

# LE AFRINIQUE

ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2024

## GABA CANNAL

*godfather of amapiano*

"I believe collaboration grows anything"

# EDITOR'S NOTE

BY SELLOANE MALETSATSI MOLELI

Year-end fatigue has been on our backs these past months, and now here we are—December in full swing. It's ironic, isn't it? While we complain about being tired, December has a way of making us forget the exhaustion, giving us bursts of “energy” to celebrate, connect, and create. This final issue of 2024 marks the end of the second year for us at LAMag. This year was about growth and changing direction a bit, including rebranding to LAMag and launching our new domain lamag.africa. Moving the September issue allowed us time to focus on this evolution and lay the foundation for more changes in 2025.

In this issue, we embrace the spirit of Dezemba and this year's defining anthems, exploring the music that sets the tone for the season. We chat with Gaba Cannal again about his creative journey and his belief that collaboration is key to growth. Fashion meets finance as we spotlight Khosi Nkosi's collaboration with Africanbank, paired with a tracklist that beautifully complements the collection. Collaboration remains a central theme as we highlight creative partnerships that inspire us, from dynamic artist pairings to artist-owned events that push boundaries of expression. We've also included a festive gift guide filled with picks to inspire your festive shopping.

As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited for a year of growth and deeper connections. Inspired by Gaba Cannal's cover quote, we're ready to embrace collaboration as a cornerstone of what LAMag will become. So, cheers to the magic of “Dezemba” and a future filled with creativity and partnerships that move us forward.

Let the festivities begin—ke Dezemba, “ha di qale”!

@kennamaletsatsi

“  
In this issue,  
we spotlight  
the levels of  
**creativity**  
that can be  
reached with  
**collaborating**  
with others  
”

LE AFRINIQUE





dezemba! what a concept **p.04**

**p.07**

**#lachats with gaba**

khosi nkosi x africanbank **p.15**

**p.18**

**collaborations**

november new music guide **p.25**

**p.26**

**festive gift guide**

artist-owned events **p.31**

## ON THE COVER

Cover Star: Gaba Cannal

## IN THE MAGAZINE

Issue Curator: Selloane Moleli

Image(s) Sources: Supplied & Unsplash

# DEZEMBA! WHAT A CONCEPT!

*These are the makings of a “you have to be there” South African December*



December in South Africa is more than a month; it's a lifestyle. For South Africans, it's not just the end of the calendar year but the height of the party season—where boundaries blur, spirits soar, and good vibes reign supreme. However, what makes this time unique isn't limited to the 31 days of the month; the essence of “Dezemba” starts months earlier and resonates deeply within South African culture.

## THE DEZEMBA COUNTDOWN

The countdown to December begins unofficially as early as September. This is when the days warm up, and the mood lightens with the promise of sun-soaked gatherings, music-filled nights, and a steady rise in excitement. Some even joke that the festive energy starts in any month with “-ber” in its name—September through November—building anticipation for the main event.

## RULES IN DEZEMBA

By the time December arrives, the nation is fully charged, with some unspoken rules in place:

- **Rule 1:** Be financially prepared. The fun isn't cheap, so budgeting for spontaneous plans is crucial.
- **Rule 2:** Be ready for adventure. December is about living in the moment, going anywhere

and sharing your location with trusted loved ones is non-negotiable for safety.

- **Rule 3:** Have fun! This is a season for letting loose, creating memories, and embracing the joy of togetherness.

## DEZEMBA FOR BRANDS

For brands in South Africa, “Dezemba” is a golden opportunity—a time to amplify their presence, connect with consumers, and drive sales. It's a season where emotions run high, spending increases, and people prioritize celebration, making it the ideal period for strategic marketing and creative campaigns.

## EMBRACING DEZEMBA

To truly experience a South African December, it's all about balance. While the fun knows no bounds, responsibility is key—especially when it comes to travel and alcohol. Sharing moments with family and friends, whether in person or virtually, keeps the festive spirit grounded in connection. So, gear up for a season of music, joy, and togetherness. The playlists are being set, the energy is building, and the country is ready to party into the new year.

Cheers to a “Dezemba” filled with music, laughter, and unforgettable memories!



# DEZEMBA ANTHEMS

*Music is the heartbeat of South Africa's Dezemba celebrations*

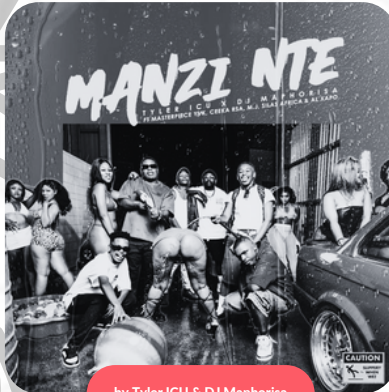
DJs and musicians play an integral role in setting the vibe, with an unspoken expectation to prepare early. By September, new music and DJ mixes should already be making waves. For the artists, promoting their tracks relentlessly by mid-December is essential to cement their songs as the anthems of the season. This is some of this year's selection of anthems:

## "Ebasini"



by Tyler ICU & Leemckrazy

## "Manzi Nte"



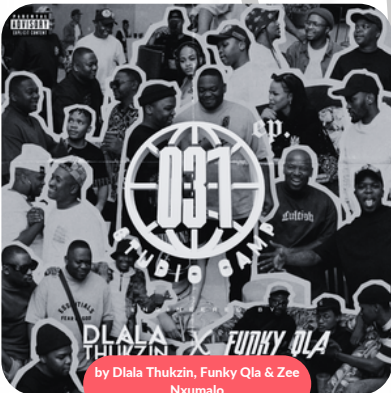
by Tyler ICU & DJ Maphorisa

## "Kwelanga 2.0"



by Bassie, M-Touch, Ranger & Amaze

## "Ama Gear"



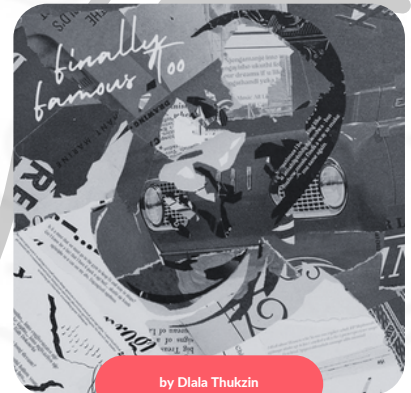
by Dlala Thukzin, Funky Qla & Zee Nxumalo

## "Amalanga"



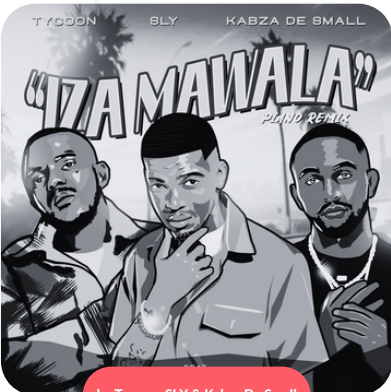
by Mas Musiq, Laws Weezy, Samthing Soweto, Starquality & DJ Maphorisa

## "Sohlala Sisonke"



by Dlala Thukzin

## "Iza Mawala"



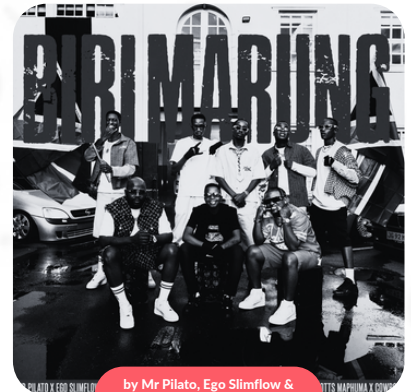
by Tycoon, SLY & Kabza De Small

## "Wishi Wishi"



by Kabza, DJ Maphorisa, Virgo Deep

## "Biri Marung"



by Mr Pilato, Ego Slimflow & Tebogo G Mashego



A NETFLIX SERIES

# LOVE NEVER LIES

SOUTH AFRICA



  
**WATCH  
NOW**



# LE AFRINIQUE

ISSUE 06



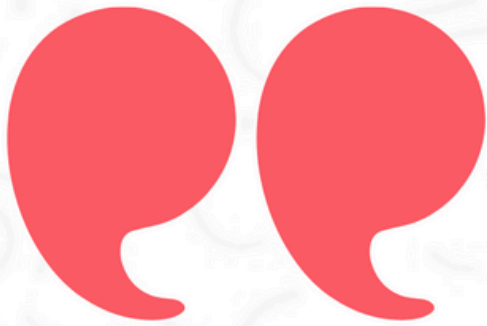
## GABA CANNAL

PRODUCER, LABEL OWNER & DJ

# MZANSI'S SOULFUL

BY SELLOANE MALETSATSI MOLELI

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO SHAPING AMAPIANO'S RISE, GABA CANNAL'S STORY IS ONE OF PASSION, PERSEVERANCE, AND ARTISTRY. HE CONTINUES TO CEMENT HIS LEGACY IN MUSIC.



Renowned for his soulful, house-infused Amapiano sound, Khaka Yena, better known as Gaba Cannal, is a South African producer, label owner and DJ whose work has shaped the genre's identity. His stage name, derived from Portuguese, translates to "Let It Be," a fitting reflection of his serene and purposeful musical journey.

Born in Daveyton, Gaba Cannal later moved to the east of Johannesburg, where his passion for music flourished. His love for music production began at 18, setting him on a path to becoming one of Amapiano's most celebrated figures.





# AMAPIANO INNOVATOR

Gaba Cannal started as a hip-hop producer and pianist, skills that eventually informed his unique Amapiano style. In 2014, his debut EP, *Abundance*, marked his entry into the music industry and led to the establishment of his independent label, Gaba Cannal Music Pty-Ltd.

His ability to blend soulful melodies with gospel influences quickly gained attention. In 2018, his feature on Da Kruk's single *Magic* earned a nomination for Best Underground Record of the Year at the South African Music Awards. By 2020, he was making waves with collaborations like *Umhlaba Wonke* featuring Busiswa and the release of his album *Amapiano Legacy*.

Throughout his career, Gaba Cannal has performed alongside South Africa's finest, including Vinny Da Vinci, DJ Ganyani, and MFR Souls. He has also graced stages with international talents like Ralf GUM and Nick Holder. His performances have taken him beyond South Africa to countries such as Eswatini, spreading the Amapiano sound far and wide.



# GET TO KNOW GABA CANNAL

**Early Beginnings:**  
Began producing music at 18, starting his career as a hip-hop producer and pianist.

**Amapiano Innovator:**  
Played a key role in Amapiano's rise and is celebrated for his soulful, house-inspired sound.

**SAMA Nominee:**  
Featured on Da Kruk's Magic in 2018, earning a SAMA nod for Best Underground Record.

**Label Founder:**  
Launched Gaba Cannal Music Pty-Ltd, signing top producers like De Mthuda, Kwiish SA, and Master Jay.





# GETTING TO KNOW

## *Gaba Cannal*

**Q1: You've seen Amapiano grow from the start. What do you think the genre needs to keep moving forward?**

**Gaba Cannal:** I believe collaboration grows anything, so definitely doing more collaboration, especially with people outside of the Amapiano comfort zone.

**Q2: How did you develop your unique Amapiano style, especially with your blend of soulful melodies and gospel influences?**

**Gaba Cannal:** I'm one person who listens to a lot of gospel, reggae, and jazz music (basically anything with soul) that has helped me navigate my sound perfectly... from the message and the sounds I use. You can definitely hear a lot of influence from those genres, and personally, I believe what you listen to influences your creativity 99% of the time.

**Q3: With Baw'Yena, you call it a "celebration of life, love, and self-expression." What inspired these themes, and what do you hope listeners feel when they hear it?**

**Gaba Cannal:** Paying homage to the real "Baw' Yena," which is my dad, made it easy for me to focus on those themes as those were his life principles, and I believe the listener will feel the same too.

**Q4: You worked with artists like Artwork Sounds and Oscar Mbo on this project. How did these collaborations shape the sound of Baw'Yena?**

**Gaba Cannal:** I just wanted something that would feed the deep and afro house heads too, and I definitely knew who I should collaborate with, and that shaped this project to be an all-rounder for the listeners.

**Q5: As a pioneer in Amapiano, how do you keep things fresh with each new album? Did you face any challenges or surprises while making Baw'Yena?**

**Gaba Cannal:** Like I said, listening to a lot of genres outside of Amapiano does so much to one's creativity. Doing research on which direction the music industry is taking also helps a lot. Honestly, I didn't face many challenges or surprises at all as everyone came through and delivered as expected.

**Q6: Your music is loved not only in South Africa but in places like Botswana and Mozambique. Does having fans in different countries influence how you create your music?**

**Gaba Cannal:** It does, a lot! Firstly, it makes you understand or have an idea of what people love, and that makes it easy to create timeless music for all races and countries.

**Q7: You're also a label owner, which isn't common in the Amapiano scene. What's the most rewarding part of mentoring other artists, and how has it impacted your music?**

**Gaba Cannal:** Seeing them grow and mature in this industry is the best feeling ever, a definite reward money can't buy.

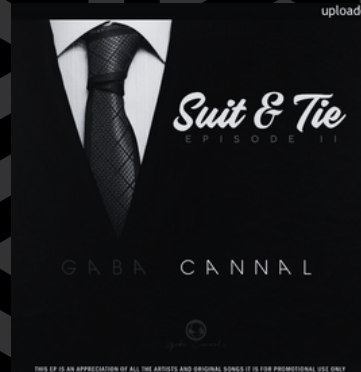
**Q8: For new producers and artists looking to make their mark in Amapiano, what advice would you give?**

**Gaba Cannal:** Stay grounded and consistent with your sound, explore and listen to other genres for influence, and also make sure you respect the game and those who came before you.



# DISCOGRAPHY

# GABA CANNAL



Gaba Cannal's discography showcases his growth in Amapiano, blending soulful house with the genre's rhythms. Starting with *Abundance* (2014), he gained recognition with *Between Emotions* and *Injabulo* (2018). His 2020 releases, *Amapiano Love Affair*, *Amapiano Legacy*, and the *Suit & Tie* series, solidified his presence. Later works like *Visionary Episode 1* (2021), *Agape* (2022), *Deepest Gratitude* (2022), *Thetha Nabo Mfundisi* (2023), and now *Baw' Yena* (2024) continue to highlight his evolution, with *Baw' Yena* being a personal celebration of life and love.



# GETTING TO KNOW

## *gaba cannal*

BY COCO BROWN

On 20 November, the Godfather of Amapiano, Gaba Cannal, sat down with Coco Brown for an exclusive Instagram Live. They dived into his journey, his contribution to Amapiano, and his latest album, Baw' Yena.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IG LIVE WITH COCO BROWN

### THE MAKING OF HEALER NHLIZIYO:

A deeply personal track about healing and growth.

### OVERCOMING LOSS:

The challenges of losing music files and finding resilience.

### CULTURAL EXCHANGE:

Learning from the music preferences of fans across Africa.

### SOCIAL MEDIA FEARS:

Overcoming public reception and embracing platforms to connect with fans.

### SELF-TAUGHT JOURNEY:

Using YouTube to master production techniques.

### CREATING BAW' YENA:

A labor of love that balances spirituality and innovation.

• TEMS •  
BORN IN *The* WILD  
WORLD TOUR

BUY

• • • • •  
20 MARCH 2025  
THE DOME  
NASREC  
JOHANNESBURG

TICKETS FROM TICKETMASTER

**BIG Y**  
CONCERTS



# LE AFRINIQUE

ISSUE 06



## KHOSI NKOSI

FASHION DESIGNER

# REDEFINING CORPORATE WEAR

## *Khosi Nkosi and AfricanBank Unite Tradition and Trend*

AfricanBank's partnership with Khosi Nkosi has transformed corporate uniforms by blending African heritage with modern fashion. Inspired by Wakanda and African culture, the collection is both vibrant and practical, showcasing the bank's celebration of local identity. Incorporating AfricanBank's branding with Khosi Nkosi's signature prints, the uniforms are stylish, durable, and designed for comfort, catering to sizes from XS to 9XL while meeting the practical needs of employees.



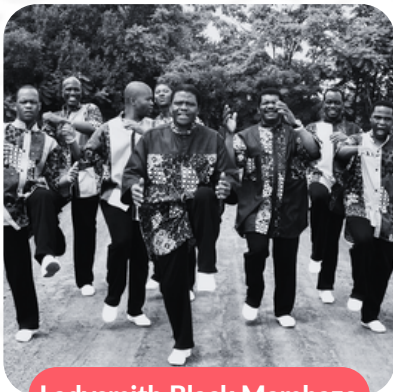
This collaboration has redefined professional wear, proving that uniforms can be both fashionable and empowering. Employees have expressed pride and excitement, with one noting this is the first uniform she feels thrilled to wear after years at the bank. By combining style, functionality, and cultural pride, AfricanBank and Khosi Nkosi have set a new standard, ensuring employees feel valued and confident.

*We asked Khosi "if you can choose 5 songs that reflect this collection, what would they be?", she said:*

**"Ah I love this question!"**

*Khosi Nkosi*

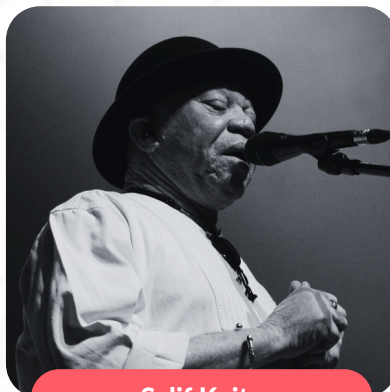
**"Mbube"**



Ladysmith Black Mambazo

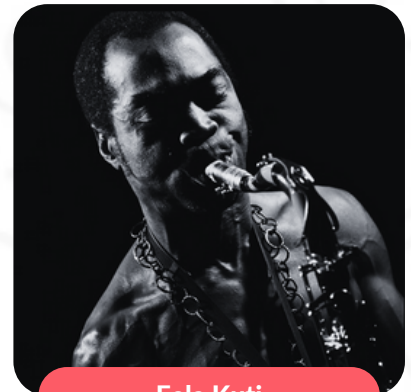


**"Laban"**



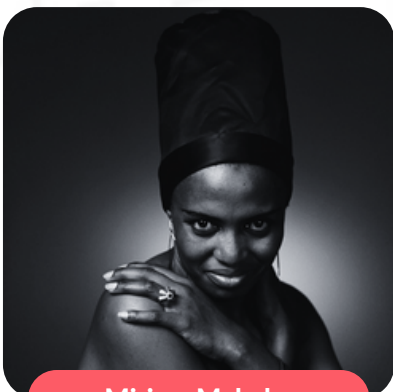
Salif Keita

**"Colonial Mentality"**



Fela Kuti

**"Pata Pata"**



Miriam Makeba



**"Khawuleza"**



Hugh Masekela





# khosi NKOSI X AFRICANBANK

[READ KHOSI'S FULL #LACHATS INTERVIEW HERE](#)





# COLLABORATIONS

Exploring a catalyst for expansion, creativity and growth



*Blxckie*





# THE MAGIC OF COLLABS

*A look at how partnerships spark innovation and leave a lasting impact.*



Collaborations have become an essential part of the modern creative ecosystem, driving innovation, expanding reach, and opening doors for fresh opportunities. In industries like music, art, and entertainment, partnerships between artists, brands, labels, and even between different events are vital for success. But why are they so important, and how do they benefit everyone involved?

## The importance of collaborations

Collaborations are vital for expanding reach, sparking innovation, pooling resources, and amplifying impact across industries.

- **Boosting Visibility and Reach:** By collaborating, artists and brands tap into each other's audiences, helping to expand their visibility across various markets.
- **Cross-Pollination of Ideas:** Different creative minds bring diverse perspectives, leading to new, innovative concepts.
- **Resource Sharing:** Collaboration allows for resource pooling—whether it's talent, marketing budgets, production capabilities, or distribution networks—enabling both parties to accomplish more than they could alone.
- **Amplifying Impact:** Partnerships can elevate projects by combining resources, influence, and credibility, making them more impactful.

## Benefits of same industry collaborations:

- **Talent Synergy:** Artists signing with major labels gain better production quality, access to wider distribution, and enhanced promotional opportunities.
- **Increased Fanbase:** Working with established names in the industry can help up-and-coming artists gain exposure to a global audience.
- **Longevity:** Collaborating with experienced brands can help artists cement their presence and sustain their careers.

## Benefits of cross-industry collaborations:

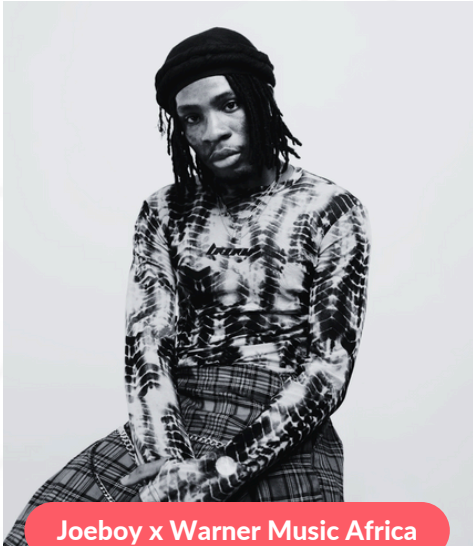
- **Branding Opportunities:** When an artist collaborates with a brand, it not only broadens the artist's influence but also creates a crossover appeal to consumers.
- **Cultural Alignment:** Artist and brand collaborations that align with shared cultural values often resonate more deeply with audiences.
- **Innovative Engagement:** Collaborating with other industries leads to new ways to engage with fans, through unique experiences like podcasts or limited-edition product lines.

Wherever they happen, collaborations open up new opportunities for growth, creative exploration, and lasting impact.

# LABEL X ARTIST COLLABS

*The foundation of many music careers, these deals provide artists with the financial and logistical support needed for success.*

some announcements we've seen coming from these kinds of collaborations



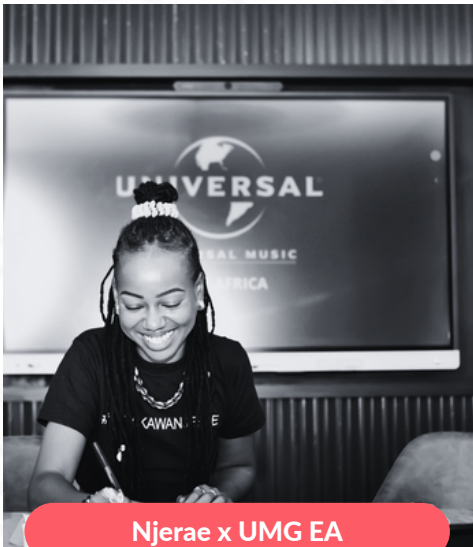
Joeboy x Warner Music Africa



Linda Sikhakhane x UMG SA



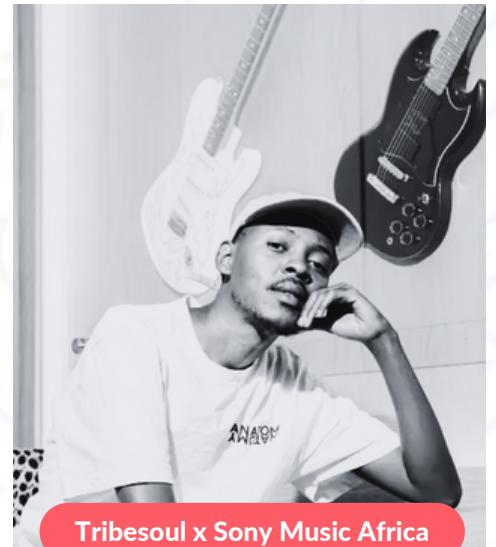
Mr Thela x UMG SA



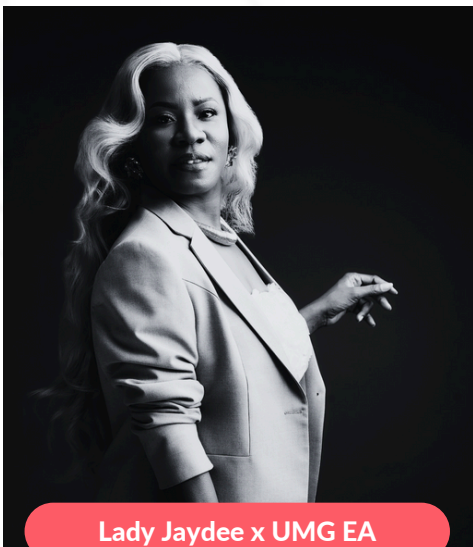
Njrae x UMG EA



Vic West x UMG EA



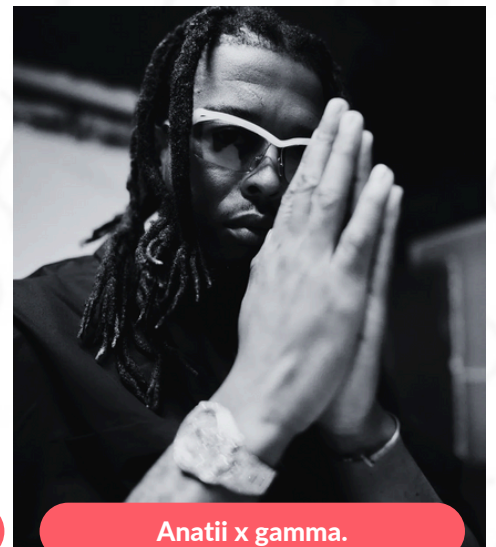
Tribesoul x Sony Music Africa



Lady Jaydee x UMG EA



Flavour, Warner Music Africa x Africori



Anatii x gamma.



# ARTIST X BRAND COLLABS

*These partnerships are highly visible and benefit both the artist and the brand by associating each other with quality and authenticity.*

some announcements we've seen coming from these kinds of collaborations



Major League DJz x boohooMAN



Blxckie x Sprite



KO x Martell Blue Swift



Nasty C x Ellesse



Khosi Nkosi x Africanbank



Kwesta x Bisquit & Dubouché



AKA x Reebok



André Saraiva x Glenfiddich Grand Château



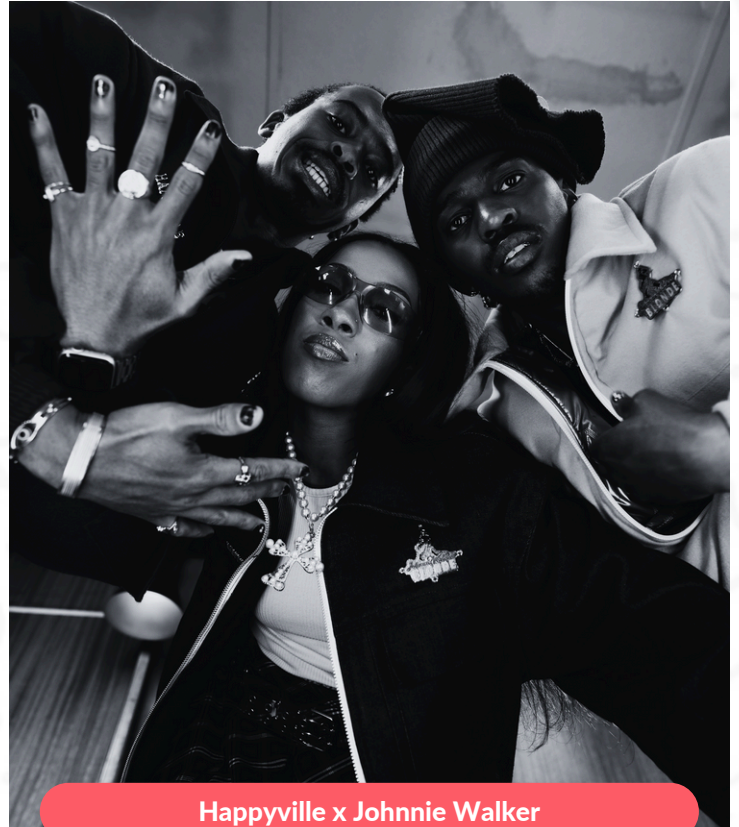
# BRAND X BRAND COLLABS

*Two brands coming together to create something greater than the sum of their parts—whether it's a campaign, product, or event.*

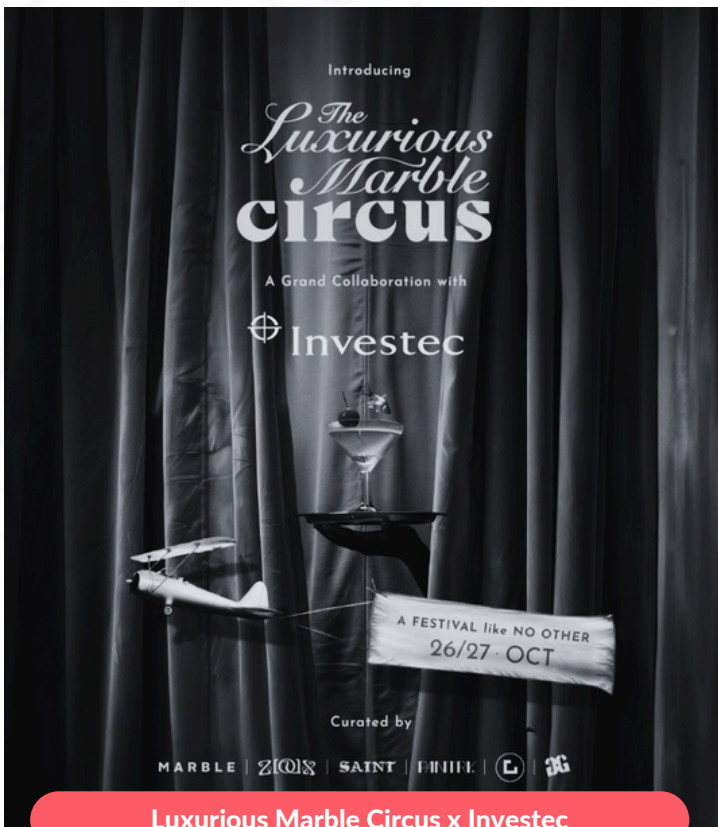
some announcements we've seen coming from these kinds of collaborations



GalXBoy x HONOR



Happyville x Johnnie Walker



Luxurious Marble Circus x Investec



ADSB Andersson Bell x Levi's



# BRAND X EVENT COLLABS

*Brands partner with events to amplify their message and engage with their target audience directly.*

some announcements we've seen coming from these kinds of collaborations

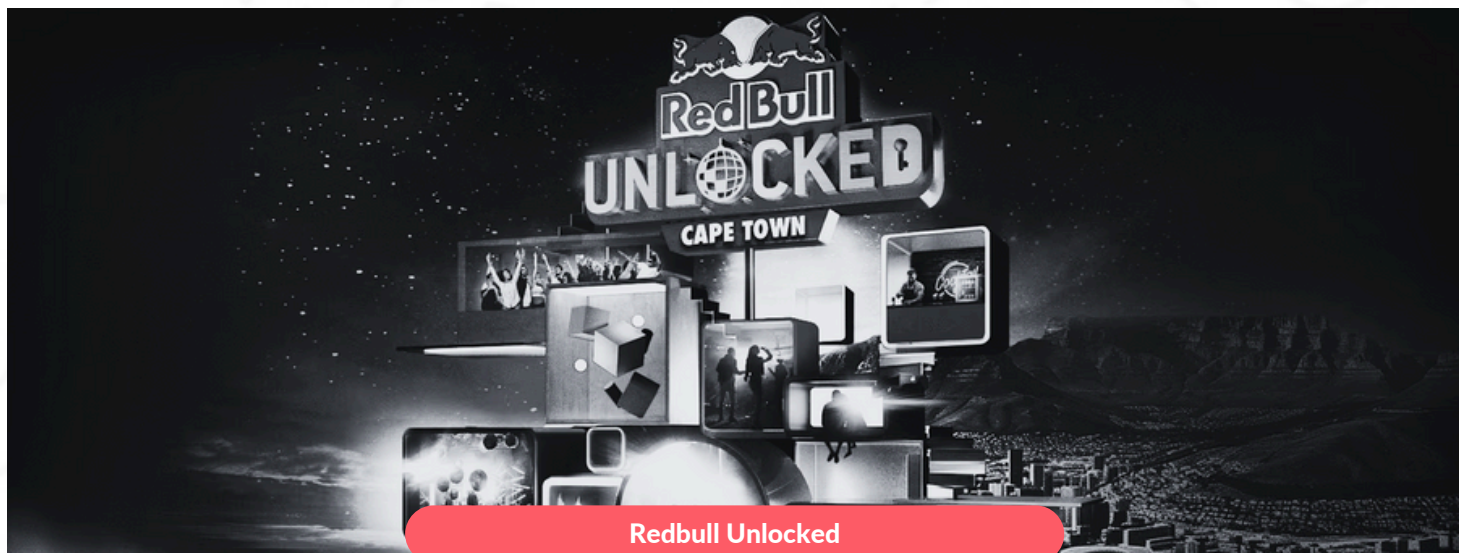




# EVENT X EVENT COLLABS

*Two events working together can double the excitement, bring more fans, and offer a wider platform for artists and brands involved.*

announcements we've seen coming from these kinds of collaborations







# *listen to* “BAW” YENA”

and more from our November new music releases guide



*featuring*

TNK MusiQ, Dato Seiko, AlorG, Mars Baby, DTX, Eric Bellinger, Khanyisa Jaceni, Ronnie L x Nick Mathevula, Thabisi, Savinnah, Major League DJz x Tion Wayne, Zādok x Stixx x Reed, DESIREE, Rubygold, Rorisang Sechele, DJ Mic Smith x Medikal x Shatta Wale, Miano x Killa Punch x Vusinator x Super Mosha, Sabrina Love x D Smoke, Mayorkun x Firebox DML, Ihhashi Elimhlophe, Deep London x Smash SA x Wesley Keys x Tswalo x Kaymo Grillz x Villosoul, Yumbs x Zwayetoven x Mawhoo x Mthunzi, Zichy, Th&o., Zee Nxumalo, Djy Biza, Azana Makhozana, Gaba Cannal, Spumante, Njerae, Bravo Le Roux x Reezy Rye, Kabelo Sings, Kay Faith x Mac 11, Sho Madjozi, Nomfundo Moh x De Mthuda, Bizzcuit, Dr Thulz x Mngqobi Yazo, Givem Tyler, Dinoh x Tumza D'Kota x AG'ZO x YDEE, KJ Spio x Harmonize x Konshens, Dope Saint Jude, Masterpiece YVK, Skatle x Gvnt, Nomfundo Yekani, and ANATII x Yumbs x Al Xapo.



# **FESTIVE GIFT** GUIDE

Unwrap the season with perfect gift ideas





# FESTIVE GIFT

*guide for your december shopping list*



Omagoqa "Members Only" Tee



Ray-Ban "Change" Sunnies



adidas Originals x Edison Chen  
"Clot Gazelle"



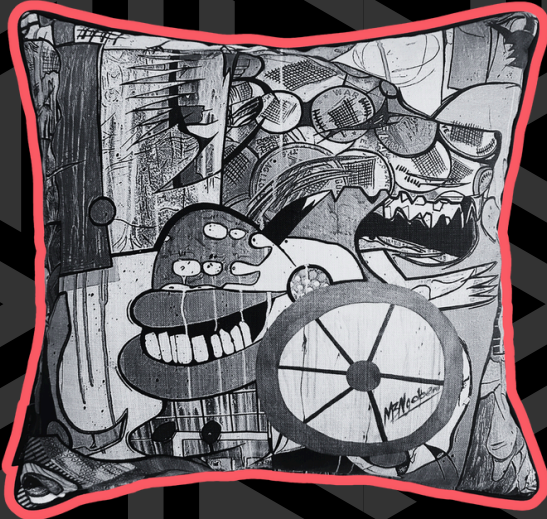
Sony LinkBuds Speakers



HONOR X6b

# FESTIVE GIFT

guide for your december shopping list



Blessing Ngoben Cushion



Glenmorangie Triple Cask Reserve

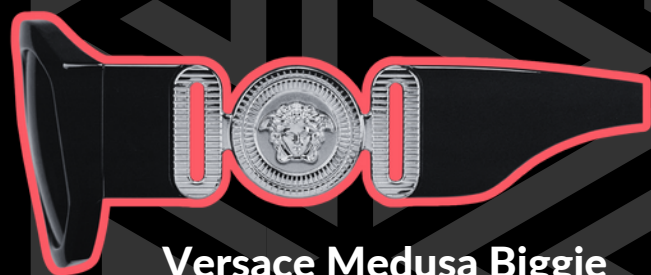
Heineken Vase  
(from the Waste Collection)



Lenovo "Home AI Brain"



New Balance Fresh Foam X 1080v14



Versace Medusa Biggie  
Sunnies



# FESTIVE GIFT

*guide for your december shopping list*



Thandiswa Mawai Zabalaza  
"20th Anniversary Tee"

Ferarri Polarized Sunnies



Bokani Dyer "Ke Nako"  
Ntokzin Remix Vinyl



Grant's Whisky  
Summer Flavours



Converse Run Star Trainer



HONOR 200 Series X GALXBOY Bag

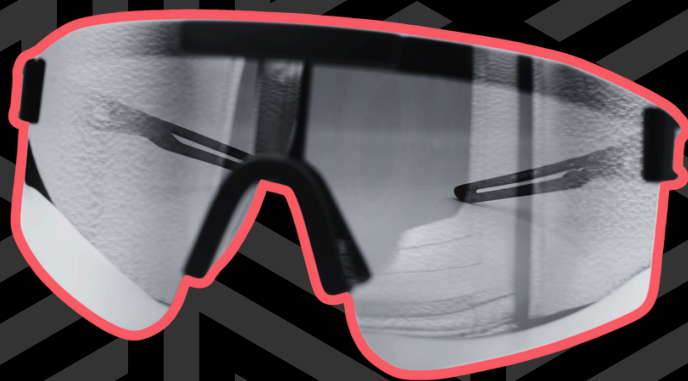


# FESTIVE GIFT

*guide for your december shopping list*



Iphupho L'ka Biko "Azania" Vinyl



Aluta "Abuda" Sunnies



Converse x Brain Dead Chuck 70



Barbie x Jenna Clifford  
Pink Sapphire Bow Ring



Barbie "My Barbie Story" Book



BIRKENSTOCK Kyoto





# ARTIST-OWNED EVENTS

Artist creative expression through experiences & collaborations

BALEN



CIAGA



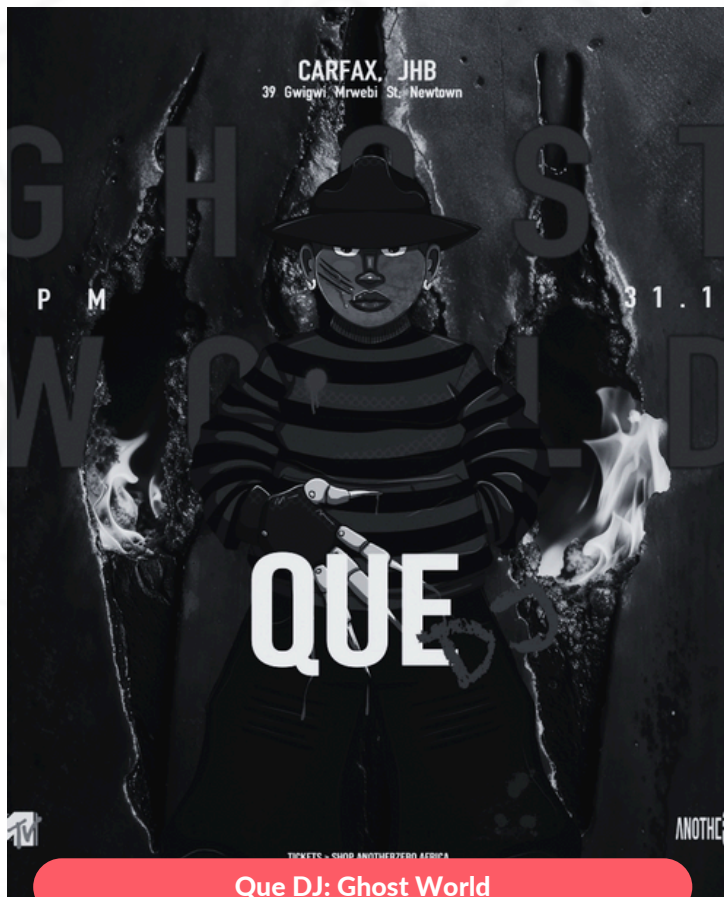
# EVENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED



Focalistic: Straata



Dee Koala: 4TheKultcha



Que DJ: Ghost World



Young Stunna: Kwa Mashaya



# UPCOMING EVENTS GUIDE



DBN Gogo: Kwa Gogo



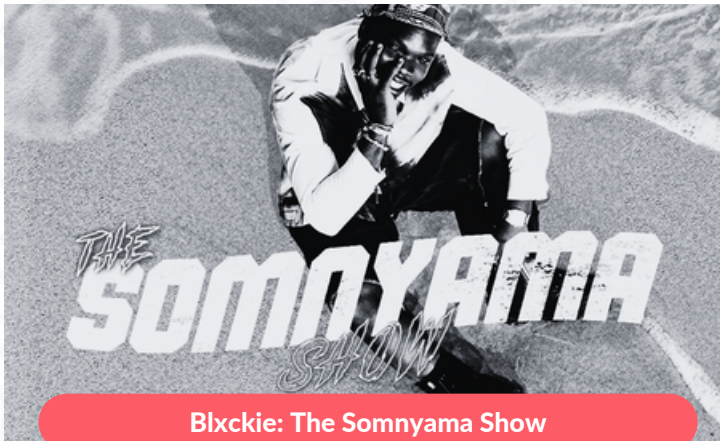
Leemackcrazy: One Man Show



Makhadzi: One Woman Show



Shimza: One Man Show



Blxckie: The Somnyama Show



Felo Le Tee: Felo's Fun House



Kabza De Small: Paptaland



DJ Maphorisa: Porryland



**NEXT ISSUE LOADING**

**LAMAG.AFRICA**

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