



‘Hotstix’ ready to burn out his brains

Musician to juggle busy schedule with studies

BONGEKILE MACUPE

IM ELATED, I’m elated.” These were the words of music icon Sipho “Hotstix” Mabuse after Unisa offered him a bursary to study towards a Bachelor of Musicology after passing matric last year.

Mabuse made headlines in going back to school and finishing his matric at the age of 61.

He had dropped out of school in Grade 11 in 1969.

And now, besides his busy schedule as one of the country’s legendary musicians, Mabuse is ready to burn out his brains for a couple of years to get his degree.

Speaking to The Sunday Independent this week, Mabuse said he couldn’t have chosen a better institution to further his studies.

“I’m over the moon... I’m going to dedicate my heart into my studies,” he said.

Mabuse said even with his busy schedule he intended to finish his degree within the stipulated four years, but at “worst it will take me five years”.

Deputy registrar at Unisa, Tinyiko Maluleke, said Mabuse had offered the university an opportunity to act on its role in higher education in South Africa, which is to offer learning to everyone regardless of their age.

“He presented us with an excellent opportunity to be true to our own goal,” he said.

Maluleke said Mabuse was also a “very special South African” who played a major role in “healing the nation” during the struggle against apartheid through his music. He added that he was a “unique individual” who even with his success as a



MAESTRO: Sipho “Hotstix” Mabuse has been offered a bursary by Unisa.

musician still saw the need for education.

“He could have said ‘I don’t need matric, I don’t need higher education’ but he has chosen to study,” said Maluleke.

Maluleke said giving the bursary to Mabuse was a “small” thing to do for someone who had given a lot to the country through music.

“He is clearly talented and successful, but feels the need for formal education,” he added.

Mabuse wrote his matric at the Peter Lengene Adult Basic Education Training School at Thaba-Jabula Secondary School in Soweto.

He said getting his matric was something he had always wanted to do. Having an “unsettled childhood” had made it difficult to continue studying, said Mabuse.

His parents separated when he was young and he had to move around, staying with relatives, and as there “was no proper guidance at home”, he ended up dropping out of school.

He was privileged that even without matric he achieved a lot through his music career, he said.

“But I realised that I cannot separate education from what I do; I eventually decided to go back to school,” he explained.

He said it was not easy to study for matric because of the demands that came with a career in music, but was determined to achieve his dream.

Mabuse encouraged students who were turned away at higher education institutions this week because of lack of space not to “despair”.

“If it were up to me I’d never allow any black child to be left out of an education institution,” said Mabuse.

Even though some students waited until the last minute to get into higher education institutions, getting their matric results in January was also a contributing factor in them making uninformed decisions about their future.

If results had come out earlier it would give students enough time to make choices whether they want to further their studies at a university or not, he observed.

Mabuse is also a choir master for North West Province in the upcoming reality singing competition show the *Clash of the Choirs SA* to air later this month on Mzansi Magic. Asked how he would juggle studying and his music career, he said he would take his books wherever he was.



TRUE BLUE: Jo-Ann Strauss and Jen Su at the L’Ormarins Queen’s Plate 2013 racing event, held at Kenilworth Racecourse yesterday. PICTURE: MATTHEW JORDAAN

Queen’s Plate is a fashion plate

BIANCA CAPAZORIO

KENILWORTH Racecourse was turned into a veritable sea of blue and white as thousands of punters and fashionistas turned out for the 152nd running of the L’Ormarins Queen’s Plate yesterday.

And while horses were the main event, it was the fashion that definitely took centre stage.

A who’s who of the Cape Town social scene came out to play in the summer sunshine, among them TV and radio personalities Jo-Ann Strauss, Kia Johnson and Elana Afrika.

Strauss wore a gorgeous flowing turquoise beaded gown by local designer Stefania Morland, while Johnson – now a presenter on kykNET, following her departure from *Expresso* – wore a white lace creation by Victor K designs, along with a top hat, complete with old-fashioned monocle, by The Little Hattery.

Johnson’s outfit earned her nominations in the best-dressed and best hat competitions.

“Last year I was pregnant, so this year I wanted a dress that was a bit magical, and a bit ‘va va voom’. But I also have a tomboyish side, which is why I chose the top hat,” she said.

Miss South Africa Marilyn Ramos, who cut a smart silhouette in a navy and white peplum dress, said her outfit had been designed by Anel Botha.

“It’s an easygoing dress. I have worked with Anel before, and she just knows my personality, so when she showed me her idea, I just loved it,” she said.

Funny man Mark Lottering looked laid-back in his checked shirt and camel trousers. He bucked the blue-and-white trend too, with a pair of statement red shoes.

TV presenter Janez Vermeiren, dressed in a dark blue Armani

suit, joked: “I don’t come for the horses – I come for the ladies.”

Socialite Jen Su, known for her love of hats, wore a short royal blue dress and a feathered hat by Pallu.

She was backing favourite Variety Club for the win, “although you never know with the favourites”, she laughed.

In the best-dressed competition, white and off-white were definitely favourites, with only five blue dresses making it into the top 20 line-up.

But it was Ritza van Rensburg’s white peplum dress and blue suede shoes that most impressed the judges, winning her an Errol Arendz dress valued at R10 000.

She said that her dress had been designed by Cape College of Design student Staci van Rooi, and was styled by Elricco Belligan.

Debbie Nicholls, of Bantry Bay, won the best hat competition with her wide-brimmed white hat.

Fans fight to save Cinema Nouveau

STAFF REPORTERS

MOVIE lovers turned out to stake their claim to the popular Ster-Kinekor Cinema Nouveau at Cavendish Square, Cape Town, yesterday, protesting the planned closure on Thursday and saying the decision would deprive the public of a “wonderful resource”.

About 30 protesters outside raised placards bearing messages that included “Stay away Pick n Pay” – referring to unconfirmed rumours that the supermarket chain was moving into the space – and “Keep the soul with Cinema Nouveau”.

Claire Gibbon, one of the organisers, described the cinema as “soul food”, and not just “sheer entertainment”.

“It’s a wonderful resource for those who love film. International low-budget films and South African-made films are shown here.

“These films don’t necessarily attract audiences and therefore don’t make that much money, but it is terribly important that people see them,” she said.

High school English teacher Nigel Mortley said the closure was “another blow to culture” in South Africa.

“For years I’ve been trying to educate children that there’s more to cinema than this popcorn rubbish they get fed upstairs, that requires them to switch off their cellphones as well their brains.

“For generations of children who have never had the chance to be exposed to anything else, this theatre is one of the opportunities for them to see films that stretch them and make them think,” he said.

Peter Meakin, who has been a patron for decades, said Cavendish Square was removing a community service.

“This is a community thing. We come here every week, it’s what we do in life. This is more of a community service than a money-spinner, and this is what responsible companies should be trying to keep.”

Both Pick n Pay and Cavendish Square have refused to confirm or deny rumours of a new store there since Ster-Kinekor announced the closure last week, saying that despite good trading conditions they would be closing because the centre’s management was making room for a new retailer.

Pick n Pay spokeswoman Tamra Velej would only say: “At this stage the landlords of Cavendish are the appropriate people to respond to the closure of Cinema Nouveau, as the non-renewal of the lease is an issue between the centre and Ster-Kinekor.”

Cavendish Square spokeswoman Lauren Baronet said she was unable to provide any information beyond their initial statement released last week, which confirmed the space would be used by a “major retailer”.

“It is expected the new retailer will be trading from the second half of the year after configuring the space and fitting out,” the original statement said. It added that “consumer demand for an addition to the retail offering was confirmed by independent research undertaken in May, June and July 2012”.

Meanwhile, following confusion regarding the actual closing date of the cinema, Ster-Kinekor this week confirmed that it would close on Thursday.

Hollywood ready for tonight’s Globes

SANDY COHEN

THE NEW crystal chandeliers in the ballroom of the Beverly Hilton will be illuminating stars including Jennifer Lopez, George Clooney, Dustin Hoffman and dozens more tonight. Up to 16 cameras will capture the action for worldwide TV audiences, and meticulously planned seating charts will ensure celebrity interaction.

Veteran live-TV producer Barry Adelman and director Louis Horvitz say they would be ready for whatever the 70th annual Golden Globe Awards may bring.

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler – both Golden Globe nominees for lead actress in a TV comedy – are hosting the show. Producers gave the pair free rein to put their comedy touch on the ceremony.

“They will shine. They do television, so their sensibilities are really great for what’s going to play well – not only for the room but especially for the viewers at home,” Horvitz added, though neither of the two men saw the pair’s material until Thursday afternoon.

The hosts said in an interview that they’re hoping for some spontaneous moments to riff about onstage.

“That would be really great, so

we’re trying to plan that,” Poehler said. “We have a lot of spontaneous things planned,” Fey added.

Adelman said something unexpected is guaranteed to happen during the three-hour show.

“It’s the Globes, so something’s going to go wrong,” he said. “It just means anything can happen – and always does.”

The Best Picture nominees at tonight’s ceremony are *Argo*, *Les Misérables*, *Django Unchained*, *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Lincoln*, *Life of Pi*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* – many of which also earned Oscar nominations on Thursday. The Globes also honour achievements in television.

Jodie Foster will receive the Cecil B de Mille Award at the show, joining past recipients such as Walt Disney, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg.

Robert Downey Jr will present the award to the actress-director. “They are very close friends and he has something special planned,” Adelman said.

Meanwhile, Adelman and Horvitz are putting the other finishing touches on their worldwide telecast, set to air live on NBC. – Sapa-AP

Stars to head for Berlin as top fest movies unveiled

THE BERLIN Film Festival unveiled on Friday a further nine movies that are to form part of its main competition next month.

The latest batch of movies competing for top honours in Berlin also adds to the growing list of stars who are expected to attend the Berlinale.

Hollywood stars Shia LaBeouf and *True Blood*’s Evan Rachel Wood will join Denmark’s Mads Mikkelsen in Berlin for the screening of Fredrik Bond’s *The Necessary Death of Charlie Countryman*.

At the same time, Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Channing Tatum are to be in town for US director Steven Soderbergh’s *Side Effects*.

Leading French stars Juliette Binoche, Isabelle Huppert and Catherine Deneuve are also due to walk the Berlinale’s famed red carpet next month. Binoche stars along side Jean-Luc Vincent in French director Bruno Dumont’s *Camille Claudel 1915* about a woman sculptor sent to an asylum in the South of France by her family.

While Deneuve plays a 60-year-

old woman trapped in a disastrous relationship with a married man in Emmanuelle Bercot’s *Elle s’en va (On My Way)*, Huppert stars with Louise Bourgoin and Martina Gedeck in Guillaume Nicloux’s *La Religieuse (The Nun)*.

A major event is likely to be the world premiere of *Parde (Closed Curtain)* by Iranian director Jafar Panahi and another Iranian director Kambozia Partovi. Panahi’s films – *The Circle* and *Offside* – have turned him into one of the most internationally recognised Iranian directors. But he has had a long-running conflict with the Iranian authorities, culminating in a six-year jail sentence and a 20-year ban on directing any movies, writing screenplays, or giving any interviews and leaving the country. International film industry sources, however, believe the sentence was not carried out. The line-up also includes Danis Tanovic’s *Epizoda u zivotu beraca zeljeza (An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker)*, Thomas Arslan’s *Gold* and Pia Marais’s *Layla Fourie*. – Sapa-dpa



CALLING IT QUITS: Singer and celebrity judge Britney Spears at the X-Factor Finalists Party in Los Angeles. PICTURE: AP

Britney and The Ex Factor

BRITNEY Spears has made the “difficult decision” to leave Fox’s *The X Factor* after one season.

In a statement, the pop singer said she had an incredible time working on the singing contest, but that it was time to get back into the studio to record.

It was widely reported this week that Spears and *X Factor* were parting ways after a season in which the show’s ratings fell and Spears received lacklustre reviews as a panellist. Fellow panellist Antonio “LA” Reid previously announced he was leaving, giving creator-executive producer Simon Cowell two spots to fill.

Fox has been informed of Spears’s decision, her publicist Jeff Raymond said on Friday. Fox spokeswoman Gaude Paez confirmed that Spears is leaving the show and said the network had no further statement.

Cowell and fellow producers are discussing replacements for Spears and Reid and will be conferring with Fox, said a person who is familiar with the situation but lacked authority to comment publicly and insisted on anonymity.

“ I CAN’T WAIT TO GET BACK OUT THERE AND DO WHAT I LOVE MOST ”

Demi Lovato is expected to return as a panellist, joining Cowell and the newcomers.

Spears, 31, said she was proud of the young *X Factor* contestants she helped counsel, but that watching them on stage each week made her miss performing.

“I can’t wait to get back out there and do what I love most,” she said.

When *X Factor* returns for its third season this fall, Cowell will attempt once again to match the suc-

cess of the UK series he brought to America. After season one, Cowell replaced panellists Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger and host Steve Jones, but Spears and Lovato didn’t provide the hoped-for ratings spark, with Spears getting the brunt of criticism from observers.

She received a reported \$15 million (R131m) for one season’s work. Although the series has failed to match Cowell’s bold pre-debut predictions, and certainly hasn’t eclipsed sister Fox show *American Idol*, it has helped shore up the network’s fall schedule.

Meanwhile, Spears has called off her engagement to talent agent Jason Trawick after a one-year committed relationship, Hollywood media reported yesterday.

“Jason and I have decided to call off our engagement,” Spears said in a statement. “I’ll always adore him and we will remain great friends.”

Trawick is quoted as saying that despite the split, the two “will be close forever.”

Spears, 31, and Trawick became engaged on Trawick’s 40th birthday in December, 2011. They began dating in 2009. – Sapa-AP