



12 August 2025

## MACUFE 2025 CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTISTS

True to the commitment made by the Premier of the Free State, Me Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, and the Member of the Executive Council for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR), Me Ntombizanele Sifuba, MACUFE continues to be a catalyst for local artists showcasing.

During the launch of MACUFE on 1 August 2025, a clear commitment was expressed pertaining to the need to continue to elevate Free State artists through MACUFE. As preparations for the festival are well underway, the Department of SACR is proud to announce the participation of artists from the Free State in the 2025 MACUFE programme as follows per the three (3) major MACUFE music programmes:

- **MACUFE Hip-Hop vs Amapiano:** Out of 20 artists **17** are Free State artists.
- **MACUFE Main Festival:** Out of 18 artists **10** are Free State artists.
- **MACUFE Gospel Festival:** Out of 19 artists **11** are Free State artists.

A total of **38** out of 57 artists from the three (3) major MACUFE music shows, which constitute **67%**, is therefore constituted by artists from the Free State. This strong representation of Free State artists is sustained through other platforms such as:

- **MACUFE Comedy and Poetry** show where all **19** comedians and poets are from the Free State.
- **MACUFE Film Festival** is constituted by **four (4)** film productions (Bed News; Blood Film; and Mophando) all of which are by Free State film producers.
- **MACUFE Dance Fiesta** programme will showcase dance productions called “Rhythm of Change” and “Motswadi”. The total number of performers in both productions is **25** Free State dancers.
- The winners of Naledi Ensemble Award, the Free State theatre production called “Coal Yard”, which consists of **05** Free State theatre performers, will be featured under the **MACUFE Theatre Festival**.
- The **Visual Arts, Crafts and Literature Exhibition** will feature **15** exhibitors who are all Free Staters.

With all the 2025 MACUFE platforms considered, **121** out of 140 artists (**86%**) of artists who will be performing during this festival are Free State based.

As a multicultural and multidisciplinary programme MACUFE thus continues to ensure the elevation and showcasing of local talent, while also remaining a national and international cultural pilgrimage. The national and international caliber of MACUFE signifies that national and international artists and productions will continue to constitute an important part of this programme. The below table outlines artists and productions per show with Free State artists and productions bolded:

Event	Artists/Productions
<b>MACUFE Film Festival</b>	<b>Winnie Mandela documentary; Bed News; Blood Film; and Mophando</b>
<b>MACUFE Dance Fiesta</b>	<b>Rhythm of Change, Poem/Dra Dance and Motswadi</b>
<b>MACUFE Theatre Festival</b>	<b>Coal Yard (Winners of Naledi Ensemble Award)</b>
<b>MACUFE Main Theatre Festival</b>	MANTSOPA Musical Theatre Production directed by Dr. Jerry Wa Makhetha
<b>MACUFE Comedy and Poetry</b>	<b>Cold Fire; Tieho Khaukhau; Goodenough; Kholiwe's Poetry in Song; Thope; Ladybird; Blackrose; Bonfaya Mphulanyane; Rasta Eye &amp; Eye and Sputnik.</b>
<b>MACUFE Visual Arts, Crafts and Literature Exhibition</b>	<b>Various Crafters and Writers</b> (15 various exhibitors from Free State).
<b>MACUFE Hip-Hop vs. Amapiano</b>	Kwesta; <b>Ntate Stunna</b> ; Scotts Maphuma; Mawhoo; <b>DJ Tobetsa; DJ Beast; Sir Juice SA; DJ Legoody; DJ Tshegu; Fantas the DJ; Stino and Thwenny, Gashlido; Taylor K; DJ Amo Africa; Farm Boy and Ray; Ms Lula; 2Point 1; Nayshen SA; Seneath Caprivi Camp; DJ Fariki; Troy M; Phiwe Specific and Scavvy Luv</b>
<b>MACUFE Main Festival</b>	Thandiswa Mazwai; Semito; <b>Miss Noxy</b> ; Presss; <b>StarChalale</b> ; Nathi; Judith Sephuma; <b>Andy T</b> ; Sannere; <b>Serame Sediti</b> ; Makhadzi; Babsy Mlangeni; Vusi Nova; Malaika; <b>Choko</b> ; Trevor Bower; Jaziel Brothers; <b>Mr SPL; Star Kruzz; Don Leggeh</b> , Nathi, Thapelo Khumisi and DJ Lazy Eye
<b>MACUFE Gospel Festival</b>	Soweto Gospel Choir; <b>Teboho Moruti</b> ; Jabu Hlongwane; <b>Keneilwe Hope</b> ; Thinah Zungu; <b>Matsela Monyane</b> ; Tshepiso Mpotle; <b>Sello Maletse; Teboho Moloi; Thenjiwe Vilakazi</b> ; Lebo Sekgobela; Esethu Siwe; Ayanda Ntanzu; <b>Puleng March; Free State Explosion; Mphaki Nkoli; Israel Mosikidi; Blessing Maya</b> ; and <b>Nomqibelo Lenong</b> .

“As we have stated before, our resolve to ensure artistic development in the Free State is a matter of principle and this development will continue to be on an upward trajectory. During one of our provincial flagship programmes, known as Free State Homebrew Festival, that we staged in February 2025, a total of **240** Free State artists participated. This level of participation by our local artists in our various district and provincial arts and culture programmes, is testimony to our commitment to create platforms

for artistic expression, showcasing of talent and earning of a living by our Free State artists”, stated MEC Ntombizanele Sifuba.

**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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