



DISCOVER

YOUR

MAGIC

ANNUAL

20



25

REPORT



Annual Report

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Country of Incorporation	South Africa
Nature of Organisation	The Association is a non-profit organisation incorporated in terms of the Non-profit Organisations Act 1977, on 9 December 1999.
Registration Number	007-517 NPO
PBO Number	930 019 992
Nature of Operations	The aim of this organisation is to see lives and communities transformed through the provision of education and development programmes with a specific emphasis on educational enrichment and supplementary tuition targeting the full diversity of the South African Youth. The organisation achieves this objective through the medium of the performing arts, with an emphasis on magic and the allied arts.
Street Address and Postal Address	215 Imam Haron Rd Claremont, 7708 Cape Town, South Africa
Telephone	+27 21 683 5480
Website	www.collegeofmagic.com
Auditors	Crowe HZK Chartered Accountants (S.A.) Registered Accountants and Auditors



Contents

3	Organisational information
5	Mission statement - the magic way
6	Who we are
7	Organogram
10	Message from the Chairman
13	Message from the CEO
16	Media Centre update
18	The journey of a young magician
20	Impact - programmes overview
21	Primary training
22	Primary training: case study
24	Allied arts
25	Advanced training
26	Advanced training: case study
27	'Everybody's Magic' outreach courses
29	'Young Minds Awake' school tours
31	In pursuit of excellence
32	Shows
34	Magical moments
38	Annual financial overview
39	Our funding partners
40	How to help



Mission statement - the magic way

The aim of this organisation is to see lives and communities transformed through the provision of educational and developmental programmes with a specific emphasis on educational enrichment and supplementary tuition, targeting the full diversity of South African Youth.

*"Every young person carries potential -
our role is to help them discover it."*



Who we are

TRAINING DIRECTOR / CEO

David Gore

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Chad Findlay

ADMINISTRATOR

Heidi Africa

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Sinethemba Bawuti

PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR

Stephen Best

ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Elke Cartwright

FUNDRAISING ASSISTANTS

Holly Kelly and Henriette
van der Westhuizen

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Noma Machaka

TRAINING MANAGER

Jesse Brooks

HOUSEKEEPING

Caroline Noxolo Mjindi

FACILITIES MANAGER

Tangisayi Mutsawu

FUNDRAISER & EDUCATOR

Marian Williamson

INTERNS

Vuyolwethu Kwatsha, Esona Sebolai
and Amahle Qumisa

SOCIAL WORKER

Luzuko Sidimba

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman/Legal: Steven Borwick; Treasurer:
Fiona Masuku; Secretary: Nariman Laattoe;
Justin Barry, Chad Findlay (ex-officio), David
Gordon, David Gore (ex-officio), Stuart
Taylor, Marian Williamson, Sithembele
Tyutula and Guy van der Walt

VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS

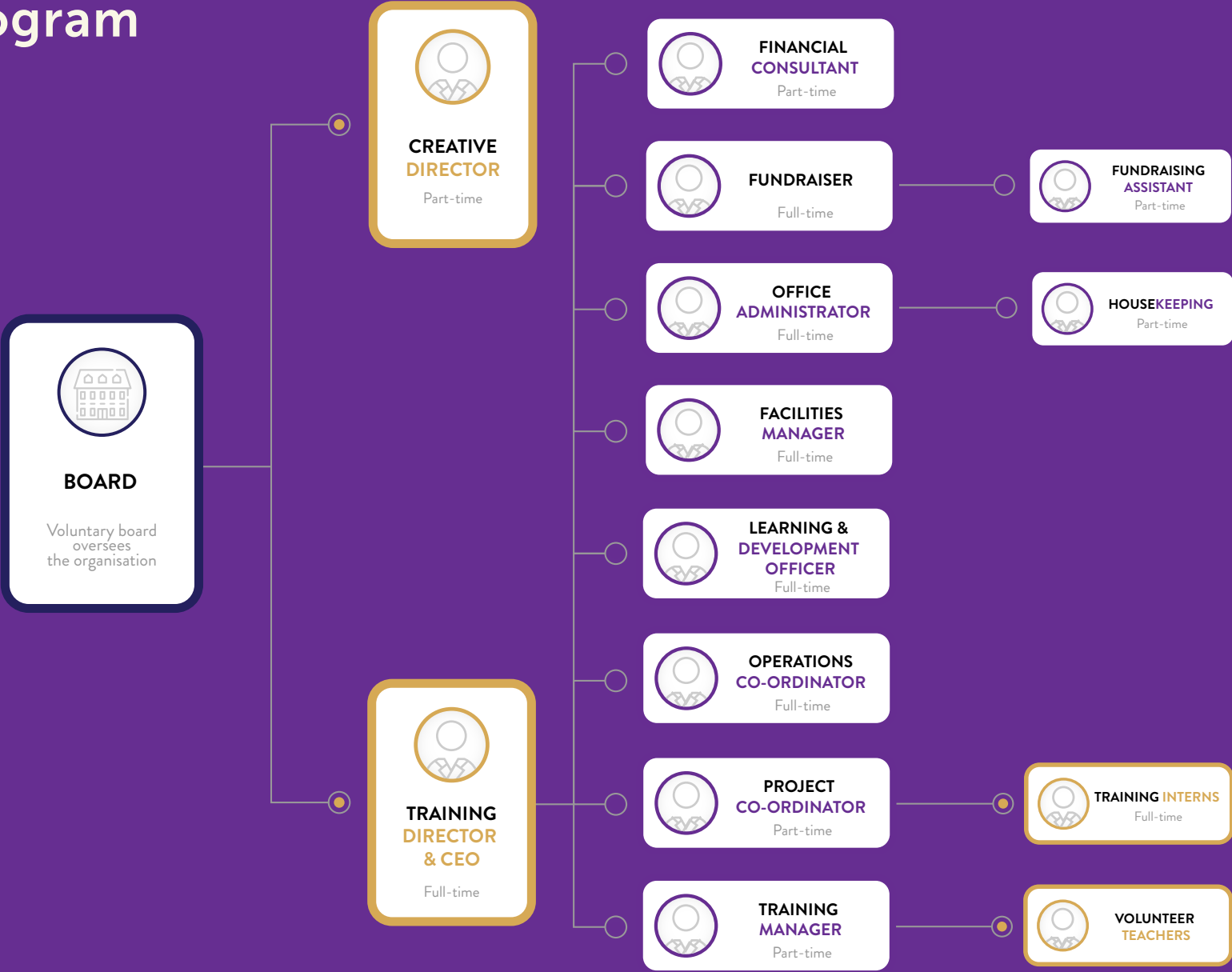
Ethan Africa, Michael Barta, Luzuko
Bedi, Grant Best, Stephen Best, Olwethu
Dyantyti, Anele Dyasi, Nikiwe Fihlani,
Sesona Gagana, Mawonga Gayiya, Anela
Gazi, Kyle Gray, Mikey Hartman, Sbongile
Hina, Bruce Hutchison, Lance Job, Liam
Joubert, Caleb Kannemeyer, Nariman
Laattoe, Stuart Lightbody, Yadhvir Maharaj,
Bryan Miles, Asiphe Mngqika, Angel Mpate,
Sikelelwa Ndenetya, Zama Ngubane,
Lukho Noyila, Ruby Park, Ann Pawley,
Carlo Penso, Marcel Pretorius, Thando
Rala, Khanya Rubushe, Sahil Samlal, Steve
Sandomierski, Jenna Shorkend, Luzuko
Sidimba, Larry Soffer, Sa'id Suma, Thomas
Wege, Jennifer Williamson, Louise
Williamson and Sibabalo Zuma

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Grant Atkinson and Anya Ramparsad

THANK YOU!

Organogram



2025 highlights video



"Okay, so for me, like in our community, we don't get these opportunities and especially when children goes through abuse and rejection and stuff like that, you get people like you that come into the community to bring change.

But when I looked at the children's faces today, I saw so much joy because for the first time they feel that they are important and they feel that they are loved, and I'm speaking of experience where my sister's child is concerned because she's going through a lot and she needed this.

And I could see the changes every single day and she was excited to come and do this..

So, this is why I'm crying here. It's tears of joy.

Angie, aunt of student



A message from the Chairman



It is once again my great privilege to present the College of Magic ("COM") Chairman's Report for 2025.

As we reflect on the year, I do so with a profound sense of gratitude and optimism. The College of Magic continues to stand on a strong foundation, built through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, supporters, and students. While global events remind us that no organisation exists in isolation, they also highlight the enduring value of institutions that bring hope, opportunity, and positive change to the communities they serve. From the southern tip of Africa, the COM continues to demonstrate that a clear vision, shared purpose, and unwavering commitment can create an impact far greater than geography might suggest.

Changes in international donor funding policies, particularly in the United States, have created significant challenges for many charitable and non-profit organisations. While these developments have not directly affected the COM, they have had a noticeable impact on the broader sector in which we operate. Through their ongoing engagement with partner organisations,

our staff have gained a deep appreciation for both the challenges facing the sector and the fortunate position COM occupies. Looking ahead, the Board remains committed to guiding COM responsibly and sustainably.

As with many organisations in our sector, securing the resources needed to grow and expand our impact remains an ongoing priority. At the same time, we are encouraged by the opportunities before us. We continue to adapt, innovate and seek new ways to remain relevant to those we serve while strengthening relationships with those who make our work possible. Our ambition remains clear: to extend the reach of COM and share its transformative impact with even more young people and communities.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to every member of staff and every volunteer for their unwavering commitment and service.

To our donors, thank you for your trust and generosity. Your support continues to create opportunities, inspire growth, and change lives.



GRADUATION: Khanya accepting her certificate at the senior ceremony.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their wisdom, insight, and commitment. Their guidance and stewardship help ensure that COM remains true to its mission while preparing confidently for the future.

One of the exciting opportunities on our horizon is the completion of COM's planned physical expansion. While this project will proceed only when the necessary resources are available, we are encouraged by the possibilities it represents. The Board remains committed to pursuing this vision in a financially responsible and sustainable manner, ensuring that growth is built on a strong foundation.

The impact of the College of Magic can be seen in the lives of students across rural communities and among those who study with us on campus, whether sponsored or fee-paying. Their achievements reflect the vision and values of COM's founders and continue a proud tradition of skills development, empowerment, and personal growth.

Year after year, we are reminded of the remarkable success of COM graduates. Some have achieved public prominence, while many others apply the skills, confidence, and values they gained at COM to enrich their careers, families, and communities. Each success story is a testament to the enduring value of our work.

As we look to the future, our hope is not simply to preserve the traditions that have made COM successful, but to build upon them. By remaining responsive to the evolving needs of society while staying true to our core purpose, we are confident that the College of Magic will continue to inspire, empower, and transform lives for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the College of Magic. We look forward to 2026 with optimism and enthusiasm, confident in our ability to embrace new opportunities, strengthen our impact, and continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

STEVEN BORWICK
Chairman, College of Magic



CMF FRIENDSHIPS: Our shows allow students to form deep bonds that last a lifetime.



PUPPETRY: On stage at the Kasi Magic Festival in Athlone.



*"Wonderful, enthusiastic crew & students.
Very entertaining - even for adults!"*



A message from the CEO



2025 has been a year of growth, resilience and deepened impact for the College of Magic - a year in which the transformative power of magic has once again revealed itself in the lives of the young people whom we serve. In every lesson taught, every performance staged and every community reached, we have seen how creativity, discipline and opportunity can unlock potential and inspire hope.

At the heart of our work remains a simple but powerful belief: that every young person, regardless of circumstance, deserves the opportunity to discover their potential. Throughout 2025, we saw this belief come to life in our classrooms, on our stages and in communities across the Western Cape.

Our core training programme continued to provide a structured six-year journey in magical arts, theatre and life skills, supporting more than 160 young people through consistent weekly training, performances, contests and mentorship. The energy and commitment of our students, supported by a dedicated team of volunteer teachers, ensured that our classrooms remained vibrant spaces of learning, discipline and creativity.

This year was further strengthened by the appointment of Jesse Brooks as Training Manager. Jesse brings both professional expertise and a deep understanding of the College of Magic and his contribution has enhanced curriculum development, evaluation systems and overall programme delivery. Working closely with our voluntary teachers, we have strengthened the quality, consistency and impact of our teaching.

Beyond our centre, one of the most significant achievements of 2025 has been the continued expansion of our Everybody's Magic outreach programme. Over the course of the year, we reached more than 700 learners, extending access to young people who would otherwise not have encountered arts education of this kind.

This work would not be possible without the dedication of our outreach teams, led by Sinethemba Bawuti and Olwethu Dyantyi, whose leadership, alongside committed facilitators and support staff, ensured both the quality and reach of the programme. Their work continues to extend the College of Magic's impact into areas where opportunities remain



limited, but the appetite for learning and creativity is immense.

We have also seen how these outreach programmes create pathways - identifying talent, inspiring ambition and feeding into longer-term engagement with the College of Magic's ideals. The demand for this work continues to grow, reinforcing both its relevance and its urgency.

Our public platforms and performance opportunities in 2025 played a vital role in translating training into real-world experience. Through a diverse programme of productions, festivals and competitions, students were given the opportunity to perform at a high level, building professionalism, teamwork and pride in their craft. These platforms also allowed us to reach thousands of audience members, strengthening our connection with the broader community.

The creative leadership of Chad Findlay has once again been central to this success. His ability to conceptualise, direct and elevate our productions continues to shape the artistic standard of the College of Magic and to provide our students with opportunities that are both inspiring and career-defining.

Behind the scenes, the strength of the organisation lies in its people. I would like to

acknowledge the commitment and contribution of our core team - Heidi Africa, Sinethemba Bawuti, Stephen Best, Elke Cartwright, Noma Machaka, Caroline Mjindi, Tangisayi Mutsawu and Marian Williamson, assisted by Holly Kelly and Henriette van der Westhuizen - whose dedication ensures that the organisation functions with care, professionalism and purpose. From programme delivery and logistics to student support and administration, their work forms the foundation on which everything else is built.

2025 also marked an important milestone with the completion of Phase 1 of our Level of Wonder development, reflecting steady progress toward strengthening our facilities and enhancing the environment in which our students learn and grow. While much has been achieved, this work remains ongoing as we continue to build toward our long-term vision.

Like many organisations in the current environment, we have faced funding constraints and operational challenges. Yet, through careful management, committed partnerships and the resilience of our team, we have sustained and, in many areas, expanded our impact.

Looking ahead, our focus is firmly set on our 2028 strategy. This vision builds on our existing strengths while aiming to deepen our impact, expand our reach and strengthen pathways for



MAGIC MAKERS: College of Magic internal staff.



45 YEARS OF MAGIC: Fun birthday celebrations.



AWARD WINNERS: *Magicana Junior Magic Champs*

young people into further education and the creative economy.

To realise this vision, we will need the continued support of our partners, funders and community. We extend our sincere thanks to all our sponsors and supporters whose generosity makes this work possible. The impact we see every day - in the confidence of a young performer, in the pride of a graduation and in the discipline and creativity developed through our programmes - is a direct result of this shared commitment.

As we look ahead, we do so with both humility

and ambition. Each young person who walks through our doors carries with them a story still unfolding - and through this work, we have the privilege of helping shape that journey. With continued support, we can ensure that many more young people discover not only the art of magic, but the confidence, purpose and possibility within themselves.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Management Board for their ongoing guidance, stewardship and commitment to the College of Magic. Their support plays a vital role in ensuring

the organisation's stability and long-term vision. In particular, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to Wendt Saurma-Jeltsch, who steps down as Treasurer after an extraordinary 25 years of dedicated service. Wendt's unwavering commitment, careful financial oversight and deep belief in the mission of the College of Magic have made a lasting and invaluable contribution to our organisation.

DAVID GORE

Training Director / CEO, College of Magic

Media Centre

[Click here to find out more](#)

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Raise Our Roof Campaign launched in 2023 exceeded expectations, reaching R1.5 million and unlocking a further R1 million in matching funds. By 2024, total funding surpassed R3 million, allowing construction of Phase 1 of the Level of Wonder to begin in September.

In 2025, Phase 1 was completed, marking a major milestone. This work laid the foundation for future development while upgrading existing facilities. Enhancements to the Imagination Centre improved functionality and safety, while refurbished spaces below support stronger, more secure training.

A standout addition is the new kitchen, generously sponsored by the Ehrlich Brothers, which has already strengthened our feeding programme and sense of community.

The Level of Wonder Campaign will now drive Phase 2 forward, delivering essential new facilities, including:

- **Media and Technology Centre** - A dynamic learning hub, library, digital archive and quiet workstations.

- **Theatrical Classroom** - A dedicated indoor training space, eliminating weather disruptions and equipped with a versatile stage.
- **The Social Workers' Sanctuary** - A secure and private counselling space, offering students support in a welcoming and confidential environment.
- **Sky Deck** - A vibrant outdoor space for students to relax, collaborate and build friendships.
- **Fire Safety Upgrades** - Critical structural improvements, including fire escapes, to ensure a safe and compliant learning environment.

To realise this next phase, we aim to raise a further R5.2 million. Completing the Level of Wonder is vital to securing the College of Magic's future as a safe, inspiring space for learning and creativity.

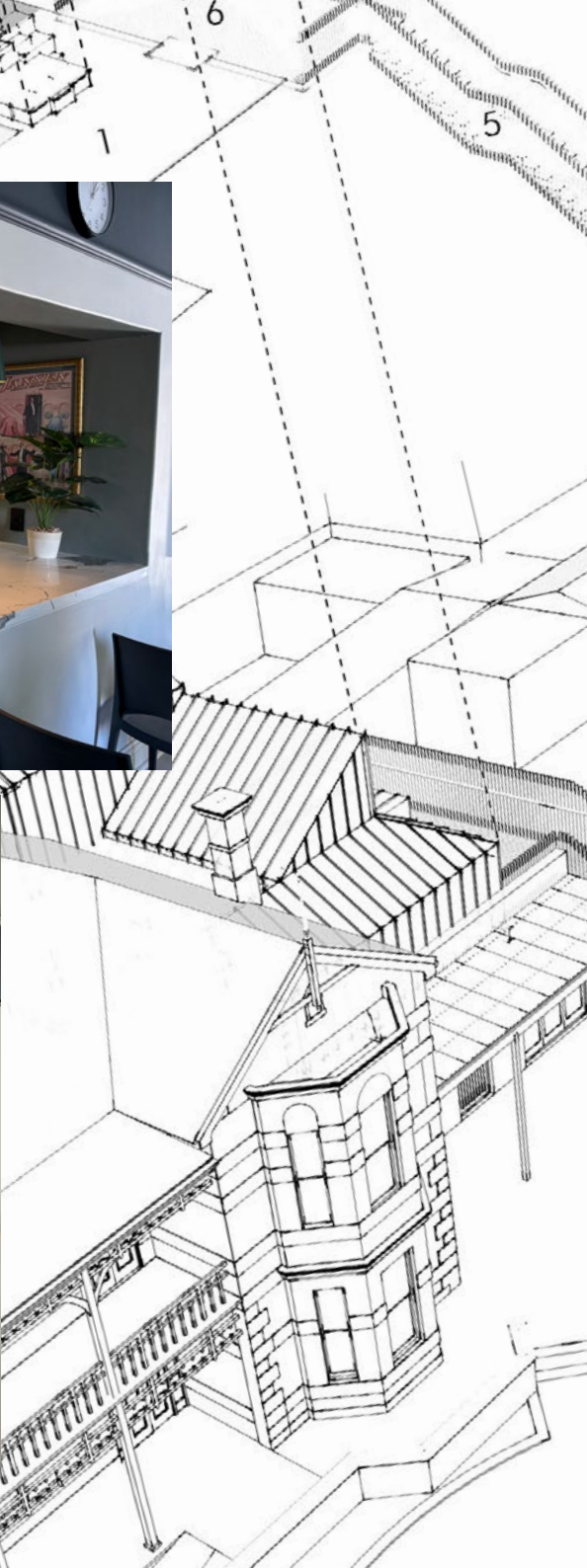
We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners for making this progress possible, and we invite continued support as we bring this vision to life. Special thanks to Jane Visser Architects for their ongoing pro bono leadership and expertise.



R3 million of approx. R8.2 million raised



Media Centre



The Journey of a Young Magician

Every student begins with a moment of wonder - and embarks on a journey of growth, discipline and transformation. Through our structured training programmes, young people develop not only magical skills, but confidence, creativity and a sense of purpose. From their very first trick to performing on stage and mentoring others, this journey reflects the power of magic to unlock potential and change lives.



1. First Encounter with Magic

A moment of wonder begins it all.

Every journey starts with discovery - the spark that captures imagination and opens the door to possibility.

3. Practice and Repetition

Progress through perseverance.

Behind every successful performance lies hours of practice, patience and determination.



2. Learning the Basics

Building strong foundations.

Students develop core skills in magic, performance and discipline through structured weekly training.

4. Finding Their Voice

From tricks to storytelling.

Students grow in confidence as they develop their own style, expression and stage presence.





5. Performing for Others

Confidence in action.

Early performances transform nerves into courage, building self-belief and pride.

7. Achieving Excellence

Striving for greatness.

Contests, productions and public performances challenge students to reach their full potential.



6. Belonging to a Community

Growing together.

The College of Magic becomes a place of connection, where friendships are formed and teamwork thrives.



8. Becoming a Leader

Giving back through magic.

Graduates step into leadership roles - mentoring others and inspiring the next generation.



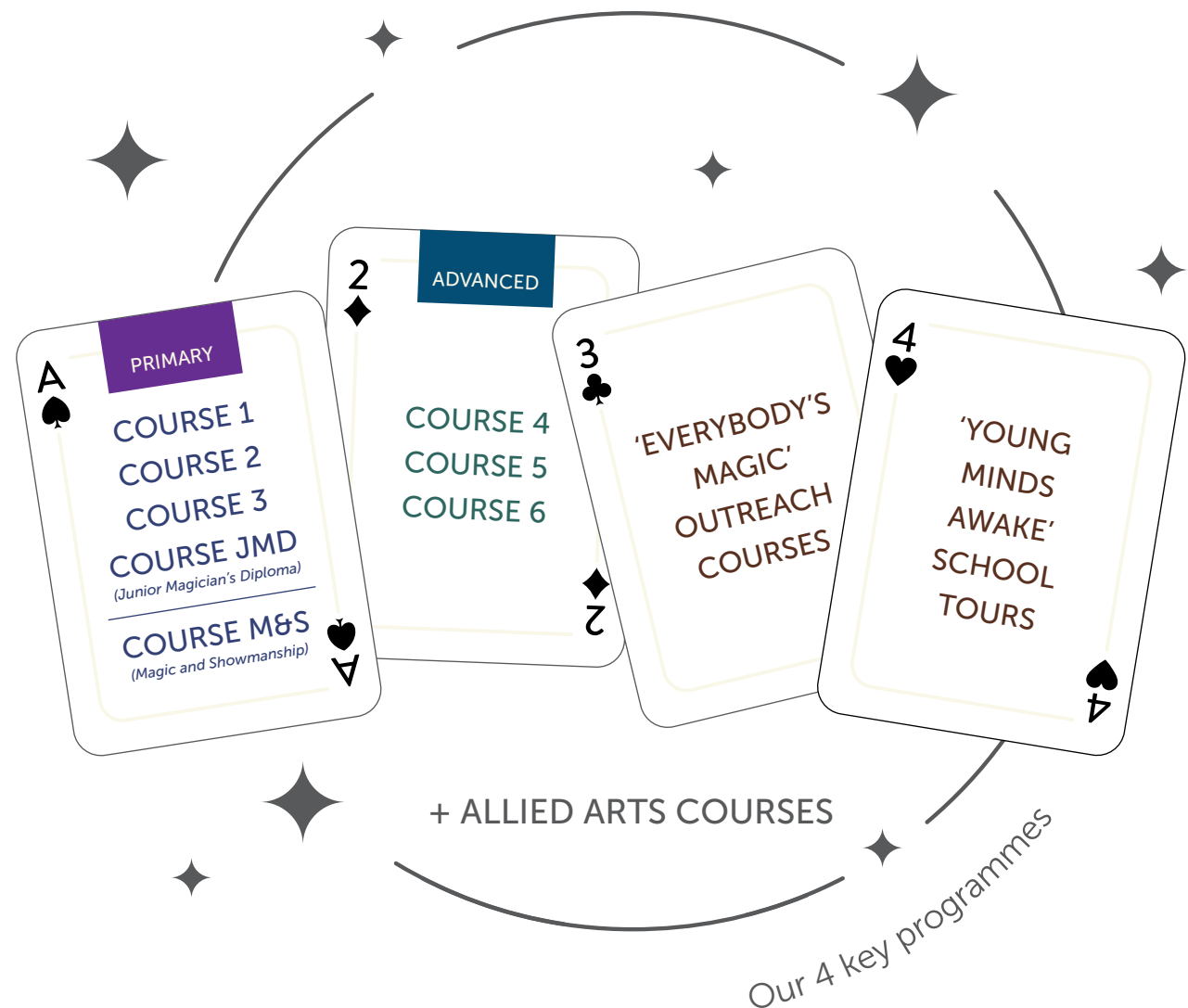
Impact

Training Programmes - Hope for the Future

In 2025 the College of Magic impacted the lives of nearly 198 young South Africans through our groundbreaking, flagship, onsite, curriculum of 'magic' education.

In 2025, 720 young people were impacted through our 'Everybody's Magic' outreach courses.

Four innovative training programmes driven by a dedicated staff of 10 exceptional individuals and 30 incredible volunteers created the magic of transformation and hope for the future.



STREET MAGIC



CARD MAGIC



MENTALISM



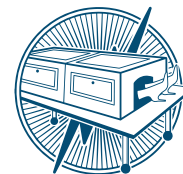
CLOSE-UP MAGIC



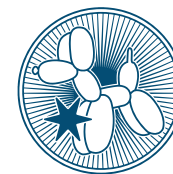
STAGE MAGIC



MANIPULATION



GRAND ILLUSION



CHILDREN'S MAGIC



COMEDY MAGIC

Primary training

Our “falling in love” phase continued to thrive in 2025, as a new generation of young magicians began their journey at the College of Magic. This foundational stage sparks curiosity, builds confidence and sets the stage for lifelong learning. New intakes of Course 1 students in January and July, along with the Magic and Showmanship course for older beginners, ensured accessible entry points for learners of different ages and backgrounds.

Guided by a dedicated teaching team, junior students progressed through a structured three year curriculum, developing from basic sleight of hand to more advanced performance techniques. The programme includes around 90 hands-on lessons, supported by Allied Arts training in Juggling, Puppetry, Mime, Clowning and Drama, broadening creative and performance skills.

Students regularly performed in showcases, contests and community events, gaining valuable stage experience and confidence. The year concluded with the Annual Graduation Ceremony, celebrating each student’s progress and achievements.

At its core, Primary Training builds more than magic skills, fostering self-esteem, confidence, belonging and a supportive space for young people to grow.



148
students



4 440+
hours of training

Case study: primary training

Thato Tinti joined the College of Magic in 2023 and has consistently demonstrated a conscientious, friendly and hard-working approach to his studies. His enthusiasm for magic, coupled with his natural flair for performance, has shone throughout his journey.

Thato's enthusiastic participation in the Allied Arts has been a delight to staff and an inspiration to his peers. His fast-developing juggling skills have shown determination and dedication, spurring his friends on to imitate his drive for perfection and polish. In 2025, Thato excelled in his stage magic lessons and concluded his Junior Magicians Diploma year with a creative, polished and high-standard stage magic act.

Thato's dedication to the College of Magic is exemplary. This year, he participated in the JMD Stage Magic Contest, the Juggling Tournament, the Eisteddfod and the Magicana Street Magic Contest. He also performed as a cast member of Majika Rising Stars at the Artscape Theatre and at the Kasi Festival. Since joining the College of Magic, Thato has been a regular and enthusiastic contributor to the annual Children's Magic Festival, bringing an element of fun and excitement, entertaining visitors to the event and his fellow cast members.

His commitment, positive attitude and willingness to participate fully in College of Magic life have earned him a place among the top Honours Points students of the year.

We honour our 2025 Junior Student of the Year - Thato Tinti - and wish him tremendous success as he ventures into the realms of the Senior College of Magic in 2026!





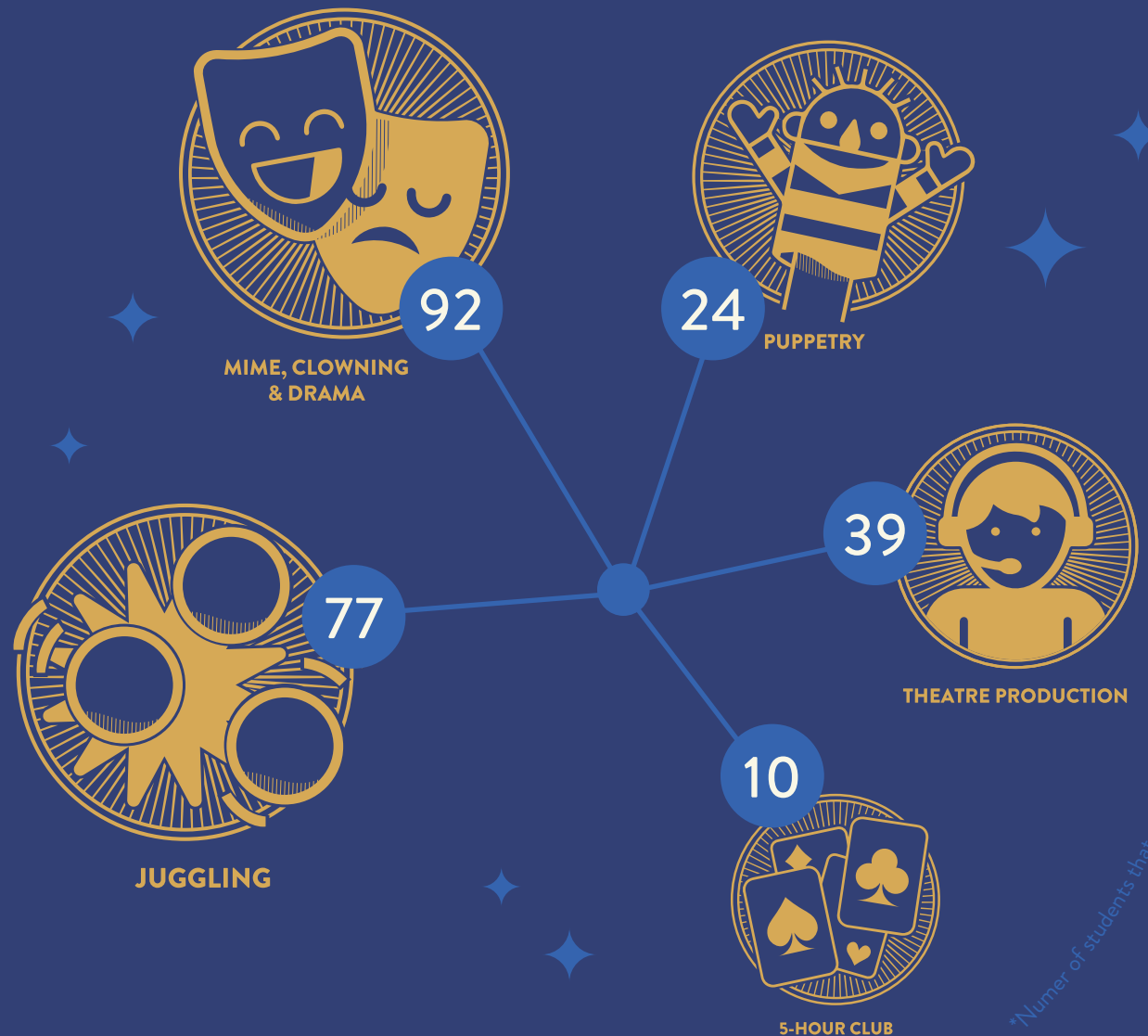
Allied arts

In 2025, our Allied Arts programmes including Juggling, Puppetry, Mime, Clowning and Drama continued to enrich the student experience, offering space for creative exploration, expression and growth. These disciplines complement magic training by developing confident, adaptable and expressive performers.

Under Michael Barta, Juggling students built focus, coordination and precision while tackling increasingly complex techniques. Mime, Clowning and Drama, led by Marian Williamson, strengthened storytelling, stage presence and audience connection through movement, voice and emotion.

The Puppetry programme, directed by Carlo Penso, fostered imagination, fine motor skills and character creation. Senior students also expanded their abilities through the Theatre Production Course with Sesona Gagana, gaining hands-on experience in lighting, sound, stage management and digital elements.

Through these classes, students strengthened their stage presence, communication skills and ability to connect with an audience - essential elements of compelling performance. Together, these programmes continue to shape well-rounded performers, equipping students not only with artistic skills, but with confidence, creativity and life skills that extend far beyond the stage.



**Number of students that participate.*

242
participants



7 260+
hours of training

Advanced training

Expanding Performance and Opportunity

Our senior curriculum continues to evolve, with a strong focus on performance excellence, audience connection and professional development. The Interactive Magic module has further strengthened students' ability to engage modern audiences, while training across Close-up Magic, Stage Magic and Interactive Magic ensures a well-rounded and adaptable skill set.

Guided by a team of experienced instructors and professional performers - including Stuart Lightbody, Anele Dyasi, Olwethu Dyantyi, Lance Job, Sinethemba Bawuti, David Gore and Kyle Gray - students benefit from diverse expertise and mentorship at the highest level.

Beyond the classroom, senior students continue to access meaningful performance platforms and opportunities for exposure. Participation in contests, productions and select travel opportunities enables students to grow in confidence, broaden their horizons and begin to explore pathways into the creative and professional world.



50
students



1 500
hours of training

Case study: advanced training

Justine Williamson's love for magic began long before she joined the College of Magic in 2019 as a ten year old, having grown up immersed in its world. Her early passion, sense of wonder and natural ability saw her stand out from a young age, earning Junior Student of the Year in 2022.

Throughout her senior years, she distinguished herself as a dedicated and versatile performer across magic, mime, drama and puppetry. With a strong passion for storytelling and audience connection, she thrives both on stage and in close up performance. Her achievements include 'Up-and-Coming' Stage Magic in 2024, Runner-up Junior Close-up Magic Champion in 2025, first place in Puppet Idols and top placements in several other competitions.

Beyond her accomplishments, Justine has made a meaningful contribution to the College of Magic community through performances, charity work and her supportive presence among peers. She has performed at the Children's Magic Festival each year and consistently offered her time, leadership and encouragement to fellow students, becoming a well loved and valued member of the College.

Reflecting on her journey, Justine fondly recalls the excitement of both performing on stage and the vibrant, supportive atmosphere backstage, where friendships were formed and confidence grew.

She graduated in 2025 with her Silver ribbons, Senior Magician Diploma and the Student of the Year Trophy, later performing in the Schools Road Show and the V&A Waterfront Illusion show.



'Everybody's Magic' outreach courses

The College of Magic's *Everybody's Magic* outreach course continues to deliver transformative creative education to underserved communities across the Western Cape. Using magic, juggling and performance, it builds confidence, discipline and essential life skills.

The programme offers structured six week Card Skills and Juggling courses through weekly sessions at schools and community venues. Learners receive hands on training, mentorship and materials, developing technique, performance ability and creative expression while strengthening focus, perseverance, communication and teamwork.

In 2025, the programme reached over 720 learners across communities including Belhar, Grabouw, Hout Bay, Macassar, Malmesbury, Piketberg, Worcester, Ocean View, Paarl Wallacedene and Wellington. Strong attendance and participation were maintained, with graduation ceremonies providing meaningful opportunities for learners to perform, often for the first time.

A key development has been the growth of the programme at Oasis Special School, where adapted teaching methods and smaller group engagement have supported learners with diverse needs, resulting in notable progress in communication, confidence and self expression.

The programme remains an important entry point into further training, identifying talent and inspiring continued participation in the arts, particularly in rural and LSEN contexts where access to creative education is limited.

Looking ahead, the College of Magic aims to expand reach and inclusivity, deepen pathways into long term training and continue developing specialised programmes, reinforcing the transformative power of creativity, mentorship and opportunity.



720
students



8 640+
hours of training

"Since he (student) started there, he had more discipline and I could really see that he's enjoying himself because when he's doing the magic ... you can also see the concentration he is putting into it.

And then also that the joy [he's] getting out of it. And even if the thing that he learned that was fascinating to me is the, is the fact that when he's doing the magic and he did something wrong, he should just say, hold on, I will get it. And then he will start all over again.

That confidence that showed through was amazing. And this type of discipline also goes over to his school work because you could see if he did something wrong, like doing a maths sum, then he will say, no, it's fine. I will just go and do it again."

Yolande, mom from Wellington



'Young Minds Awake' school tours

The Young Minds Awake school tour programme continues to be a valued offering for schools, combining education, creativity and wonder in an engaging format. Designed to complement the curriculum, it introduces learners to the art of magic while fostering curiosity, confidence and creative thinking.

In 2025, the programme welcomed large numbers of learners and educators, with a strong focus on accessibility for underserved schools. Support from the HCI Foundation, along with transport provided by Golden Arrow Community Transport Services, remains essential in removing financial barriers to participation.

Led by Mawonga Gayiya, with educational input from Training Manager Jesse Brooks, the experience offers an interactive journey through the College of Magic, bringing its space and history to life. Inspired by the *Everybody's Magic* book, learners explore fundamental magic concepts through hands-on participation and enjoy live theatre performances that showcase the art form.

More than entertainment, the programme provides a meaningful educational experience that builds problem solving, communication and creative expression. Highly valued by educators, it continues to inspire young minds, nurture imagination and open doors to new possibilities.



1 998
learners

141
educators

26
schools

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
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In pursuit of excellence

2025 will be remembered as a year of exceptional performance standards, where the dedication, discipline and creativity of our students were brought to life across theatrical productions, festivals and contests. These achievements reflect not only talent, but the strength of a training system built on consistent practice, expert mentorship and meaningful performance opportunities.

Something special happens after many afternoons of planning, preparation and rehearsal - when a disciplined young performer steps onto the stage. At the College of Magic, these afternoons are where the real work takes place. Under the guidance of our artistic team, led by Creative Director Chad Findlay, students refine their acts, develop their stage presence and learn the art of connecting with an audience. In this environment of support, encouragement and high expectations, young performers grow rapidly in both confidence and capability.

Throughout the year, a vibrant calendar of contests and performance platforms provided students with the opportunity to test their skills, challenge themselves and strive for excellence. These events not only celebrate achievement, but play a vital role in the learning process - offering valuable feedback, fostering resilience and encouraging continuous improvement.

The Magicana Junior Magic Championships once again stood as the pinnacle of the year's competitive

programme, showcasing the finest young talent in Close-up Magic, Stage Magic and Street Magic. With high production values and strong audience engagement, the Championships continue to set a benchmark for youth magic performance in South Africa.

Beyond our local stages, 2025 also saw College of Magic students represent the organisation with distinction on international platforms. A highlight of the year was the participation of Anele Dyasi, together with students Sinalo Mtwana and Sisonke Mkwela, at The Session magic conference in London. Sponsored by ShareMagic, this opportunity exposed the team to world-class performers and global trends in magic, while proudly showcasing the talent and standard of training developed at the College of Magic.

At its core, the pursuit of excellence at the College of Magic is about more than performance. It is about developing discipline, resilience and a commitment to growth - qualities that extend far beyond the stage and into every aspect of a young person's life.



Shows

Performances remain the pinnacle of the College of Magic's training programme - where discipline, creativity and artistic expression come together before a live audience. These moments are not only deeply rewarding for our students, but also serve to promote the arts, celebrate excellence, nurture emerging talent and create meaningful pathways into professional opportunities.

In 2025, our performance programme continued to grow in both scale and quality, offering students a diverse range of platforms - from community stages to professional theatres - where they could develop confidence, refine their craft and connect with audiences.

The year began with the ever-popular Children's Magic Festival, transforming the College into a vibrant, interactive world of magic. Featuring a large cast of students across all levels, the festival combined theatrical performances, interactive installations, games and hands-on workshops. Families and young audiences were invited not only to watch magic, but to experience it - making this a highlight of the year for both performers and the public.

This was followed by our flagship production, Majika, staged at the Artscape Theatre. This production provided students with invaluable professional theatre experience - working with full technical support, including lighting, sound, staging and costumes. Performing in a professional venue challenged students to raise their standards, embrace discipline and deliver polished performances to full-house audiences.

6 212+
audience members

children's
MAGIC
festival

Cast of
120

Cast of
46

MAJIKA
AFRICA'S GREATEST
ILLUSIONISTS

RISING STARS

Cast of
35

**KASI MAGIC
FESTIVAL**

MAGICANA
**JUNIOR MAGIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
2025

Cast of
29

Our outreach-focused Kasi Festival once again brought magic directly into communities, with performances staged across venues including the Gugulethu Indoor Sports Complex, Khayelitsha Multi-purpose Centre and the Joseph Stone Auditorium in Athlone. Supported by local activations such as school visits, workshops and community engagement, these performances created accessible, high-quality arts experiences for diverse audiences. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with energetic, engaged audiences celebrating the talent and creativity of our young performers.

Additional performance opportunities throughout the year - including competitions, showcases and public events such as V&A Waterfront performances - ensured that students were consistently exposed to real-world performance environments. These platforms play a vital role in bridging the gap between training and professional practice.

None of this would be possible without the creative vision and leadership of our Creative Director, Chad Findlay, whose ability to conceptualise and deliver high-quality productions continues to elevate the artistic standard of the College of Magic. Supported by our dedicated staff, volunteers and parents, these performances reflect a collective commitment to excellence - turning months of preparation into moments of magic that inspire both performers and audiences alike.

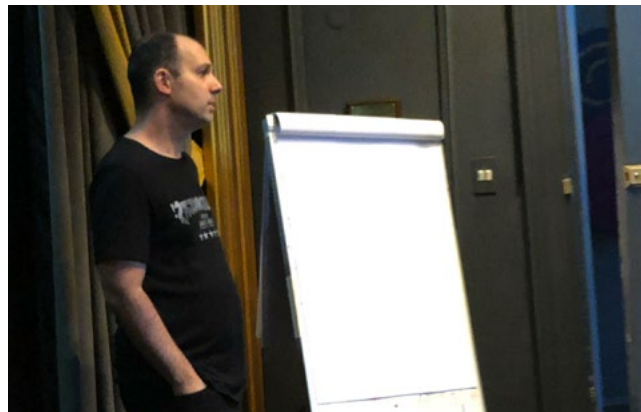
Shows: Naledi's Book of Magic



Magical moments



BABS CARDINI, the dynamic 25-year-old magician from Lagos, Nigeria, visited the College of Magic in August 2025. Known for his exceptional card magic, street performances and strong social media presence that has captivated audiences across Nigeria, Babs represents a new generation of African magicians gaining international attention.



BRYAN MILES, College of Magic graduate, qualified teacher, author and professional performer, presents an inspirational teaching workshop to the voluntary staff in the Robert Harbin Theatre. His session formed part of ongoing staff development, equipping educators with practical skills and creative approaches to enhance the quality of training and mentorship offered to students.



College of Magic students arrive at the Hmecoming Centre in District Six aboard a Golden Arrow bus, generously sponsored by the HCI Foundation, to participate in the **MAGICANA JUNIOR MAGIC CHAMPIONSHIPS** competing in the annual Street Magic Contest and to watch and support the Stage Magic Contest. The Championships provides multiple opportunities for our students to further their magical ability and refine their skills.



The College of Magic attended and performed at the **IZINGA ASSIST** launch event at the V&A Waterfront, earning a 5-star rating that reflects strong alignment with its core principles; iZinga Assist is a United Kingdom based digital verification, compliance, ratings and assistance platform focused on sub Saharan non profit organisations.





MAJIKA: AFRICA'S GREATEST ILLUSIONISTS was launched to create professional employment opportunities for performers while actively developing new audiences through high quality, accessible magical entertainment.



Course 6 student Likho Ralarala captivates young audiences at a safety home in Athlone during an **OUTREACH PERFORMANCE** in October - part of the class's end-of-year practical, using magic to uplift and inspire children in vulnerable circumstances.



College of Magic graduate and acclaimed ventriloquist **CONRAD KOCH** shares a special moment with students alongside his iconic puppet, Chester Missing, following an inspiring lecture for the puppetry class.



Course 6 students immerse themselves in a dynamic science magic workshop led by Lance Job during their annual **COURSE 6 SOCIAL WEEKEND** - exploring the fascinating intersection of science, illusion and performance at the College of Magic.



College of Magic students showcase their skills at the **CAPE TOWN SCIENCE CENTRE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION** - engaging audiences with interactive magic that celebrates creativity, curiosity and a shared passion for science and discovery.



College of Magic interns unpack a special donation of custom playing cards from USA magician Steve Gore - one of many **GENEROUS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS** received throughout the year.



Students gather in the newly renovated **EHRlich BROTHERS KITCHEN** - generously sponsored by the world-renowned German illusionists—providing a vibrant, well-equipped space that has significantly strengthened the College of Magic's student feeding programme.



Training Manager Jesse Brooks celebrates with College of Magic medal winners at the **2025 AFRIKAANS EISTEDDFOD AWARDS CEREMONY**, where standout performers Jamie McKinney and Kayde Henwood were selected to perform their juggling act on stage.



Students eagerly unpack boxes of the College of Magic's **EVERYBODY'S MAGIC**, now in its second printing and sold worldwide - this latest consignment, generously donated by Josh Jay and Andi Gladwin of Vanishing Inc., will be distributed to local school libraries.



College of Magic **INTERNS** stand proudly atop Table Mountain with instructor Stephen Best - part of a dynamic one-year internship programme that blends practical training, performance skills, leadership development and personal growth beyond the classroom.



Swedish magician **LOVE MALANDER** poses with College of Magic students following an engaging lecture, sharing international insight and inspiration with the next generation of performers.



World-renowned magician **CHARLIE CAPER** shares a backstage moment at the Kasi Festival in Athlone with students Mylo, Kayde and Njabulo - an inspiring exchange between global talent and rising young performers.



MARVIN BERGLAS, President of The Magic Circle, London, and son of revered magician and College of Magic supporter, David Berglas, visits the College of Magic with his family - strengthening international ties and celebrating a shared passion for the art of magic.



MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION, Siviwe Gwarube, poses with College of Magic staff during her visit - recognising the impact of creative arts education and the team behind its delivery.



The College of Magic team - Anele, Sisonke and Sinalo - depart for London to attend The **SESSION MAGIC CONFERENCE**, an international opportunity generously sponsored by ShareMagic.



Renowned South African singer **VICKY SAMPSON**, celebrated for My African Dream, visits the College of Magic - sharing inspiration and connecting with students through the power of the performing arts.



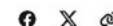
The reflighting of the College of Magic's **CBS 60 MINUTES** feature provided renewed international exposure, highlighting the organisation's impact and bringing its work to a global audience once again.

David Blaine, MAJIKA, and South Africa's College of Magic

David Blaine stops by the South African school of magic; and the school presents a unique S.A. magic show for the public.

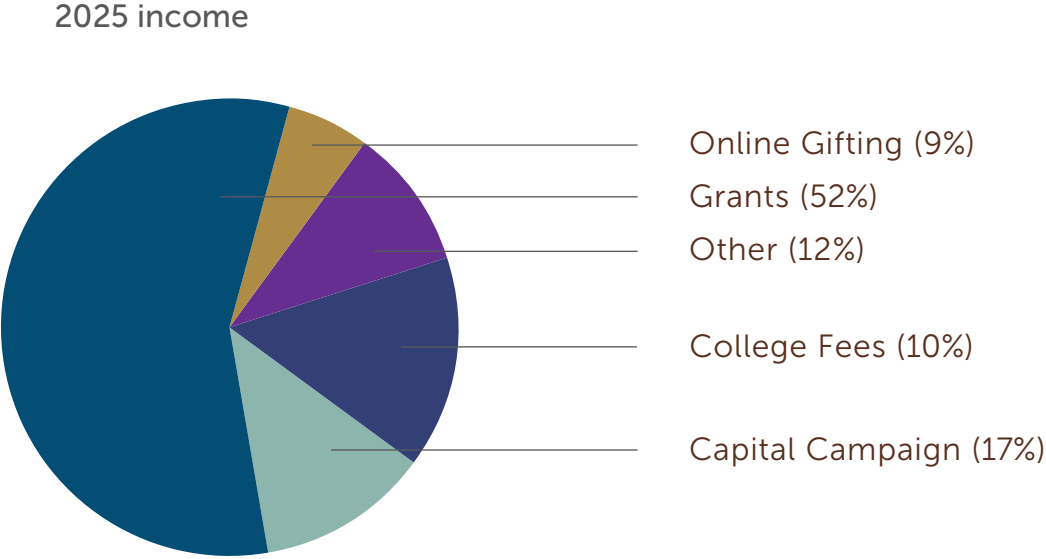


VANESSA ARMSTRONG — JUN 1, 2025



Features in **ALADIN MAGAZINE** and **GENII MAGAZINE** further elevated the College of Magic's international profile, showcasing its work and impact to respected audiences within the global magic community.

Financial summary



Total income

R9 325 146

Total expenditure

R7 813 158

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

[DOWNLOAD >](#)

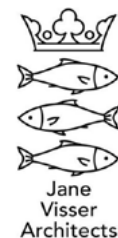
Operating expenses

	2025	2024
Accounting fees	(191 554)	(176,475)
Advertising	(77 390)	(67,644)
Auditors remuneration	(53 475)	(45,425)
Bad debts	(13 995)	(13,121)
Bank charges	(77 959)	(84,795)
Bursaries for students	(727 480)	(689,815)
Computer expenses	(35 427)	(31,560)
Consumables	(30 822)	(37,069)
Depreciation, amortisation, impairments	(326 348)	(269,434)
Discount allowed	(4 033)	(2,486)
Employee costs	(2 403 515)	(2,336,148)
Fundraising	(3 700)	(250)
Insurance	(104 482)	(97,484)
Lease rentals on operating lease	(981)	-
MIC project clothing costs	(321)	-
MIC project transport costs	(1 836)	(14,656)
Magicafe & Merchandise expenses	(842)	(11,599)
Postage	(1 737)	(13,857)
Printing and stationery	(88 455)	(75,732)
Professional consultant	-	(500)
Repairs and maintenance	(84 456)	(56,998)
Security costs	(24 116)	(32,725)
Special Projects: Variants Campaign	(6 782)	(8,163)
Staff development costs	(105 072)	(98,858)
Telephone and fax	(15 844)	(16,434)
Training	(21 878)	(13,224)
Utilities	(133 643)	(110,622)
	(4 536 143)	(4,305,074)
Surplus for the year	1 511 988	2,057,712

Our funding partners



Thank you for
keeping the
magic alive!



How to help

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Name: College of Magic
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Blue Route
Account No: 071800638
Branch No: 025609
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