

Alfred Hinkel

In 1976 Hinkel established his first dance company, the *Namakwalandse Dans Geselskap*, in Nababeep and O'okiep in the Northern Cape. This was also the start of his working relationship with John Linden.

Hinkel spent a brief period in Windhoek, Namibia creating a second dance company, the *Dial Dance Company*, in collaboration with a local dance teacher Dianne Sparks. In 1981 he relocated to Cape Town.

In 1986 he bought the *Jazzart Dance Studios* from Val Stein. The next two decades saw Hinkel transforming this dance studio into one of South Africa's premiere performing arts, training and performance institutions - the renamed *Jazzart Dance Theatre*.

In the early 1990's he was instrumental in establishing two dance companies in Durban. One of them, the *Phenduka Dance Theatre*, was later revived by Sibonakaliso Ndaba and Sifiso Kweyama while Siwela Sonke is currently under the direction of Jay Pather.

During his tenure as artistic director of *Jazzart* (June 1986 – Feb 2010), the impact of the company's work resonated within and inspired the South African dance industry, both in the realm of training as well as performance.

Known for his creativity and commitment to pushing the boundaries of dance, Hinkel's term as artistic director of *Jazzart Dance Theatre* represents one of the most important creative, educational and socio-political careers in the history of South African dance.

To date Hinkel has received ten choreographic awards. He has received a further seven for his services to the dance community:

- 1997: Standard Bank Special Award for his vision, commitment and contribution to dance in South Africa
- 1998: Gordon Reid Fellowship for Dance
- 2004: Tunkie Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication and Leadership
- 2006: Western Cape Cultural Commission Award for Service to the Dance Community
- 2008: Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport Annual Cultural Award
- 2015: Arts and Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award, and
- 2019: Western Cape Department of Sport Art and Culture Lifetime Achievement Award shared with Linden

In 2010 Hinkel relocated to his hometown O'okiep in the Northern Cape where he continues to work as a dance educationalist and artist; creating new work, teaching in the communities and training dance professionals of the highest calibre.

Hinkel is best renowned as a dance educator who is particularly skilled at developing talent, achieving outstanding results in a short period of time and pushing creative boundaries as an artist.