



50 Hibiskus Street, O'Kiep  
Northern Cape  
South Africa  
8270

📞 +27 78 188 5895

📞 +27 64 508 8984

✉ [garageokiep@gmail.com](mailto:garageokiep@gmail.com)

🌐 [garagedanceensemble.com](http://garagedanceensemble.com)

📘 [facebook.com/garageokiep](https://facebook.com/garageokiep)

📷 [Instagram.com/garagedanceensemble](https://Instagram.com/garagedanceensemble)

Non Profit Company reg. no. 2013/208601/08

**THE SPACE FOR CREATIVE EXCELLENCE**

---

## Byron's Report

Date: July 8, 2024

The Ensemble has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges. Since last year, the company has overcome numerous obstacles to deliver successful performances.

2023:

- March: Diepspore

The company's first open-air performance, featuring teenagers, trainees, and guest artists, was a significant milestone. Despite the challenges of setting up sound and lights, the event drew the largest audience to date, with over 60 cast and crew members involved.

- April: Stof

The tribute production, "Stof," was created in just a month, despite the company's busy schedule and limited staff. While it debuted to positive reception at the SuidOoster festival, Alfred and John felt it required further refinement.

- May: Sylvia Vollenhoven and Basil Appollis Corporate Job.

"Crossing Ocean Inside" was a notable collaboration featuring Dr. Diana Ferrus, Jolyn Phillips, and the Garage Dance Ensemble. This performance showcased the company's ability to work with esteemed artists and push creative boundaries.

- June: Youth Day Performance (Trainees + Teenagers)

On June 16, 2023, the Trainees and teenagers performed at Dr. Isak Primary School in celebration of Youth Day. This community performance was a strategic move by the company to promote their Saturday classes and affirm the knowledge and skills gained by the teenagers and trainees.

The performance served as an opportunity for the young dancers to apply their dance education in a real-world setting, enhancing their performance intellect and ability to adapt to challenging circumstances. By performing on Youth Day, the company aimed to inspire and empower the youth, showcasing the value of dance education and its impact on personal growth and development.

This community performance was a successful initiative that aligns with the company's mission to make dance accessible and inclusive, promoting the arts as a powerful tool for social change and community building.

- July: 29ste BABALAS (KLIPKERK)

August: 3rd - 12th Babalas (Port Nolloth- Okiep Rec Club)

The production of Babalas was a challenging and tumultuous journey, marked by numerous ups and downs. However, through sheer tenacity and determination, the show finally premiered on July 29th at the Klipkerk in Springbok.

Despite unforeseen circumstances, including a power outage during the performance, the show was postponed and later reprised in Okiep, where it was met with a packed audience and overwhelming enthusiasm. The Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture also requested a performance in Port Nolloth at the Community Hall Center, which was equally well-received.

The audience was deeply moved and emotionally impacted by the production, which provided a unique and powerful theatrical experience. Babalas was a groundbreaking piece that pushed boundaries and left a lasting impression. There is a strong desire to revive the production in the future, building on its success and impact.

- September- October: Krummelpap (Return from USA),

In September and October 2023, the Garage Dance Ensemble made its U.S. debut with Center Stage, touring their production "Krummelpap" to audiences across the country. The tour consisted of 9 travelers, including 5 performers, 2 production staff, 1 manager, and a U.S. company manager.

Originally debuting at Woordfees 2020 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, and later touring to the 2021 Afrovibes Festival in Holland, "Krummelpap" has proven its ability to transcend language barriers, with successful performances in multiple countries. For its U.S. debut, the original text, written in Afrikaans, was translated into English by the author.

This tour marks a significant milestone for the company, demonstrating its capability to perform on an international platform and gradually building a global audience. The success of "Krummelpap" in the U.S. debut tour with Center Stage is a testament to the company's artistic excellence and its ability to connect with diverse audiences worldwide.

-October: Wound-Of Soul (Trainees + Emelda )



On behalf of Atlang Arts Development, Tshegohatso Mothelesi collaborated with Garage Dance Ensemble Trainees Georgia, Keanu, Manon, and Jared to deliver a corporate performance in Kimberly.

The team conducted two performances: one at Boitumelo Special School and another at the local theatre. Despite the challenges of performing outdoors at the school due to the lack of a hall, the children enthusiastically received the contemporary dance performance, which was a first-time experience for them. Although technical issues with the music hindered audience interaction, the dancers' talent and energy were well-received.

The theatre performance ran smoothly, showcasing the dancers' expertise and effectively conveying the intended message. The audience was fully engaged, and their positive response was evident in their inquiries about future performances. The clients expressed appreciation for the dancers' talent and enthusiasm, requesting future engagements.

This corporate job demonstrates the company's adaptability, professionalism, and commitment to delivering high-quality performances, even in challenging circumstances.

-November: Tamaaf Slave Lodge (Basil Appollis and Sylvia Vollenhoven)

The Garage Dance Ensemble was part of a significant program at the museum titled "Slavery at the Cape – Reflections on the Dutch Colonial History in South Africa". The program consisted of two main components:

1. "Slavery: Ten True Stories of Dutch Colonial Slavery"
2. "Tamaaf", an immersive theatre production directed by Sylvia Vollenhoven and Basil Appollis.

The production featured performances by:

- Faroll Coetzee
- Esme Marthinus
- Byron Klassen (Garage Dance Ensemble)
- Garth Erasmus
- Joylin Phillips
- Dianna Ferrus

This program aimed to provide a thoughtful reflection on the Dutch colonial history in South Africa, with a focus on the stories and experiences of those affected by slavery. The immersive theatre production "Tamaaf" brought these stories to life, showcasing the talents of the Garage Dance Ensemble and other performers.

\*2024:\*

- January: Marlin Zoutman Creation (Jazzart Dance Theatre Encore)  
In January 2024, Marlin Zoutman, a renowned teacher, choreographer, and dancer, and former student of John and Alfred, collaborated with Garage Dance Ensemble

Trainees Georgia, Keanu, and Manon. During his one-week residency, Marlin created a brand-new, three-minute dance piece with the trio.

The resulting work was showcased at Jazzart Dance Theatre's Encore performance, highlighting the artistic exchange and creative output of this collaboration. As the artistic director of New World Dance, Marlin brought his expertise and fresh perspective to the Garage Dance Ensemble, further enriching their artistic journey.

This collaboration demonstrates the company's commitment to artistic growth, exchange, and innovation, as well as its ability to attract and work with esteemed professionals in the dance industry.

- February: Jazzart Dance Theatre Encore February 29 and March 1, 2024

ENCORE was a tribute to the talent and contributions of artists who had shaped Jazzart's history and legacy. The mixed-bill program featured an array of dance works created by award-winning artists and guest companies, including a special headline appearance by Alfred Hinkel and John Linden's Garage Dance Ensemble.

The Garage Dance Ensemble's performance showcased three choreographed pieces:

- Blues vir my ma (solo by Keanu)
- Gee my die woorde (duet by Keanu and Georgia)
- Triptych (trio by Keanu, Georgia, and Manon)

Choreographers Byron Klassen and Marlin Zoutman had crafted these works to commemorate the invaluable contributions of Garage Dance Ensemble during their tenure.

The Ensemble's perseverance and dedication to their craft have yielded impressive results. Despite facing numerous challenges, the company continues to produce high-quality performances that resonate with audiences. As they move forward, it is clear that their legacy will continue to inspire and pave the way for future generations of artists.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron Klassen". The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.