

TOWARD A CULTURE OF CO-LEARNING

South Africa's education crisis is like series of never-ending trials. Educators must teach subjects they are not trained in nor passionate about and learning materials are not current enough to equip young people with resilience in a changing world.

Society teaches young people to compete as a measure of success or failure, fostering unhealthy perceptions of excellence and thus devaluing individual creative expression.

Young people's dreams fall by the wayside, they 'act out', do not feel valued and become lost with no socio-emotional support. Their inherent innovation and potential remains suppressed and there are not enough platforms for them to be heard.

There is also a need for raising awareness around psychosocial support in communities who suffer from both economic AND emotional exclusion.

At the point where education and performing arts meet, lies an extraordinary opportunity to use the universal language of the human condition to transcend gender, religion, disability and race. This is where Educape's aims thrive.

IDEAL

A society who risen above the need to compete as a measure of success or failure. Confident people with healthy perceptions of excellence who highly value one another's individual creative expression.

VISION

A world where we leverage the unifying power of storytelling and education to create a society that is politically, economically, environmentally and technologically designed to realise the power of individual potential.

MISSION

Liberating people from solving problems with the thinking that created them by replacing 'content-centric' approaches to learning with methods designed to realise self-worth, creativity and leadership.

PURPOSE

Play our part in nurturing the aliveness of spirit and prioritising young people's dreams as the key to a sustainable tomorrow.

THEN NOW

2009

1 school
15 learners
1 teacher
100 audience

2017

86 schools
1950 learners
103 teachers
3963 audience members
53 student/guest
directors/interns/volunteers



Educape believes it's time to make youth part of the solution. One of our key aims is to foster a culture of co-education among learners and teachers, that activates a renewed willingness to grapple with everything from Shakespeare to physics...

...In fact, we have helped thousands of young people 'beat the Bard' through our flagship Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Tania
Dore

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Established in 2007, Educape's philosophy is influenced by a combination of experience with education and socially conscious theatre. Our programs unlock expressions of self-awareness so that we can better serve global communities by 'being the change'.

Working in this space, we have observed thousands of individuals become leaders in their own right, overcoming social limitations through creative healing. These heroes constantly inspire us to find new ways of raising awareness to meet both economic and emotional needs in communities.



Having secured a national network of 86 schools through the festival and strategic collaborations, our objectives for 2018 – 2020 include:

-Educape Drama Capacity Building Program:

Over the past 3 years we have piloted working with resource-challenged schools (e.g.: where Science teachers are allocated to drama) and helped them to establish sustainable drama societies as well as impart fundraising skills.

-Critical Thinking Workshops

Incorporate peer-to-peer learning systems and workshops to offer teachers new approaches to hands-on methods for understanding the process of how people learn.

-Youth BRICS Cultural Ambassador Program

In addition to developing youth leadership ambassadorial initiatives with BRICS, Educape will partner to facilitate forums for youth and their elected representatives to advocate for community viewpoints to identify resources required for healing. Alongside project partners we will link this work to the NDP Vision 2030 and Scenarios team to optimise impact.



FLAGSHIP PROJECT: SSF SA

While our thought-leaders advocate to decolonise curricula, we support them by changing the way content is approached. Over the past eight years, Educape has worked with 86 schools and under two thousand learners across the nation to successfully #decoloniseShakespeare.

Through the South African Shakespeare School Festival (SSF SA) encourages schools to prepare abridged “thirty-minute” versions of Shakespearean plays in their local professional theatres throughout the country. The Festival's non-competitive environment has removed barriers to entry for young people in schools for the deaf, blind, disabled as well as primary school participants aged 8 to 12. Each year the festival School communities who have benefited from ‘beating the Bard’ report:

- Rising victorious over doubt of own potential;
- Overall improvement in the power of verbal communication;
- Engaging an education curriculum for the first time on a professional stage.
- Experiencing spaces where rapid internal and external changes can be embraced, and individuality can be navigated outside of restrictive social labels.

Wynberg Boys HS pilots International SSF concept in SA for the first time. 100 audience members, 15 learners, 1 teacher
2009



SSF SA presentation at WBHS with 200 audience attending, 20 learners, perform “Macbeth” supported by 1 teacher.
2010

Official launch of SSF SA at Artscape Theatre in Cape Town with 8 schools/ 15 teachers/ 160 learners / 350 audience
2011

14 schools / 20 teachers
305 learners/ 920 audience
2012

The first primary school joins in 2013 and 7 to 12-year olds from over 20 schools have conquered the Bard since.
2013

Promoted effectively, the creative and cultural industries can contribute substantially to small business development, job creation, urban development and renewal.”



Arts, culture, economy and society: National Planning Commissions' Executive Summary, Vision for 2030

We translate Shakespeare into IsiZulu, IsiXhosa as well as Afrikaans.
2014

Educape pilots working with resource-challenged schools (e.g.: where Science teachers are allocated to drama) and helped them establish sustainable drama societies as well as imparting fundraising skills.
2015 - 2018

SSF SA supports the ongoing development of South African Sign Language through engaging 2 deaf schools to watch performances with assistance of an interpreter.
2017

De La Bat school for the Deaf perform Romeo and Juliet and Pioneer School for the Blind from Worcester do their rendition of Macbeth.
2018

The Festival's ideal is to create an environment where learner's voices are heard, acknowledged, encouraged, challenged and respected. Its key aim is to see scores of young people beginning to find their place in the educational space and more are applying to be future teachers as a result. Our Teacher/Director, Technical and Cast Workshops encourage a culture of co-learning among youth and teachers. Educape's future objective with the resources of SSF SA is to shift the nature of learning interactions from 'content-centric' to 'individual-potential centric'.

Since our footprint is consistent and we have established networks across the nation, our future focus is to raise the production value of overall theatre experience through proper human resourcing, sound brand management and quality assurance.