

MOTHEO ART ROUTE

ART MUSEUMS

OLIEWENHUIS ART MUSEUM

Oliewenhuis Art Museum has an outstanding permanent collection of historical and contemporary S.A. art as well as temporary exhibitions curated by Oliewenhuis and other museums.

The museum exclusively collects South African art and its outstanding permanent collection consists of paintings, sculptures and graphic art by artists like Gregoire Boonzaier and Walter Battiss. The pride of the collection is the Pierneef paintings and the paintings of Bloemfontein done by Thomas Baines in 1851.

Completed in 1941, this neo-Cape Dutch manor house served as residence for Governor Generals and later State Presidents of South Africa. On 19 July 1985 the building was released by former State President P.W. Botha to the National Museum for the purpose of converting it into an art museum. On 11 October 1989, Oliewenhuis Art Museum opened as a satellite of the National Museum.

The spectacular underground reservoir was built in 1904 and restored in 2001/2. This reservoir in extent of 450m² serves as a multi-purpose space for workshops, exhibitions and conferences.

The museum hosts various musicians to entertain the public on Sunday afternoons and Cafe Olien, situated in the garden, serves light lunches and caters for small receptions. Tea, coffee and lovely delicacies are served daily. The gardens offer ideal picnic spots and the public is welcome to relax there. Walking trails through the surrounding areas are accessible to both young and old during museum hours.

Mondays-Fridays: 8:00-17:00

Saturdays: 10.00-17:00

Sundays & Public Holidays; 13:00-17:00

Christmas Day & Good Friday: Closed

Telephone: (051) 447 9609 e-mail: oliewen@nasmus.co.za

Website: www.nasmus.co.za 16 Harry Smith Street, Waverley, Bloemfontein

JOHANNES STEGMANN ART GALLERY

This was the first art gallery in the Free State with museological controlled temperature, humidity, lighting and security. These features ensure that art exhibitions with cultural and educational value are presented to the students, the youth and the public of the whole Free State. Tasks, duties and happenings are as follows: At least 8 major exhibitions throughout the year.

Maintenance, documentation and extension of the permanent art collection of the University. Educational art research. Distribution of the works of the students and personnel. Educational community projects. Links with other educational quarters, art galleries and museums. Demonstrations and practical sessions.

Weekdays: 8:30-16:30

Telephone: (051) 4012708

Sasol Library Building, University of the Free State, Nelson Mandela Drive, Bloemfontein.

THEATRES

SAND DU PLESSIS THEATRE COMPLEX

The Sand du Plessis theatre complex opened its doors to the public on 1 August 1985. is breathtakingly beautiful, glittering in glamorous gold and marble. Works of art by famous artists, such as Cecil Skotnes and Dirk Meerkotter are exhibited in the theatre. Artists were commissioned to design art pieces for specific locations in the theatre.

The complex comprises of the following;

Sand du Plessis Theatre

The auditorium of the Sand du Plessis Theatre is unique in South African theatre architectural design. Provided with continental seating (no centre aisle), and separate entrances for various rows, the auditorium has no distinct balcony but is divided into four staggered seating areas, each giving its occupants a sense of intimate surroundings, while together (viewed from the stage) giving the impression of space and majesty. The theatre seats 964 people.

Andre Huguenot Theatre

Situated in the northwest corner of the Sand Du Plessis Theatre Complex, the theatre can be entered via an extended ramp leading up from Elizabeth Street, or via stairs located in First Avenue. The foyer, decorated economically but attractively, contains toilets as well as refreshment facilities, and provides direct access into the auditorium. Directly underneath the foyer is a refreshment room for use by the public for private parties.

Free State Room

This is a luxurious reception room with its own kitchen, refrigeration facilities, separate bar and small dance floor. Ideally suited for smaller cocktail receptions, smart parties, wedding receptions and as a venue for conferences. It has a built-in sound system, stage and bar facilities, it can seat 60 people at tables; 84 when a dance floor is not required and 75 people for a cocktail party

OFM Downstage

This venue can house 140-160 people seated around tables and over 200 people attending seminars. The Downstage can be accessed directly through the gardens across the promenade from Markgraaf Street or through the Marble Foyer.

WYNAND MOUTON THEATRE

The Wynand Mouton Theatre is the biggest of three ultra-modern and fully equipped theatres on the campus of the University of the Free State. It is used mainly for presenting the University's module and professional productions, although it is frequently in demand for various official functions as well as productions presented by groups outside the University.

Key features of the Wynand Mouton theatre include;

- A spacious double volume foyer that was recently renovated.
- An intimate, wheel chair friendly, auditorium that seats 320 guests
- Large proscenium stage with two equally sized side wings and 4 movable half-stage wagons

- An orchestra pit
- 24 Flybars with fly-loft / towers
- 3 Stage curtains, all of which can either fly or travel out
- Professional sound and lighting
- 4 Spacious dressing rooms, which can accommodate up to 40 performers.
- A very spacious Green Room for up to 60 guests / performers.

University of the Free State, Nelson Mandela Drive, Bloemfontein
Telephone: (051) 4019111

SCAENA THEATRE

The Scaena Theatre Complex on the UFS campus consists of two fully equipped theatres, The Scaena and The Rehearsal Room, a Large Movement / Dance Room and various offices. Module as well as professional productions are presented here as well as various functions and productions of outside groups.

Key features of the Scaena theatre include;

- Ultra-modern minimalistic double-winged foyer
- A very intimate, wheel chair friendly, auditorium that seats 195 guests, with a VIP section consisting of 6 large leather couches and 2 in-built bars
- Medium-sized proscenium stage that opens up to a very large movement room.
- 2 Spacious dressing rooms, which can accommodate up to 20 performers.
- Professional Sound and Lighting

The Rehearsal Room is a box theatre / theatre in the round, with movable stage and masking flats. It provides movable seating for a maximum of 120 guests and also has professional sound and lighting facilities.

OBSERVATORY THEATRE (STERREWAG TEATER)

The Observatory Theatre is a rather unique experimental theatre situated in the Naval Hill game reserve on a hill in the heart of the city.

The Lamont-Hussey was constructed by and belonged to the University of Michigan. Construction began in June 1927, installation of the 50 ton cupola and telescope was complete in March 1928 and the official opening took place on 28 April 1928. The running of the observatory was later taken over by the University of the Orange Free State. By 1971 however, the observatory was not being used anymore and it was closed down in 1972.

As the University of Michigan had no further use for the telescope or the building they offered it to anyone wanting it. It finally went to the Municipality of Bloemfontein, free of charge. In 1978 the Municipality donated it to PACOFS to use as an experimental theatre space. It opened in 1979 with a PACOFS production of *Die Huigelaar* (An Afrikaans translation of *Tartuffe* by Molière).

The theatre is completely round, with a half moon open stage and 119 seats. It is still used by PACOFS, Bloemfontein Teatergroep, Bloemfontein Repertory Society and visiting artists.

Telephone: (051) 448 9150
Cellphone: 082 455 7793 / 082 775 7911
Location: Naval Hill, Bloemfontein

FESTIVALS

MACUFE

The Macufe Festival (Mangaung African Cultural Festival) in Bloemfontein, highlights the variety of South Africa's many cultures through storytelling, art, music, poetry and dance. The festival programme unfolds at different venues throughout the city and the annual highlight is the main jazz festival hosted at the Loch Logan Waterfront. It takes place during late September / early October each year.

Die Volksblad Arts Festival

The first Volksblad Arts Festival was held in July 2001 as part of the arts festival initiative of Media24. Volksblad and the University of the Free State as partners in the hosting of the event. The UFS provides the venues and infrastructure and Volksblad organises and presents the event. Thanks to the support of institutions, like PACOFS, the Mangaung Local Council and NALN, this event has over the past two years increasingly seated a lively arts environment for inhabitants and visitors to the region. The Volksblad Arts Festival takes place every year during the winter school holidays.