

PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGNED BY TANKISO TANK KHUMALO



HECTOR KUNENE

P R O F I L E

Born in 1982 in Hammarsdale just outside Durban, Hector S. Kunene first journeyed into poetry at the young age of 16 and immediately his love for his art emerged. It was his love for poetry that saw one of his first poems “Bloody Corpuscles” published in the Sunday Times newspaper. Hector later moved to Bloemfontein where he pursued his childhood dream of publishing a books.

His first book “Through the Tunnel” released in 2010 not only received exceptional reviews but was also internationally recognized. He went on to publish a literary study of Omosaye Bolaji that same year which as well was well received by literary pundits, newspapers and numerous other local publications. The successes of both books resulted in him being awarded the Free State Writer of the Year award in 2010 in addition to the Free State Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation purchasing his works for libraries across the province. Hector, who additionally served as a Manager at SAA’s Air chef’s division, was also billed to perform at the Howick Writers Festival in Durban and was honoured by Darrel David for Midland Literary Festival and Boekbedonner in the Karoo to name but a few.

Major works thus far:

He shot a film as a news reported called “*AN EYE FOR AN EYE*” a Goiwil Production based in the Free State directed by Goitsewang Pholo.

He is an award winner for the *Maun International Botswana* Poetry Slam 2015

Launched his children’s book called Mantlwane in *Grahamstown Arts Festival*

Performed in *Macufe Poetry* Free State 2014 - 2016

Co-author of a book called *My Muse* (In the healing season) with JahRose Nthabiseng Jafta

Facilitated and published books for schools such as Harmony and Tsoseletso

Education / Work on stage

Applied Drama and Theatre, University of the Witwatersrand – PGDA 2018

BA – Honours degree, Drama and Theatre, University of the Witwatersrand 2019

MA - Research, University of the Witwatersrand 2020

Botswana – Maun International Festival – Poetry, 2015 - 2017

Zwakala Festival – Market Theatre, 2018 second position with a play – The Pilgrimage

Theatre for Activism – KWANELE! GBV, Drama for life, 2020

Zimbabwe arts festival – poetry 2019

Poetry Africa – 2020

International Arts Talent Showcase call back/ Acting and Modelling, scholarship winner candidate for New York Film Academy 2021 - 33&ME Talent Agency

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Media pages – Hector Kunene Insta , Hector Kunene Facebook, Hector Kunene Twitter



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HECTOR KUNENE: AFRICAN ARTS AND CULTURE, 1980-2010