



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Internationally acclaimed and award-winning South African artist Xabiso Vili to headline 'Poetry Kaleidoscope' at the Goethe-Institut with German Slam Poet Felix Römer



Felix Römer by: Marvin Ruppert



Hope Netshivhambe by: Bonolo Menu



Xabiso Vili by: Hans Van Rompaey

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**Goethe-Institut South Africa celebrates the Spoken Word beyond languages with internationally acclaimed and award-winning artists Xabiso Vili (SA), Felix Römer (DE) and Hope Netshivhambe (SA) on 10 June 2023, at the Goethe-Institut Johannesburg.**

The love for the spoken word connects beyond language barriers, beyond cultures.

In celebration of poetry and spoken word art, the Goethe-Institut is hosting an afternoon of multilingual poetry and spoken word performances by outstanding South African and German talents, featuring Xabiso Vili, World Poetry Champion 2022. Vili has established himself as one of the leading voices in contemporary South African poetry. His captivating performances and profound words have earned him international recognition and a multitude of awards. Audiences attending this event can expect to be moved and inspired by Vili's powerful and evocative words.

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Vili will share the stage with pioneering German slam poet Felix Römer. Römer's performances are known for their electrifying energy and innovative use of language. With his thought-provoking poems and dynamic stage presence, Römer has captivated audiences around the world. This event will mark Römer's introduction to the South African audience, promising an unforgettable encounter with his groundbreaking poetry.

The two spoken word artists will be joined on stage by the inspiring creator and storyteller Hope Netshivhambe who will be representing Tshivenda.

The Goethe-Institut is honored to host these artists and provide a platform for cultural exchange through the medium of poetry. The event aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of both South African and German literary traditions, showcasing the power of language and its ability to transcend borders.

The afternoon is a celebration of multilingualism and the love for the spoken word and poetry, beyond language barriers, and will be hosted by the charismatic and captivating Quaz Roodt (poetrypotion.com).

The panorama of remarkable multilingual performances will be opened by an open-mic session. Sign-up for the open mic by email to [josephine.heide@goethe.de](mailto:josephine.heide@goethe.de)

Glühwein will be served and a fire will be lit to keep everyone warm and cosy on a crispy winter afternoon.

### ***Poetry Kaleidoscope***

**Sat, 10 June 2023**

**2 PM – 5 PM**

**Goethe-Institut South Africa, 119 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood, JHB**

With

Xabiso Vili, Felix Römer (DE), Hope Netshivhambe

Host: Quaz Roodt

Drinks and Glühwein will be served

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Notes to the Editor

## **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. The Goethe-Institut promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. The Goethe-Institut Johannesburg supports local South African projects, as well as regional exchange within Africa, and continues to facilitate engagement with Germany.

[Website](#)

## **Short Bios of the artists:**

### **Felix Römer (Germany)**

Römer is considered one of the pioneers of the German-language slam scene. As early as 1999, when the format was still very young in Germany, Römer travelled the German-speaking world as a poet and performed his poetry and prose at Germany's first poetry slam events. He himself calls the format "rock 'n' roll for the unmusical". Together with Sebastian 23, Lars Ruppel and Gabriel Vetter, he formed the performative stage literature team "SMAAT", who described themselves as a "slam boy group". In 2007, he became the German-language poetry slam champion in Berlin in the team competition with SMAAT. In 2015, Satyr-Verlag published the text collection "Verhinderter Held: Mach doch! But if not, shut the fuck up." Previously, he states, he was afraid to publish a book because he feared his texts would not work without his performance. In addition, many of his texts have been published in anthologies as well as literary magazines. He moderates and organises various poetry slams. Römer also leads workshops on poetry slam and creative writing. He currently lives and works in Berlin.

### **Xabiso Vili**

Eastern Cape-born Xabiso Vili is a multi-award-winning performer, writer, new media artist, producer and social activist. He was declared World Poetry Competition Champion 2022 and is a Mail & Guardian top 200 Young South African for 2022. One of South Africa's top poets, his

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writings help him explore his inner world to relate to the outer world. Xabiso strongly believes that art offers humanity a path toward integration, joy, and healing, thus is persistently working towards creating alternative spaces for art to be shared in innovative ways. Xabiso is researching and creating a methodology for how writing can be used as a tool for therapy and a tool to turn toxic masculinity into compassionate masculinity. He is a champion of multiple slams, has been published in various anthologies and has performed on four continents. He has worked with abandoned spaces and converted them into art hubs.

### **Hope Netshivhambe**

Hope is a creator, thinker, speaker, storyteller, and a spoken word artist, born in Venda, Limpopo. She started writing at the age of 17 and has not looked back since. Hope has shared her work widely in South Africa and internationally and has been featured on radio and television and is the co-writer and performer of the short film “#WeAreDyingHere”, nominated for best short narrative at the 2021 Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles. Hope is an Alumni of the “Black Girl Live fellows” under the mentorship of Koleka Putuma. Her work has been published on digital platforms such as Poetry Portion, Odd magazine, Poetic and Egalitarianism Anthology. She was a grand finalist in the 2016/2017 Tshwane Speak Out Loud youth competition slam and in 2019 she took third place in the same competition. She believes strongly in the power of words and is convinced that the world as we know it revolves around words.

### **Press information:**

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