

# INVITATION

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Free State, Prof Francis Petersen, is pleased to invite you to the launch of the Artists in Residency Programme. This event marks the exciting start of a new initiative at the university.

## LAUNCH OF THE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCY PROGRAMME



We are honored to have **Mike van Graan**, a distinguished independent artist and playwright, as our inaugural artist and playwright in residence. Van Graan boasts an impressive career, having authored 36 plays and contributing significantly to the cultural landscape. His expertise extends beyond playwriting, encompassing cultural policy, artist network development (both locally and across Africa), and advocacy work.

Notably, he held leadership positions within esteemed organisations such as Arterial Network, the African Arts Institute, and the STAND Foundation. Van Graan's dedication to cultural activism and artistic creation is widely recognised.

**Please join us for this momentous occasion.**

**Date:** Thursday 27 June 2024

**Time:** 15:00-17:00 (followed by a cocktail reception)

**Venue:** Scaena Theatre, UFS Bloemfontein Campus

**RSVP:** <https://ufsweb.co/3ww8gkG>  
before 22 June 2024



For further information, contact Alicia Pienaar at [pienaar1@ufs.ac.za](mailto:pienaar1@ufs.ac.za)

### Programme highlights include:

- **Staged Reading:** An excerpt from *Return of the Ancestors*, a play that pays homage to the satirical South African political play, *Woza Albert*, explores themes of democracy and sacrifice through the return of figures such as Steve Biko and Neil Aggett.
- **Closed Premiere:** *The Good White*, set against the backdrop of the 2015/16 student protests in South Africa, delves into contemporary issues such as race, social justice, and the complexities of human relationships.

Join us for an afternoon celebrating artistic expression and social dialogue!

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