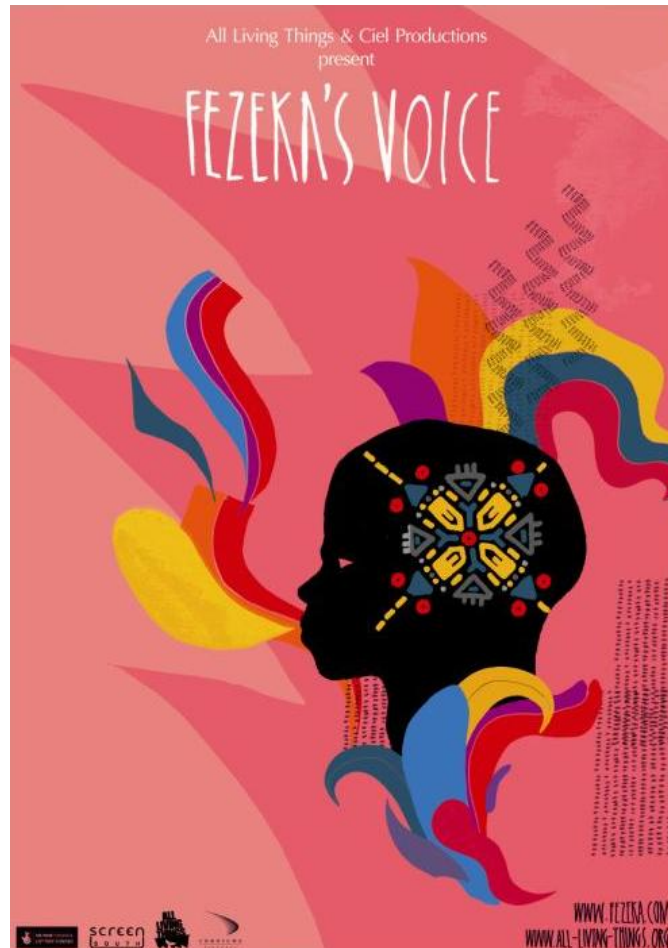


Ciel Productions Limited

# FEZEKA'S VOICE



**SCREENING AT THE CURZON SOHO**

**16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**HOSTED BY MICA PARIS**

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 will see *Fezeka's Voice* theatrically released at the Curzon Soho, London. The night will be hosted by Mica Paris. Further regional screenings are planned to follow.

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## **Synopsis**

**Fezeka's Voice** tells the true story of choirmaster **Phumi Tsewu** and his unwavering dedication to his township, his school and his choir. For 15 years he has been teaching the children at Fezeka High School in Gugulethu, South Africa – not just how to sing but how to live. Chronicling the highs and lows of their first adventure overseas to perform on a world stage, the film exposes Phumi's commitment and spirit as he teaches his students everything from manners to Mozart, bringing them focus, pride and joy.

Produced by London based company Ciel Productions and Exec Produced by Dartmouth Film's Christopher Hird (**The End of The Line**) and Corniche Pictures' Hani Farci (**Waltz with Bashir**), the film was completed in September 2009. It has since picked up the Audience **Award for Best Documentary at the Tri-Continental Film Festival**, South Africa, as well as a nomination for **Most Inspirational Film at the Henley International Film Festival**, UK. **Fezeka's Voice** was also the only feature film chosen to screen at the **British Museum's Mandela Day celebrations** in July of this year.

For further information on **Fezeka's Voice** and to view the trailer, please visit [www.fezeka.com](http://www.fezeka.com)

## **Reactions to the Film**

Over the last 12 months, through film festival appearances as well as private screenings the film has been delighting and inspiring audiences as well as picking up a few high profile fans.

Upon seeing the film, **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** (who also features in the film) said: *"Fezeka's Voice is an important South African film. Its value... is immeasurable... Fezeka's Voice needs to be shared with as wide an audience as possible. The power of mentorship as demonstrated in this film is extraordinary..."*

Britain's National Singing Ambassador and BRIT and Emmy award winning composer **Howard Goodall** said: *'Fezeka's Voice is a film which truly shows how music, and music education, can transform young people's lives... Everybody who sees this film cannot help but be moved by what they see and excited by the potential of this film and of music as a key to unlock a better future for children and young people everywhere.'*

And most recently, UK legendary soul singer **Mica Paris** has come on board as the film's official ambassador. *'This is a beautiful and inspiring film, which has the life-changing power of music at its core. Phumi's amazing story proves that if every child received the right support and encouragement, regardless of their situation, they would have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.'*

## **Director Holly Lubbock's Statement**

*'Directing Fezeka's Voice was a powerful and moving experience. What started off as a simple story about a school trip has become so much more. It's been incredibly exciting to see it evolve into a feature documentary about one man's life mission to empower the young people living in his township.'*

## **The Fezeka Scholarship Fund**

During the course of making this film, Ciel Productions developed a relationship with UK registered charity The Fezeka Scholarship Fund, which aims to financially support children from all over Gugulethu township in higher education.

The Fezeka Scholarship Fund is a charitable organization (charity number 1134280) that sponsors disadvantaged South African young people through University. The fund was started in 2007 when the Salisbury Community Choir visited Cape Town and sang with a number of local South African choirs. So far, the fund has raised just over £70,000 and supports 16 students (4 of whom feature in the film) in further education.

The aim is that the Scholarship Fund will provide nearly half the cost of tuition and of accommodation in halls of residence for each student it sponsors.

This amounts to about R25,000 or £1,750 per student, per year. A matching amount is provided by a South African government bursary and, in addition, the student is expected to contribute about R5,000 or £455 a year.

Without help, young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, like those you see in the film, from the Fezeka School in Gugulethu, would never be able to afford the cost of going to University, such is the level of poverty. Yet it is a University education that paves the way out of the cycle of disadvantage that engulfs so many. With a University or college diploma or a degree, students are able to get a good job and build a life outside of the repressive township environment.

To that end, 50% of the net profits from *Fezeka's Voice* go to the charity and a further 20% are dedicated to distributing the film as widely as possible, thus raising the awareness of the scholarship fund and ultimately helping it to flourish.

<http://www.fezeka.com/howtohelp.php5>

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Mica Paris – Soul Queen. Legendary vocalist. Author. Television Presenter. Actress. Mother. Survivor.**

Mica Paris's roots are in soul and gospel music. She made a huge impact on the UK scene in 1988 with the release of her debut, platinum-selling album *So Good* and has since collaborated with the likes of Prince and U2. In 2002 Mica began hosting the BBC Radio 2 show, 'Soul Solutions' and in 2004 was in the top 10 list of '100 Great Black Britons'. She has since appeared in two seasons of *What Not to Wear* and *Gok Wan's Miss Naked Beauty* 2008. Mica's latest album, *Born Again* was released in summer 2009, and was produced by Brian Rowling, with the title track penned by James Morrison.

### **Holly Lubbock – Director/Camera/Editor**

For almost a decade, Holly has been working in the British television industry as a successful editor with some of the UK's top production companies. Having co-produced and co-edited the award-winning documentary *Rave Against The Machine* about the effect of civil war on pop culture in Bosnia, in 2004, she has become committed to giving life to documentaries with humanity as a central theme. *Fezeka's Voice* is Holly's first feature-length documentary as director.

## **Katherine Crawley – Producer**

Katherine is driven by socially conscious, politically aware filmmaking. After co-producing the award-winning film **KZ**, alongside seasoned director Rex Bloomstein, Katherine went on to work with BIFA award-winning film **Black Gold** and directors Nick and Marc Francis. Together they pioneered a new form of distribution for campaigning documentaries in the UK. Katherine then teamed up with director Holly Lubbock to produce **Fezeka's Voice**.

## **JoAnne Fishburn – Producer**

JoAnne comes from a diverse history in both feature film production and financing as well as documentary filmmaking. She has worked on projects for leading companies in North America, including HBO and Buena Vista, as well as National Film Board of Canada, History Television and Discovery. She joined the production of **Fezeka's Voice** at post-production phase.

## **Christopher Hird – Exec Producer**

Christopher Hird is a founding member of **Fulcrum Productions** and is one of the UK's most experienced documentary and factual producers, having created countless hours of international programming. In 2008, Hird established Dartmouth Films to specialize in independent documentaries. Among his most recent credits as executive producer is BIFA award winning **Black Gold** and the critically acclaimed **End Of The Line**. He is the chair of the British Documentary Film Foundation, honorary treasurer of the freedom of expression organisation, Index on Censorship, and a trustee of the Wincott Foundation.