




SATURDAY 5 JULY
 HOLLYWOODBETS GREYVILLE
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#HDJ2025
 EVENT THEME 2025:
MARVELS OF MZANSI



A glimpse into Mzansi's marvellous fashion future

MZANSI had a glimpse into a marvellous future for fashion design on Wednesday when KZN's top students showcased their talent in the opening round of judging at the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designers Award, presented by Durban Fashion Fair.

Inspired by the Hollywoodbets Durban July theme, "Marvels of Mzansi", student designers put on a dazzling display of interpretations and adaptations of what it means to be South African to a panel of respected fashion heavyweights.

By the end of the process, judges Nonhlanhla Khumalo (Durban Fashion Fair), Vuyisile Ngobese (Hollywood Foundation) and designers Zama Mathe, Kathrin Kidger and Sandile Duke Mngadi had whittled down more than 130 entries to the 25 designs chosen to progress to the second round of judging on Saturday.

The 25 young designers will now go on to showcase their Marvels of Mzansi interpretations in the semi-finals at tomorrow's Hollywoodbets Gold Challenge event, when the top 10 finalists will be announced.

The finalists will then present their



designs on June 27 at the Hollywoodbets Durban July Fashion Gala Preview Evening at Gateway Theatre of Shopping, and on July 5 at the Hollywoodbets Durban July. On both occasions, all three elements of the Durban July fashion experience – the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designer Award presented by Durban Fashion Fair, Hollywoodbets Durban July Invited Designer Showcase presented by Dove, and the Hollywood-

bets Durban July DFF Rising Stars Collection – will show off their interpretations of the Marvels of Mzansi theme.

For the top three young designers, there is an enticing reward. The Hollywood Foundation increased their total contribution to bursaries for the winner, runner-up and third-placed students from R100 000 to R150 000. This year, the first-placed student will receive R70 000, second place R50 000 and third will receive R30 000 from the Hollywood Foundation. Other prizes for the top students include travel to SA Fashion Week, cash from Schweppes and Race Coast, and gift cards from Gateway Theatre of Shopping.

"Our research showed that tuition fees have gone up. So, we did this to meet the needs of parents and students," said Vuyisile Ngobese, Public Relations Officer for the Hollywood Foundation.

"Big thanks must go to the Hollywood Foundation and the newly-launched Race Coast for their incredible support in helping to drive and sustain this element of the Hollywoodbets Durban July. Through their work, it is exciting to see the brilliant display of talent and the number of participating colleges growing to nine," said Tiffany Prior, Fashion Programme Director.

The judges agreed that this year's standard was incredibly high.

"This year's theme encouraged designers to explore what makes South Africa truly remarkable. The students clearly drew inspiration from rich culture, our history and the vibrant world of entertainment," said Ngobese.

"The selection process was incredibly competitive – especially from the likes of colleges such as the Pietermaritzburg School of Fashion, which has an excellent track record of taking first prize, as well as the Durban University of Technology, which has consistently produced designers who have made it to the top three – but we managed to narrow it down."



Mountain layers: Sandile Duke Mngadi drew his inspiration for his menswear looks from the Drakensberg. His outfit is modelled by Jody Jones from Boss Models. | Sean Laurenz / Race Coast



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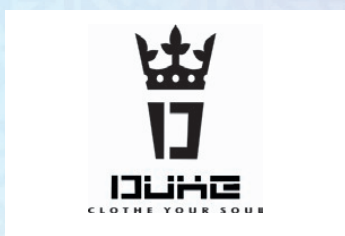
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My inspiration for this year's theme "Marvels of Mzansi" leans towards the "natural wonders of Mzansi", with the Drakensberg Mountains as my chosen marvel. My aim was to create bold, eye-catching dresses that showcase the shape and structure of the mountains; and menswear looks which represent the layers of the mountain. I wanted to create a narrative that celebrates our natural wonders as well as the diversity and richness of South African culture. Mixing traditional and modern fashion elements, and showcasing a mix of traditional and modern pieces to highlight the beauty of cultural fusion. That's what the Hollywoodbets Durban July is all about.



The 25 semi-finalists in the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designers Award, presented by Durban Fashion Fair, are:

- Irene Price (Esayidi Fashion School)
- Mary-Jane Mchunu (SG International)
- Fatu Shabane (Inscape Education)
- Thulethu Gezemdala (Fezile Fashion Academy)
- Mpilo Sithole (DUT)
- Vumani Mkhize (DUT)
- Andiswa Gumede (DUT)
- Tshepang Lebanya (DUT)
- Nothile Mkhungo (Esayidi Fashion School)
- Vuyiseka Myoni (Esayidi Fashion School)
- Zama Mbambo (PMB School of Fashion)
- Wamukelwe Nyandeni (Esayidi Fashion School)
- Queenton Mweni (DUT)
- Samkelo Mkhize (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Olwethu Ngcobo (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Nohlahla Dube (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Khumaluni Ndlovu (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Neliswa Gcwabaza (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Mangoba Mnguni (Iqoda Incubator)
- Kheta Thango (Iqoda Incubator)
- S'nekama Xali (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Stokozile Mngadi (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Andile Cele (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Sethu Sicwebu (Lindiwe Kuzwayo Academy)
- Samkelo Makhubalo (Umgungundlovu TVET)

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MARVELS OF MZANSI

A marvel is a moment, a person, or place
 That catches your breath with its beauty and grace.
 With majestic mountains and magnificent views,
 These natural wonders could be your muse.

The gold of the sunrise, or mined from the ground,
 Just a taste of our treasures, but more can be found.
 Like dazzling diamonds refracting the light,
 Into a rainbow of cultures that smile so bright.

The groom, jockey, trainer, owner and breeder,
 Are part of the squad that makes a race leader,

With a marvel of nature, the thoroughbred horse,
 Each four-legged athlete, a phenomenal force.

On this day of fashion held in high esteem,
 There is heritage woven into every seam.
 From village, to township, to deep urban centre,
 Seek patterns and colour, an ensemble adventure.

As Ubuntu unites us in a joyful way
 Feel the pulse of South Africa at the HDJ
 Let's honour our past and the victories won
 For the Marvels of Mzansi shine in everyone!

The Hollywoodbets Durban July, Africa's Greatest Horseracing And Social Event

FEEL THE PULSE OF THE NATION




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