



**PRESS RELEASE / 10.09.2015**

# **AFRICAN FUTURES FESTIVAL COMES TO JOBURG IN OCTOBER**

**What might various African futures look like? How do artists and academics imagine this future? And what forms and narratives of science fiction are currently being developed in Africa?**

**From 28 to 31 October 2015, the Goethe-Institut's *African Futures* festival will address these and other questions with a wide range of events throughout Johannesburg, as well as at partner festivals in Lagos and Nairobi.**



[www.goethe.de/africanfutures](http://www.goethe.de/africanfutures)

More than 50 international guests have been invited to *African Futures*, including Nnedi Okorafor (Nigeria), Jean-Pierre Bekolo (Cameroon), Spoek Mathambo (SA), Faustin Linyekula (DRC) and Achille Mbembe (Cameroon/SA). They will be exploring visions of the future, following potential narratives and artistic expression in literature, fine arts, performance, music, film and various digital formats. Concurrent interdisciplinary festivals will be taking place in Lagos and Nairobi.

The festival in Johannesburg will kick off on 28 October with a conversation between award-winning writers Nnedi Okorafor (Nigeria/USA), Lauren Beukes (South Africa), Leif Randt (Germany) and Binyavanga Wainaina (Kenya).

**Goethe-Institut South Africa**

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A futuristic concert at Alexander Theatre in Braamfontein marks another highlight of the programme: German-Ghanaian-Portuguese collective Gato Preto will play alongside Nigerian musician Keziah Jones, with Spoek Mathambo presenting a brand new set of music in collaboration with yet to be announced Mozambican musicians.

“Much thought-provoking work has been produced when artists engage with ideas around ‘future’”, says Lien Heidenreich-Seleme, Head of Cultural Programmes at the Goethe-Institut South Africa. “We are excited to see our festival guests build bridges between the arts, technology and critical discourse, and reflect on how contemporary realities in Africa potentially provide answers to questions yet to come.”

Besides exhibitions, a film series and a virtual reality workshop, the programme will also feature a live video conference connecting Johannesburg with São Paulo and New York – two cities whose cultural production is strongly shaped by African influences.

During the run up to the festival, writers Lindokuhle Nkosi (Cape Town) and Percy Zvomuya (Harare/Johannesburg) will explore some of the many facets of *African Futures* on the Tumblr [www.goethe.de/africanfutures](http://www.goethe.de/africanfutures), including Black Feminism, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Knowledge Production in Africa. The Tumblr also features the festival programme, curatorial board and participants of the festival.

### **Please join us for the *African Futures* media launch!**

**When:** Friday 9 October 2015, 10:30 for 11:00

**Where:** Goethe-Institut, 119 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood 2193

### **To RSVP and for more information, contact:**

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[www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)



**Visual reference** (high res files for download on <http://we.tl/puAQJ15drq>)



Binyavanga Wainaina © Msingi Sasis



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Still from *Future Sound of Mzansi*



Gato Preto



Keziah Jones © Kelechi Amadi-Obi



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