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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTJOMUISE LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL (OLAF) - 2023 Special Edition Theme: "Art is Health"

Windhoek, Namibia – The Otjomuise Live Arts Festival (OLAF), an annual public event, is set to return for its Special 2023 Edition with the theme "**Art is Health.**" Co-produced by the National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) and the Goethe-Institut Namibia, OLAF has been a vibrant cultural platform since its inception in 2021, offering a diverse range of artistic activities at various city locations, uniting life and the arts in unique ways. These activities encompass small-scale installations, screenings, murals, performances, and interactive public engagements.

OLAF 2023 Special Edition will be held from *October 25th to December 1st, 2023*, and it is entirely open to the public, free of charge. The OLAF Special Edition's grand opening coincides with the International Day of the Artists, featuring performances by renowned artists, including **Vitjitua Ndjiharine**, **Tumi Mohammed**, the captivating **Sipelu Dancers** from the Zambezi Region, and the mesmerizing live drummers, presenting a public sound and visual installation at the Telecom/Ministry of Justice Courtyard.

The festival's Special Edition continues with a music installation by '**A Gulps Worth**' at the picturesque Three Circles viewpoint in Eros on *November 1st*, a dynamic dance performance by **Le Clue Job** at Visarend Park in Khomasdal on *November 8th*, and concludes with a community walk through the National Botanical Garden. This final event will spotlight artistic interventions that revolve around the themes of Art and Environmental Sustainability, featuring the talented **Onesmus "Slick" Uupindi**.

“Bridging Life &
Arts In The City”

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Co-Produced
by:


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of Namibia

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In addition to showcasing these artistic performances, the Special Edition emphasizes community involvement, highlighting the value of public arts in enhancing the overall well-being of the city. This will be visualized by a six-week "Healing through Movement" workshop led by choreographer and lecturer Haymich Olivier, with a strong focus on the community members of the Tobias Hanyeko Constituency.

"**The National Arts Council (NACN)** believes in fostering cultural identity and the promotion of artistic expression, which is why the NACN has partnered with OLAF as this year's financial sponsor of the participating artists," said Cisle Jacobs, Chairperson of the National Arts Council of Namibia.

For 2023, the festival seeks to extend its programming with environmental sustainability themes through the partnership with the **National Botanic Garden**, where an artistic community gathering will take place. Additional to the festival's partners is Emmanuel Enkara, founder of the **ENK Public Art Group**, who believes that the collaboration between OLAF and ENK is vital due to their shared interests in promoting public art and providing artists with opportunities to showcase their creativity to the Namibian public in various locations across Windhoek. The ENK Public Art Group will be part of this year's festival, hosting pop-up visual arts showcases throughout the city. Visual artists featured include **Candice Mouton, John Kalunda, Petrina Mathews, and Ryan de Wee**.

Mark your calendars and join us to celebrate art, culture, and community as we approach this year's event with a fresh perspective.

For more information on OLAF, please visit our website at <http://olafnamibia.com.na/>, and stay updated by following our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram: @otjomuiseliveartsfestival.

Enclosed to this press release is the OLAF Special Edition Flyer.

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