



AFRIKABURN

178 Lower Main Rd
Observatory, Cape Town

Project Update: *The Mantis Project* / Tankwa

The Mantis Project continued at the workshop in Brakfontein. With logistical challenges around delivery of materials, the building of the puppet continued until the Thursday of the event, with Robert Weinek going between the event site and the workshop to oversee the finishing touches. Elandsvlei NGK School principal Nicolette van der Merwe and Grade R supervisor Anieta Andreas coordinated the children and adults from Elandsvlei and Brakfontein. Working directly with Elandsvlei NGK School facilitated the hiring of local services and empowered local decision-making as the project progressed.

About the project generally, Nicolette said:

*I'm excited that they must finish *The Mantis Project* because I think a lot of them have talents, being actually creative and they can do something arty or whatever but they don't know it, so maybe this project can make them think about something else they can do than just their normal work that they do everyday. That they can realize there is more in themselves.*

About the process, Anieta Andreas said:

Look, it's a very big project, and it's brought us together as a community, as it's something we're doing together...and, we didn't think we could do it. But once we saw the sketches and heard the stories about it, once we started, then we realised it's actually very interesting and we were all very excited - once we started, we couldn't stop. We wanted to put all the pieces together so we could see the whole thing! We wanted to see the 'big picture' and see what was going on. For me, it was very interesting and we really enjoyed it.

Stefan Klaaste, 25, a farm worker at Brakfontein commented:

For us, it's a challenge - it's the first time that we've done something like this. Our people on the farm and here in this area, we've spoken about it.



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Up Rize, a facilitator and mentor said:

The Mantis [Project] has created connections in this area, and it's the 'talk of the town'

The crew members were all transferred to site on Friday afternoon, where the large mantis puppet was assembled.



The crew walked the Mantis on a 1km performance through the Binnekring to *Subterrafuge* and the New Moon Collective's *Prayer to the New Moon*.





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As the Mantis walked the KaosPilots handed out the 'Magic Mantis Zine', which, as part of their project, they designed and annotated the story of the Mantis and Moon using images from the Elandsvlei school children's drawings (please see APPENDIX H).

Culmination and legacy

The Mantis Project second performance in Sutherland sees 60 residents of Elandsvlei and Brakfontein take the 130km trip from Tankwa to Sutherland for performance with the New Moon Collective's Prayer to the New Moon. Staging the event in the school holidays enables participation by the young people AfrikaBurn supports to attend high school in Calvinia. This provides intergenerational the team an opportunity to collaborate with international professional puppetry performers and trainers as well as participate in a regional Northern Cape exchange and showcase with *San Clan 2015* crew.

Tools purchased for the making of the Mantis, will be kept at Brakfontein for use by the community for their own and future projects with the AfrikaBurn Outreach team. In addition schools supplies for the children designers have been replenished.

