

Local Christian comedian joking his way to fame

By POLISWA PLAATJIE

KING William's Town-born writer and comedian Thembinkosi Dike is making a name for himself on the



FAITHFULLY FUNNY: Phakamisa Township-born comedian TD Jokes is taking the South African Christian comedy scene by storm and next month will be going on his national tour, "Laugh and be healed"

Picture: SUPPLIED

national Christian comedy scene.

Dike was born in Phakamisa Township and is now based in Johannesburg. He started comedy after his childhood friend Walter Mdangayi convinced him he had what it took to entertain people.

"My family loved comedy. We would watch stand up comedies and sitcoms but I never saw myself doing stand up comedy," Dike said.

Dike had his first performance last February at Take the Movement, one of East London's fastest growing Christian hip-hop events. Dike goes by the name of T D Jokes – a play on the name of renowned American pastor and best-selling author T D Jakes.

"My friend Walter gave me that name and at first when he said I am TD Jokes I was offended.

"But now I love it, people attend shows hoping to see a T D Jakes look-alike," he said.

At his first event Dike was given 20 minutes to make the crowd – which was mainly Christian – laugh.

"I prayed for weeks asking God to give me material and He inspired me to write down a couple of things I've seen in my life," he said.

Dike said his jokes were based on his life experience and his outlook of church dynamics.

"Humour has always been at church. Before the pastor delivers the word he will make a joke and even the MC will also crack a few jokes during the service," he said.

After his first performance Dike went back to Johannesburg and was later approached by a Christian magazine to be part of their *Lord, make me laugh* comedy shows.

"I got a chance to be part of the best Christian comedians in the country and I've been well received by people," he said.

Dike said in the Eastern Cape it was mainly the younger generation that has embraced his talent.

"Older people think Christian comedy makes fun of God but we are not. Comedy has always been present at church but now the only difference is that there are people who package and present it," he said.

During 2012 Dike also started his own national comedy tour, *Laugh and be healed*.

"The tour is starting again next month and Welkom will be my first stop," he said.

Asked by the Dispatch to share a joke yesterday Dike said there was nothing new in using Tablet (computers) as bibles instead of hard copy ones.

"In Habakkuk 2 verse 2 the Lord says, *write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it*. Tablets existed even in the time of Moses," joked Dike. For performance dates people can like Dike's Facebook page, TDJokes. — poliswap@dispatch.co.za



FUTURE CHAMP: Chip off the old block: Former world tour surfer Greg Emslie congratulates his son, David, 5, at an East London Grom competition while proud wife and mother Chantel looks on

Picture: DAVID MACGREGOR

Ex-SA surfer shares his passion with his sons

5-year-old Emslie Jnr sets his sights on Border

BY DAVID MACGREGOR

Senior Reporter

SURFING competitions in East London are a real family affair with young kids barely out of nappies riding the waves just like their parents.

After 14 years getting paid to travel the world and surf, Greg Emslie is now passing on his competition smarts to five-year-old son David – who has set his sights on one day making the Border surfing team just like his famous father.

Nicknamed Bigfoot, because "I have big feet", the talented surfer says it would be cool if his son – who has little feet, but is surprisingly not called "Littlefoot" – followed in his footsteps, but he is not pressuring him to do so. Retired from the world circuit, Emslie's decision to invest his winnings in the Oakhampton Bed and Breakfast allows him time to disappear for a surf when the waves are cooking – leaving the running of the business to his wife, Chantel.

Although Emslie junior grew up on the beach, he only took up surfing a year ago aged four and is one of the youngest surfers – along with fellow surfer Bully Page's five-year-old son, Timmy – who are making waves in the local Border grom team trials.

While there is decent money to be made nowadays from surfing, Bigfoot jokes the professional tennis or golf tour may be a better option.

"I would be happy for him whatever path he chooses," he said of his son. "In this day and age you need to be naturally gifted in a sport to make it. I don't think hard work alone will cut it anymore, and with that you have to have the passion and love to take it to the next level.

"When a kid is forced into something they can lose interest."

The Emslie clan – which includes an assortment of brothers, cousins and other relatives who all surf – are not alone when it comes to riding the waves.

Three generations of Malherbes often hit the surf together – with several still competing at the highest level.

Taught how to surf when they were pint-sized grommets in the 1970s by their father, John, the "Herby" brothers – Dave, Andre and Phillip – still make time to surf competitions and earn SA colours for the umpteenth time.

And, when they are not practising themselves, they love nothing better than teaching their offspring – like Andre and Surette Malherbe's sons, Jordy and Luke – how to rip the waves.

"Yip, we had them lying on surfboards before they could even walk," said Surette. "All the boys in the family have Border colours."

Attracting in excess of 75 surfers – and twice as many families – to the beach every Sunday they are run, the Reef Summer Surf Series is a healthy barometer of under-16 surfing on the Border and some of the top competitors, like Luke Malherbe, spend as much time as they can in the water before and after school.

Veteran Border grom surfing administrator Debbie Meacham – who has been involved in the sport for the past 10 years – said this year's competition series turnout was the biggest in years.

"Two years ago things were dead. Now all of a sudden it is very busy," Meacham explained.

She said several of the young surfers were encouraged to take up the sport by their parents who also surfed.

"A lot of the kids come from surfing families. It is a healthy outdoor sport for the whole family." — davidm@dispatch.co.za

Youths get to try out real court

By SIYA BOYA

Court Reporter

SCHOOL pupils interested in pursuing a career in law can try their hand at the real thing by participating in the Moot Court Competition.

Moot is a role-playing exercise in which participants play the parts of lawyers in a fictional court case.

Each school can enter a single team of two children who will have to write opposing arguments for the case. The best nine submissions in each of the provinces will then take part in the provincial oral rounds in May and June.

The best four teams from each province will participate in the national leg of oral rounds in Pretoria in August. The two teams with the highest scores will compete against each other in order to identify the overall winning

team.

Mthunzi Mhaga, spokesman for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, said the competition was a wonderful initiative.

"It helps the NPA and the entire justice system that [pupils] are given practical exposure. Eventually when they are absorbed into the system they will at least have an idea of how things are done. It is encouraging," he said.

As part of the competition contestants will attend lectures on the constitution and will visit places significant to South African history.

Organiser Cheryl Botterill said the competition was aimed at creating awareness about the constitution.

"The aim is also to encourage talented young people to consider pursuing a career in law. This competition provides a unique opportunity for pu-

pils to develop their research, writing and oral advocacy skills as they endeavour to come to grips with some of the constitutional issues that are presently facing our country," she said.

The competition is presented by the University of Pretoria Law Faculty in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Department of Basic Education, the Foundation for Human Rights, the SA Human Rights Commission, CLASI at the University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape Law Faculty and the University of Venda Law Faculty.

The deadline for registration for the competition is March 15. The winner will get financial contribution towards their first year of law studies at any South African university. For details visit www.up.ac.za/law. — siyab@dispatch.co.za

Tlale showcases collection in NY

FIVE months after showcasing his collection, called *Transcendence*, during New York Fashion Week Spring 2013, local designer David Tlale was back in the Big Apple this weekend.

The designer showcased his entirely new collection called *Decadence* – a celebration of his decade in the industry.

Tlale said he was eager to celebrate "10 years of elegance, opulence and the magnificence" that his label has added to the local and international fashion scene.

"The show was just sensational and it was absolutely gratifying to get that instant feedback from people," he was quoted as saying after his show at the weekend.

"The space was packed to the max and everyone seemed

to have liked it." This was his second solo show at New York Fashion Week – one of the fashion capitals of the world, and it featured the week's co-founder Fern Mallis.

Tlale had said in September that this past weekend's show had long been conceptualised.

He said at the time: "We have to keep working and growing, because I believe if you crack it here, you can crack it at any other fashion week in the world. We must make this brand grow here".

Other designers to showcase on Sunday included Diane von Furstenberg and Zac Posen. Other big names showcasing this week include Badgley Mischka, Vera Wang, Michael Kors, Rachel Zoe and J Mendel. — *Times Staff Reporter*

Ring in Valentine's with some love theatre

BY ZIPO-ZENKOSI NCOKAZI

THE Dramatic Society of East London, in celebration of Valentine's Day, will be staging a cabaret titled *Roses and Rain*. The musical will be hosted at the Alexander Playhouse in Cambridge from tomorrow until Saturday at 7pm.

The play is directed by Pieter Taljaard and Jo Stemmet helms the musical direction. Both had a successful run last year when they worked on *Power of Love*. Sheldon Holm will be in charge of the choreography.

Roses and Rain is a love story set in ancient Greece and follows the relationship of Greek god of

love Eros and the beautiful but mortal Psyche. The work explores all aspects of a relationship that the audience can relate to, from the sweetness of falling in love to the bitterness of falling out and every experience in between.

"People can expect an exciting night of love stories, woven in music and song. Also, different genres of music will be explored, so there will be something for everyone," Taljaard said.

The show's performers are not new to the stage, some of them have starred in *Power of Love* and Michelle Brandenburger's *Showstopper's Diamond Jubilee*.

Tickets will cost R110 for the opening night and

R80 thereafter. Bookings can be made at Lee Gold Music on (043) 735-1586.

The Arts Theatre in Arcadia, East London, will also be showcasing a Valentine's Day musical, *The Muses*, from today until next Saturday.

It's a play that explores the role that muses play in inspiring music, poetry and fine art. The play will feature music by the likes of Paul Simon and Queen. A live band will also be performing. The show is directed by Amanda Bothma, choreographed by Vicky Luff and Kerry Hiles is the musical director. Bookings can be made at Guild Theatre on (043) 743-0704. Tickets cost R80 per person and doors open at 7pm.

SA Airways

Flight Times

SA1410 Johannesburg.....2025
Flights and flight times are subject to change without notice

Arrivals

SA1301	Durban.....	0705
SA8480	Port Elizabeth.....	0745
SA0459	Johannesburg.....	0750
SA1361	Cape Town.....	0755
SA1403	Johannesburg.....	0915
SA0471	Johannesburg.....	1135
SA1305	Durban.....	1305
SA1371	Cape Town.....	1455
SA0475	Johannesburg.....	1650
SA8488	Port Elizabeth.....	1700
SA1309	Durban.....	1755
SA1375	Cape Town.....	1900
SA1409	Johannesburg.....	1935
SA0481	Johannesburg.....	2030

Departures

SA0460	Johannesburg.....	0640
SA1302	Durban.....	0735
SA8481	Port Elizabeth.....	0805
SA0462	Johannesburg.....	0820
SA1362	Cape Town.....	0825
SA1404	Johannesburg.....	0950
SA0476	Johannesburg.....	1205
SA1306	Durban.....	1335
SA1372	Cape Town.....	1600
SA0480	Johannesburg.....	1720
SA0489	Port Elizabeth.....	1720
SA1310	Durban.....	1825
SA1376	Cape Town.....	2005

Shipping

In port yesterday: Split at S-berth
Arrived yesterday: MS Albatros to Cape Town
Sailed yesterday: MS Albatros from Durban
Due today: Nil

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WEATHER TODAY
Eastern Cape (Eastern Half)
Fine and hot to very hot in the interior, but warm along the coast. Isolated thunderstorms are likely over the interior in the afternoon.

Traveller's Weather

	min	max
Bloemfontein	17	31
Johannesburg	17	29
Pretoria	19	31
Durban	21	31
Polokwane	12	28
Kimberley	18	34
Upington	20	27
Cape Town	20	26
George	17	32

Yesterday's Weather

Max temp: 27.3°C
Min temp: 18°C
Barometer: 1015.5 hPa
Wind: 9 knots (SE)
Rain (at 2pm): 0.8 mm
Humidity: 62%
Sea: 17°C

KEY
L Light wind
M Moderate wind
S Strong wind
F Fresh wind
C Calm wind

Moon Phases
February 27 First Quarter
February 15 Full Moon
March 4 Last Quarter
March 10 New Moon

Feb Tides

	High	Low	High	Low
Wed 13	0540	1142	1748	2351
Thur 14	0612	1214	1818	-----
Fri 15	0642	0019	1846	1245
Sat 16	0713	0048	1916	1317
Sun 17	0749	0119	1953	1356
Mon 18	0842	0157	2059	1456
Tue 19	1038	0318	-----	1718

Source: South African Weather Service

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