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Entertainment

If there's one thing you do this week ...

Music

■ **Gilberto Gil**, Brazilian composer, guitarist and songwriter, will be at the Market Theatre for two nights next week. Gil served from 2003 to 2008 in leftist Brazilian president Luiz Inácio da Silva's Cabinet as minister of culture. He started out as a bossa nova musician before his music evolved to include rock and reggae, samba and other African sounds. In addition to his involvement in politics Gil works in environmental activism. He will be joined on stage by Vusi Mahlasela, Paul Hanmer, Xhosa Muse Madosinj, the Miagi Youth Orchestra conducted by Kutlwano Masote, the Wits Choir and the Fatima Choral Community Choir from Soweto. The concert, which will be filmed, forms part of *Connecting South*, a film on Gil's life and vision. The concert is an attempt to address the question of whether music can be a form of resistance that is more efficient than politics.

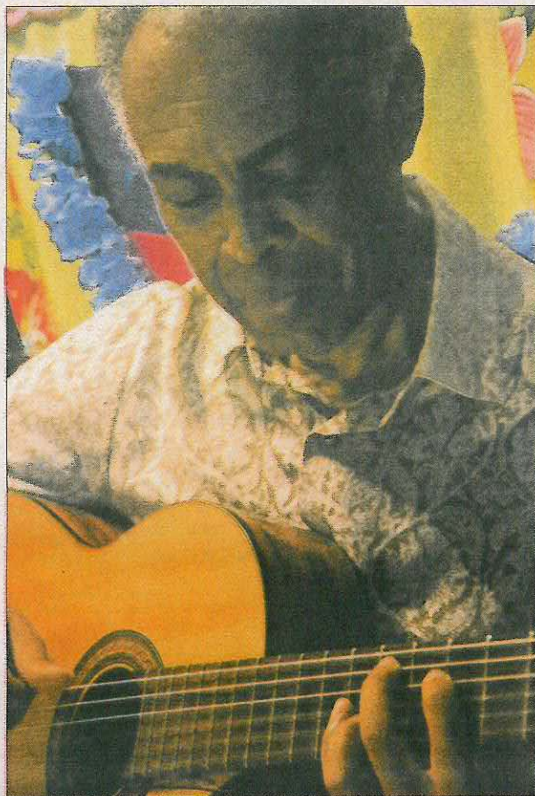
>> **Main Theatre, Market Theatre complex, Newtown, on May 12 and 13 at 8pm. Book at Computicket.**

Theatre

■ Wits University's **Wale** festival (Wits Arts and Literature Experience), now in its fourth year, has an exciting line-up that includes a literary component, visual arts and theatre. One of the festival's highlights is *Smoke and Mirrors*, a new piece of physical theatre by renowned choreographer and performer Athena Mazarakis, working with the Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative. The piece is described by Mazarakis as invoking today's society. "We live our lives negotiating an endless series of smoke and mirrors: in societies administered by political subterfuge," she says. The work questions what really lies beneath human interaction and how fine the line is that separates illusion from reality. It also asks how complicit human beings are in the "deception" that takes place.

>> **Wits Theatre, Jorissen Street, Braamfontein, from May 11 to 14 at 8pm. Book at www.strictlytickets.com.**

■ Performer Ben Voss seems to be positioning his outrageous drag creation, *Beauty Ramapelepele*, in the same territory as Pieter-Dirk Uys's *Evita Bezuidenhout*. In a way, though, the politics of what Voss does is more up to the minute. The fact of a white male actor (not the wealthiest group in the society) satirising a black woman who is an over-pampered BEE success causes discomfort for some, while it brings others to the



Gilberto Gil, Brazilian composer, guitarist and songwriter, will perform at the Market Theatre on May 12 and 13



Performer Ben Voss's new show, *Bend It Like Beauty* is on at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square, until May 21



A painting of Archbishop Desmond Tutu by Raimondo Galeano can be seen at the exhibition, *Navigators of the Cosmos*, at the Circa Gallery

brink of tearful laughter. It is in this danger zone that Voss operates. The new show, *Bend It Like Beauty*, has this mamma of all mammas taking an all-expenses-paid trip with the tourism department to showcase South Africa to the rest of the world.

>> **The Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, until May 21. Visit www.theatreonthesquare.co.za. Tel: 011 883 8606.**

■ Playwright and director Bruce Koch specialises in wacky, offbeat

comedies of errors that place ordinary South African in extraordinary situations. His new work, *Loving Lulu*, may kick up some dust, given that it deals with the touchy subject of African lesbianism. Written with Noxolo Tshabangu, *Loving Lulu* is about a love triangle: two women and one man. According to the bumf: "This time it's a woman who is being fought over. She has to choose between the woman she loves and the man she loves." The work also touches on the choices women make between sexual freedom and tradi-

tional marriage customs like lobola. Directed by Yolandi Michaels.

>> **Barney Simon Theatre, Market Theatre complex, Newtown, from May 3 to June 19. Book at Computicket. Tel: 011 832 1641.**

■ Reza de Wet's play, *Mis*, which has been included in South Africa's school curriculum since 2009, will be staged to celebrate De Wet's 25 years in theatre. This production of the play, mandatory reading for grade 12, is produced and directed by André Stolz and features Riana Wilkens, Bettie Kemp, Morné Visser and Lelia Etsebeth. Set in the winter of 1936, when a circus is in town, the play deals with a strict mother, her young daughter and a spinster — and is set around a kitchen table. *Mis* is magic realism in which hallucination turns to reality.

>> **The Fringe, Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein. There will be three fundraising performances on May 6, 7 and 8. Tickets are on sale at www.joburgtheatre.com. Tel: 0861 670 670.**

Visual art

■ Italian artist Raimondo Galeano presents *Navigators of the Cosmos*. The Bolognese artist's exhibition will be curated by Italian art dealer Martina Venturi and will include two short films portraying Galeano's painting technique. The show will include a performance by children from the Oratory of St Filippo Neri in Bologna. The artist's statement concerns the limits of colour and its role in creating illusion. "Colour never exists as an absolute but relies on its environment for perception," Galeano writes. He uses luminescent powder and his works are painted and exhibited in darkness. The show portrays six iconic characters: Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Aung San Suu Kyi, Barack Obama, Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela.

>> **Circa Gallery, Jellicoe Street, Rosebank, until June 5.**

■ Standard Bank Gallery presents *Listening to Distant Thunder: The Art of Peter Clarke*. The exhibition honours Clarke's life, work and contribution to art and cultural development in South Africa. It is accompanied by a book of the same title, by curators Philippa Hobbs and Elizabeth Rankin. The artist was born in Simon's Town in 1929 and his career spans six decades. The show reflects on many aspects of South African life, including the Clarke family's forced removal from Simon's Town in the apartheid era. Clarke was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga (silver) by Thabo Mbeki in 2005.

>> **Standard Bank Gallery, Corner Simmonds and Frederick streets, Johannesburg, from May 4 to July 2. Tel: 011 631 1889.**

Compiled by Percy Zvomuya

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So much can be so little

#JUSTSAYING
Milisuthando Bongela

There is a Zimbabwean man who used to work in the garden of a property I lived in some years ago. He was a good-looking, soft-spoken man in his early 40s and never smelled like someone who did physical work all day, even after a long day in the sun. His musky scent always accompanied his stoic presence and from the first day I met him I trusted him, with ease. His name was Edward. We never had much of a relationship apart from polite greetings and small talk at the beginning and end of the day — and that felt sufficient. I lost contact with him when I moved to a new place but never lost his phone number.

Last week I needed somebody to work in the garden at my shop. I phoned Edward and, although I could tell he was unsure it was me, he agreed that he would meet me at 10am on Sunday morning. I found him waiting for me dressed in jeans and a canary-yellow shirt. We exchanged pleasantries and as we were driving to the shop it felt like I had seen him just last Sunday. Without giving him any instructions, I left him alone at the shop to do other stuff.

When I returned a few hours later, his dexterity had exceeded my already high expectations of his work. As I was helping him finish, he told me that he worked seven days a week and probably would not be able to fit me in on a regular basis. He has kept the same "piece" jobs for the past five years and although he is grateful to have work he would like his life to be a little different after 24 years of working. His wife and children are in Zimbabwe. He has all the qualities of a respectable man: kindness, commitment and reliability.

That same Sunday our housekeeper, Mary, who is Zimbabwean too, worked because she had missed the previous two Mondays because of the public holidays. She has been cleaning for my house mate and me since 2009. She is friendly and not invasive and we have never had to tell her to do anything because she takes her own, stealthy initiative. Like the gardener, she works seven days a week, sends money to her children in Zimbabwe and has all the qualities of an honourable woman.

When I consider the kind of people that Mary and Edward are, I wonder what expectations they have of themselves. As good as they are at what they do, is it fair that they should look forward to cleaning up people's messes every day? Perhaps it is presumptuous of me to want more for them, but I do — and it will probably be at my expense.

When I consider the kind of people that Mary and Edward are, I wonder what expectations they have of themselves

CINEMA — 3 TO SEE

■ **The King's Speech**. Won Oscars for best film, best actor.

■ **Life, Above All**. Acclaimed Aids drama from South Africa.

■ **Thor**. Enjoyable comic-book action.

>> **Movie reviews, Pages 14 & 15**