



LOOKING BACK: Scenes from Gugulethu in the late 1950s. The Gugulethu 50+ festival takes place in the township tomorrow.

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Gugs celebrates 50 years

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CELEBRATIONS to mark the 50th anniversary of Gugulethu, one of the oldest townships surrounding Cape Town, are set to take place tomorrow.

The festival will be a celebration of Gugulethu through arts and culture with a focus on community upliftment.

The event has been organised by volunteers from the Gugulethu Steering Committee which mostly consists of residents from the township who have come together to launch a seven-year programme of cultural activities embracing the past and celebrating the future.

The Gugulethu 50+ festival has particular significance as it will premiere a documentary called *Fezeka's Voice*, which has just been announced as the winner of the Best International Documentary at



the 2009 Tri-Continental Film Festival.

The film's producer, Katherine Crawley, is also on the steering committee.

"We're ecstatic about news of the award and it is an important homecoming for the film," Crawley says.

The festival will include a

performance by the 77-member Fezeka High School Choir.

Fezeka's Voice, which was directed by Holly Lubbock, tells the story of the Fezeka High School choir and their journey of a lifetime from Gugulethu to England to take part in the Salisbury Arts Festival.

The festival will also see the

committee outlining its plans as part of an arts and education initiative for the township.

One of the mooted projects includes the formation of a Gugulethu youth radio station, and thus the programme will help train youths to work at the station.

Other initiatives will include The Gugulethu Lifestyle Festival

and a numeracy and literacy campaign.

In addition, the documentary will travel to schools around the Western Cape, with the aim of inspiring pupils.

Crawley explains: "The story of the Fezeka High School choir is an emblem of success and a sign that the community of Gugulethu is full of potential."

The documentary was made by a group called All Living Things, based in London, who use multimedia to stimulate social change and upliftment.

Currently, the steering committee is seeking to attract financial backing and sponsorships for the various educational campaigns.

● Don't miss the Gugulethu Festival on tomorrow at the Gugulethu Sports Complex, Fezeka Street, Gugulethu. Time: 7pm. For further information, visit www.fezeeka.com.

