

READY: Miss Gay Jozi contestants strut their stuff in swimwear at the Wits Theatre on Saturday night.

PICTURES: TIM BERNARD AND JOYCE LEE

Gays turn on the style at Jozi pageant



A lot of bra-stuffing went on backstage at the Wits Theatre.

Judges were not looking for just a pretty face

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Γ WAS an hour before the stage lights went on, and the girls were still getting ready. One was drawing on thick black eyebrows and the other was placing synthetic breasts in the space between his chest and his bra.

They had arrived at 5pm, but they were still getting ready for the first segment of Miss Gay Jozi: traditional wear.

'The pageant is usually held on Africa Day, but this year we're having it on International Day Against Homophobia." said Zsa-Zsa Whitney Gabor-Houston as she looked in foundation onto the area beneath her eyes.

Gabor-Houston was MC at Saturday's pageant and was becoming anxious about the time as the Wits Theatre filled up steadily.

Standing in her bra and panties, she went through the order of her five outfit changes for the night.

"We have the same things that heterosexuals have, but you don't hear of us having heterophobia," she said as her 3cm-long false lashes fluttered.

As 8pm drew closer, preparations became frantic and the

the mirror and brushed liquid others' wigs and putting safety pins where things were falling

> When the curtain finally went up, almost an hour late, it was all panicky glamorous outfit changes, lip-synching and high-heeled strutting

They floated through the traditional, cocktail wear and evening wear sections, and barely made it through the most difficult section of all, swimwear, but mastered it all with grace.

While the contestants were backstage, racing down the corridors in heels and singing along to Celine Dion, the audience was thoroughly entertained by Divalicious and other

lip-synching performers. The group served up a number of popular Tina Turner songs.

Martin George, one of the judges, explained how they chose the winner. "We're looking for an ambassador to take forward issues in the LGBTI community. We also consider their poise, glam and elegance, but it's not just about the looks," he said.

When the final envelope was opened a few minutes past midnight, Thabo Menu (known as Miss Tee), was crowned the second annual Miss Gay Jozi.

She wore her crown to the after-party that everyone was looking forward to, at club



Thabo Menu was crowned the

CALL OF THE WILD: Juno, the brown hyena who was captured in Blairgowrie, will be allowed to return to her clan after she was moved to a pre-release boma in a game reserve in North West last week.



Freedom for hyena

JOYCE LEE

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Scar plans a coup to overthrow his brother, King Mufasa, with a couple of conniving hyenas. But Juno, the brown hyena found wandering through the streets of Blairgowrie, Randburg,

in September, is more shy than sly. The young hyena damaged her paws running along the rough pavement, trying to find her way back to her clan, which lived, researchers believed, in the hilly Kloofendal area outside the urban sprawl.

Now, after two months in Johannesburg Zoo and three months in a private reserve in North West, she's a doe-eyed, well-adjusted creature ready to return to the wild.

With the help of the SPCA and public donations, the Urban Hyena Research Project, led by Wits University hyena expert Dr Brian Kuhn, purchased a GPS tracking collar to monitor Juno's movements over the next 12 months. The Urban Hyena Research Project is dedicated to studying wild hyenas that

wander into cities. Juno was sedated and

effects. The collar will show the team her hour-by-hour movements and alert them if she doesn't move for a long period.

Hyena clans travel long distances (they can run up to 60km/h) each night in search of food. Researchers guess Juno probably lost her way while the clan was travelling, said Keith Newnham, a member of the Urban Hyena project.

When Juno came to Johannesburg Zoo, the carnivorous animal was in a state of trauma because she had been chased through the congested streets by eager strangers with cameras. She was at most eight months old.

Since then, Juno has recovered and gained weight. She now weighs 45kg - almost a full-grown hyena.

The wild may not be ready to take her in, though.

While male brown hyenas are sometimes nomadic, females are not, and there's a chance Juno might be chased away by other females in the clan, Newnham said. "That's the great unknown."

Juno will be released this week. The doors to the enclosure will be left open, and she will be free to leave, at last

Case of ready, set and glow for fun

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IT WAS A night of glow-in-the-dark fun mixed with a run.

A total of 12,000 people from across greater Joburg gathered at the Wanderers club on Saturday evening for a 5km run, walk and cycle in what has been described by the organisers as "South Africa's most electric night event".

The participants were covered in neon

accessories and body paint. "It went fantastically," Tavis Brown, one of the organisers of the first Joburg Neon Run, said

"We wanted a unique, value-for-money run. There are lots of different kinds of these events, and it's quite big. We're only a year into this and are hoping to make it a once-a-year run in each

Doors opened at 3pm at the stadium, with the race starting at 6.30pm. Then it was a case of "ready, set and glow".

For avid runner Khulile Mkhabela, 28, the event offered just the kind of mix of fun and colour to make her forget she was participating

"It felt more like a fun walk," she said. "My boyfriend and I try to do a race a month, and this one just happened to be this month. There were lots of queues but registration was very quick. We got our neon paint and glow sticks, and got the race started." Her boyfriend, Aphiwe Fali, 27, also said he thoroughly enjoyed the run.

After the race, participants were treated to a party featuring some of the hottest local and international DJs.

LAUREN RAWLINS

MUSICIAN Johnny Clegg is mourning the death of his long-time backing vocalist, Bongani Masuku. Masuku, 50, was shot dead in an attempted hijacking in Joburg

years, was born in Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, and went

unknown men who attempted to rob him and a passen-



GONE: Bongani Masuku

on Saturday night. Masuku, who had worked with Clegg for the past 22

He was shot and killed after an altercation with four

ness News reported. Police spokeswoman Katlego Mogale said

Princess Street, Troveville, and was accosted by cellphone and keys. Masuku was forced out

of the vehicle. "A struggle ensued and the suspect fired several shots into his torso," said Mogale. Police

are investigating. Clegg posted on Facebook yesterday that he was "shocked" and "deeply saddened" by the killing.

Clegg said: "Bongani first worked with Johnny Clegg and Savuka in 1992, and continued with the Johnny Clegg Band until the present time. He was a stalwart performer and hard-working musician and good friend.

"We will miss him deeply and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and all who knew him.' Saddened fans took to Twitter. Jo Davies tweeted: "RIP Bongani Masuku. An amazing talent who will be greatly missed. Such a selfish and hateful act."

12 contestants raced around the dressing room, combing each Clegg's singer killed

ger in his vehicle, Eyewit-



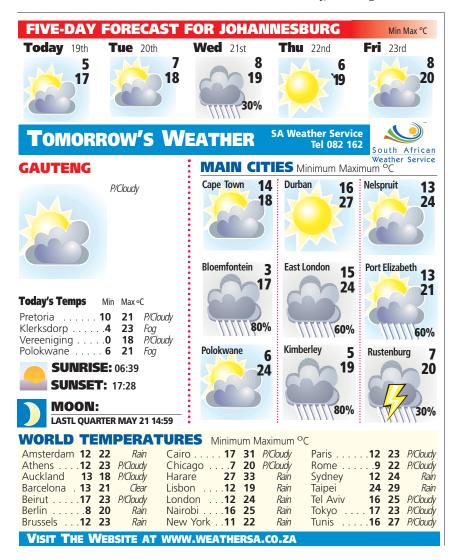


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Tracev Nixon tweeted: "The world is a little greyer today, the songs a little less melodic."





Sorry, girls, George has set a date

LONDON: George Clooney, 53, has set a date for his wedding to human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin - just a week after popping the question.

A close friend of Amal said she was poised to send out save the date cards warning friends and family they would need to fly to Italy and then to Lebanon in September.

September 12 is the date they are aiming for, said the friend of Lebanese-born, Britishraised Amal, 35.

Many thought they'd marry in Lake Como, where Clooney has a home, but Amal feels it is too public. They want to host a small wedding in Italy where they can control photographers, and later throw parties for her family in Lebanon and London. - Mail on Sunday



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