

Jam-packed programme for WALE 2010

The 2010 Wits Arts and Literature Experience takes place from 21 to 24 April, 2010, at various venues on the Wits campus. The official opening will be followed by a full-throttle entertainment programme featuring music, dancing, performance poetry, and a big-name DJ behind the decks.

For the first time in its three-year history, WALE 2010 will get underway with a bang on 21 April. The opening day's events will include a parade through the main campus and a number of arts performances on the library lawns. Later that evening, the official opening address by WALE founder and Dean of Humanities, Prof Tawana Kupe.

An iconic artist

One of the highlights of the four-day arts fest will be performances by Staceyann Chin, an iconic artist and one of the most original voices of her generation whose memoir about growing up in Jamaica, *The Other Side Of Paradise*, has been lauded by critics and readers alike.

"I'm so thrilled to be coming back to South Africa for the Wits Arts & Literature Festival," said Chin, who performed at the 2009 Urban Voices Festival to a highly receptive audience.

"The country's breathtaking landscape and the resilient spirit of the people move me to write more relevant work, to speak louder for women's rights, for children's rights, for human rights.

Joburg is a mirror of Kingston

"Previous visits have shown me how much my Jamaica has in common with your South Africa; Joburg is a mirror of Kingston, any street in Cape Town could easily be Montego Bay. My memoir, *The Other Side of Paradise* could easily be the story of a girl in Soweto. Gatherings like WALE helps those of us in the African diaspora to see a modern reflection of ourselves on the continent all black people call our genetic home."

Other highlights confirmed for the festival include *Othello*, which will be staged at the Wits Theatre and directed by Dr John Kani with Sarah Roberts as production designer. Two other unmissable Wits Theatre performances during WALE will be the Greg Homann-directed collaboration between Wits and New York University as well as the Gina Schmukler-directed musical, *Songs for a New World*.

Music is a strong feature

As in previous years, music is a strong feature of WALE's four-day programme.

Already confirmed is a unique collaborative performance in the Wits Amphitheatre featuring Jonathan Crossley (guitar) and Justin Badenhorst (drums) from the Wits Music Department, with Marc Duby (bass), head of Grahamstown Music Department, and American pianist John Fresk.

Literature forms a central part of WALE and this year the University's highly regarded Wits University Press will use the festival to launch several new book projects, including those by David Dickinson (Sociology Department), and Chris Thurman (English Department). Panel discussions and a book exhibition are also being planned in partnership with Xarra Books and Pan Macmillan.

WALE will play host to the feature documentary *Zwelidumile*, as well as a Q and A with the film's director, Ramadan Suleman.

Art exhibitions

Several art exhibitions will be mounted in a part of the programme managed by the Wits Fine Art department. Among this will be an exhibition of the work of Vincent Baloyi.

A regularly updated programme will be available on a dedicated WALE website to be launched in the next few weeks.

For programming details and ticketing information go to www.wale.ac.za or call Levinia Jones on +27 (0)11 717 4607.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>