



A FASHION SENSATION
IN THE BUILD UP TO
RACEDAY!



BE AT THE FASHION EXPERIENCE,
BROUGHT TO YOU BY DFF

WESTOWN MALL, FRI 26 JUNE

Fascinating fortnight ahead for fashionistas and punters



WITH two weeks until the Hollywoodbets Durban July, the excitement is building in both the stables and the studios as horse racing and fashion prepare to merge into "Africa's Greatest Horse Racing and Social Event" on July 4.

As always at this time, the trainers, owners and jockeys are carefully plotting

their course to victory for Africa's richest race; while the designers, models and fashionistas are preparing their garments to best reflect the Country Allure theme.

Over the next two weeks, the public will have the chance to judge, deliberate and debate across a series of events before the ultimate winners are crowned

at Hollywoodbets Greyville Racecourse on raceday.

For the racing fraternity, the next two weeks will be filled with intrigue as they wait for the announcement of the main race final declarations on Monday, June 22. This will be followed by the reveal of the final field and draw on Tuesday, June 23; and then the ever-popular public gallops at Hollywoodbets Greyville Racecourse on Thursday, June 25.

Monday's publication of the official weights marked a significant milestone on the road to the 130th running of the iconic race as handicappers revealed how the remaining contenders will line up under the race's revised handicap conditions, designed to create a broader weight spread and a more competitive contest.

The weights provide the first clear

indication of which runners may have earned a favourable position ahead of the R10-million Grade 1 showdown at Hollywoodbets Greyville on July 4 - and are certain to fuel debate among racing fans, punters and connections alike as the countdown gathers momentum.

For the fashionistas, Thursday and Friday, June 25-26, will be red-letter days.

The runway meets the racetrack on Thursday morning when punters and fashion aficionados enjoy a preview of raceday at the official gallops.

As the thoroughbreds selected for the main race are put through their paces inside the rails, the large watching crowd will include the nine powerhouse creatives selected for the Hollywoodbets Durban July DFF Rising Stars Collection as well as all 10 finalists in the

Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designer Award presented by Metro FM.

The result will be a teaser of what's to come on raceday when "Africa's Greatest Horse Racing and Social Event" transforms Hollywoodbets Greyville Racecourse into a full-blown festival of fast horses, fashion and fearless imagination.

On Friday, June 26, Westown will become a celebration of creative talent when three of the four fashion pillars come together at the Hollywoodbets Durban July Preview Fashion Show. The fashion spectacular will show off the creative genius of the six top professionals in the Invited Designers Showcase, as well as the nine Durban Fashion Fair Rising Stars and the 10 finalists in the Young Designer Award.

The only fashion element missing at

Westown will be the Race Day Fashion Awards, where the public's creative designs will be judged on July 4. The entries are expected to be a celebration of colour, design and originality. Sometimes they are wild and wacky, and at other times these wonderful creations can be controversial, but there is always huge interest in the spectacular entries prepared by professional and amateur designers looking for glory.

The four Race Day Fashion Award categories are Most Striking Couple; Classic Racewear - Female; Classic Racewear - Male; and Exceptional Raceday Hat or Fascinator. For the raceday competitions, registration starts at 11.30am and judging at 12pm at the Pulse Stage in the Infield Marquee Village.

HOLLYWOODBETS DURBAN JULY
AFRICA'S GREATEST HORSE RACING AND SOCIAL EVENT

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET FOR RACEDAY?

TOP MUSICAL PERFORMERS
WORLD-CLASS RACING,
FORMIDABLE FASHION
ALL FOR R280

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INVITED DESIGNER SHOWCASE
PRESENTED BY
DURBAN FASHION FAIR
A RACE COAST FASHION SPECTACULAR

LABEL: MITA-M DEZYNZ

Mita-N Dezynz fashion designer Muzi Mlambo is the epitome of home-grown creative excellence.

Raised in Inanda, Mlambo's passion for fashion was inspired from an early age by his mother, who worked as a machinist in a local factory. A self-taught designer with an unmistakable eye for detail and innovation, he matriculated in 2003 before formally launching his fashion journey in 2006.

His talent quickly captured attention after joining the Durban Fashion Fair in 2016, where he set a remarkable standard by earning multiple Recognition Awards. These included accolades in 2016 and 2017 as the Next Generation Emerging Durban Designer, followed by Collection of the Week awards in 2018 and again in 2024.

This year marks another milestone as Mlambo debuts his first collection as an Invited Designer for the Hollywoodbets Durban July.

MY COUNTRY ALLURE INSPIRATION:

"I drew powerful inspiration from the horse – a majestic symbol deeply connected to horse racing and countryside elegance – and my personal memories of travelling through rural landscapes and witnessing people riding horses. I became captivated by the horse's beauty, strength, movement, and grace, which ultimately form the foundation of my design interpretation.

"The colour palette features deep browns and rich earthy tones, accented with copper and rose gold; embodying



the luxury and opulence of the horse racing world. These warm hues evoke the richness of leather, the natural beauty of the countryside, and the refined glamour associated with the Hollywoodbets Durban July.

"One garment takes direct inspiration from the tail of the horse, translating its fluid movement into the structure and detailing of the dress. Another explores the significance of leather in equestrian culture. A white garment is fused with leather straps and detailing inspired by jockey wear, harnesses, boots, whips and hats. The third reflects the wealth, prestige and sophistication often associated with horse racing as a symbol of heritage and refined society."

Instagram @muzi_mlambo9
Tiktok @muziinnocentmlambo
Facebook Muzi innocent mlambo



COUNTRY ALLURE: Muzi Mlambo's (second from left) interpretation of the Hollywoodbets Durban July Country Allure theme for the Invited Designer Showcase. Modelling his outfits are (from left) Ncwadenhle Qwabe, Hannah Mansur and Charlotte Kelly. | Sean Laurenz / Race Coast

DON YOUR BEST COUNTRY ALLURE

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026

HOLLYWOODBETS GREYVILLE

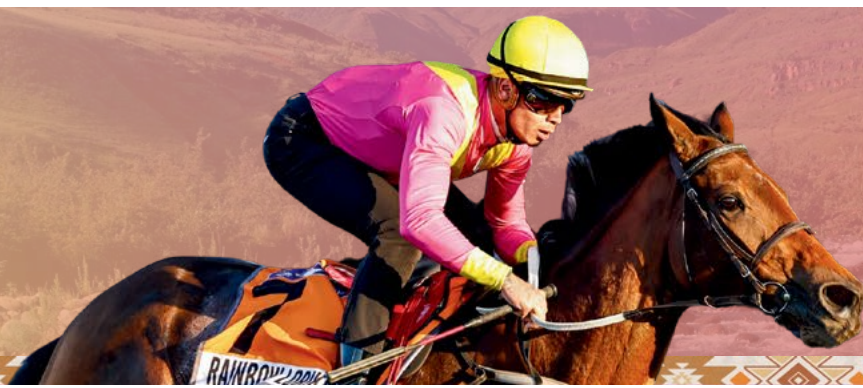
FOUR RACEDAY CATEGORIES TO ENTER:

- Exceptional Raceday Hat
- Classic Racewear, Women
- Classic Racewear, Men
- Most Striking Couple

Registration starts at 11.30, judging starts at 12.00 - so be early and make your way to the Pulse Stage in the Infield Marquee Village to register.



GALLOPS
THURSDAY, 25 JUNE



**SEE THE FINAL FIELD IN
ACTION AHEAD OF RACEDAY!**

BE AT HOLLYWOODBETS GREYVILLE
BREAKFAST GALLOPS, 6:30AM FOR 7AM

HOT COFFEE & PASTRIES ON US