Theart, Simon Tibbs and Lee-Ann van Rooi.

“A willingness to take risks was evident in many productions and in several instances, it paid off. Exciting work came from unexpected places and if the Fringe reflects the state of the performing arts in the country, it is bold, vibrant and angry.” said Tracey Saunders, convenor of the 2017 panel, also noting that the range of work on offer was diverse – from delicate, solo work to large, chaotic ensembles and several permutations in between.

Here are the 2017 Standard Bank Ovation Award winners:

Gold – Standard Bank Ovation Awards 2017

- *Hani: The Legacy* by Market Theatre Laboratory (Theatre)
- *Tau* by One Man and His Dog and The Market Theatre (Theatre)



Tau - Image by Jan Potgieter

Silver – Standard Bank Ovation Awards 2017

- *Bayephi* by Thembela Madliki (Theatre)
- *Human Pieces II* by The South African Theatre Village (Theatre)
- *In(S)kin* by Artscape (Theatre)
- *Silent Scars* by Calvin Ratladi Foundation/Zabalaza Theatre Festival (Theatre)

- *Tats Nkonzo is Privileged* by ExploSIV Productions (Comedy)



Human Pieces II

Standard Bank Ovation Awards 2017

- *180 Punchlines! (Three Laughs A Minute)* by Alan Committie (Comedy)
- *Acoustic Me* by LoveChild (Music) Acoustic Me
- *Agony* by Thistle Productions (Theatre)
- *Au Revoir* by Followspot Productions (Comedy)
- *Cattle Drive* by Theatre for Africa (Theatre)
- *Celebration: Music of American Composers* by Althea Waites (Classical Music)
- *Dear Mr Government, Please may I have a meeting with you even though I am only six year's old?* by UJ Arts and Culture (Theatre)
- *DikaPapa* by Generation of Stars (Physical Theatre)
- *Down to a Sunless Sea* by Wind Up Mind (Dance)
- *Ekurhuleni jazz ensemble* (Music)
- *Fire house* by Hijinks Theatre (Theatre)
- *Flamebook* by Jo Kinda – MDALI (Theatre)
- *Guy Buttery* (Music)
- *Molora* by Tshwane University of Technology (Theatre)
- *Nijinsky's War* by Leftfoot Productions (Theatre)
- *Samthing Soweto* (Music)
- *State Fracture* by ExploSIV Productions (Comedy)
- *Syria?* by Artscape (Theatre)
- *The devil and Billy Markham* by Contagious (Theatre)
- *The Kaffirs* by Gauteng Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture (Theatre)
- *Welcome to the Zoo* by ZikkaZimba and Hijinks Theatre (Theatre)



Cattle Drive - image by Jan Potgieter

Additional Standard Bank Ovation Awards 2017

- Encore Award for *Battles! – limfazwe!* (Storytelling Tour)
- Encore Award for *Momentum* by the 34/18 Youth Dance Company (Dance)
- Encore Award for *Opera Found* (Classical Music)
- Encore Award for *Singing Chameleon* by Ditshimega Domain (Storytelling/Performance Art)
- Encore Award for *Spiritual Walk* (Theatre)
- Merit Award for *Kubili (Two)* by Musa Hlatshwayo/Mhayise Productions (Dance)
- Stand Out Performance by Daniel Richards in *State Fracture* (Comedy)

Special Standard Bank Ovation Awards 2017

- Standing Ovation was awarded to musician Steve Newman
- Standing Ovation was awarded to Tony Lankester to mark 10 years as National Arts Festival CEO

The Student Theatre Awards

Student Theatre Award for Best Production:

Molora from Tshwane University of Technology's Drama and Film Department
- Directed by Kopano Maema

Student Theatre Award for Best Original Work:

Cult Clit from Rhodes University Drama Department
- Directed by Mmatumisang Motsisi



Cult Cit

Student Theatre Merit Award for Original Work:

Pop Icheri from The Market Theatre Laboratory
- Written by Ncumisa Ndimeni and Nosipho Buthelezi

Award for Best Stage Manager:

Manoko Tlhako from Rhodes University Drama Department

The Student Festival's advisory team this year included Mwenya Kabwe, Tracey Saunders, Lara Bye, Thami akaMbongo, Liiane Loots, and Nobesuthu Rayi. It was headed up by Greg Homann. Only work created by students was eligible for awards.

www.nationalartsfestival.co.za