



Ground Floor Media24 Centre
40 Heerengracht St, Foreshore
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PRESS RELEASE

Cape Town Carnival magic lights up the City streets

Capetonians came out in their thousands on Saturday (EDS: 21 March) to marvel at the incredible spectacle of the annual Cape Town Carnival and celebrate with the communities that tell the varied stories of South Africa.

As has become tradition, the year's spectacular free street party started with crowd favourites the Fire Fighters and Law Enforcement Officers showing some impressive muscle, followed by the Harley Davidsons revving our motors.

Hosts Carl Wastie and Cassidy Nicholson then led the official opening of the 16th Cape Town Carnival. This signalled the go ahead for out-of-this-world floats and 50 performance groups from communities across the City to make their way down Green Point's Somerset Street.

With the 2026 theme of "Follow your heART", this year's event featured the artistic energy from 12 "Carnival Champions" from the city's creative community.

Besides providing their artistic input for the event, a number of the Champions featured in the parade itself. Singer Zolani Mahola performed on the *Uvuyo* float, a celebration of joy, culture and the power of voice to unite a nation. Anslin Gysman and Natasha van der Merwe, wowed the crowd with classic local songs from the *Trap vir Trap* float. Activist Nyaniso Tutu-Burris featured on the Amandla float - a beautiful tribute to South Africa, and media personality Dylan Majavie wowed the crowd on the float about transformation, Morph. Providing yet another high note was Cape Town legend DJ Ready D and graffiti artist Rizah Potgieter on the *BPM: Beats | Paint | Move* float.


"We called them our Champions because they have voluntarily and proudly been part of the process of telling their stories and inspiring carnival participants to follow their dreams. Their excitement to be part of the carnival has been inspiring," says Carnival CEO Jay Douwes, "We want the public to see themselves in these very local, but incredible talents."

They were joined by Siv Ngesi, Miss Universe South Africa 2025 Melissa Nayimuli, and the Kfm 94.5 duo.

"We are about community, human connection, joy and creating something magnificent. Our performers put their hearts, soul and bodies into bringing us this amazing spectacle, and we feel so honoured to be able to bring this event to the heart of Cape Town every year," adds Prof Rachel Jafta, Chair of the Cape Town Carnival Trust.



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“MultiChoice has always followed the ethos of enriching the lives of the communities in which we operate, it’s in that spirit that we continue to partner with the carnival. We hope that this platform will be a catalyst in propelling the careers of the young people in the arts and entertainment industry and allow for our rich heritage to be represented across the globe in the future,” adds Willington Ngwepe, CEO of MultiChoice South Africa.

Sponsor and Partners of the Cape Town Carnival

- City of Cape Town
- Multichoice and DStv
- Media24 including News24
- Kfm94.5
- Takealot Group including Mr D, Takealot and Takealot Fulfilment Solutions
- Western Cape Government Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and the Premier’s Office
- Southern Sun
- Novus Media including People’s Post, Tygerburger, City Vision, Die Papier, Rooi Rose and Nova News
- Tractor Outdoor
- Media24 Lifestyle: Huisgenoot, You, Kuier and Drum
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- Gearhouse
- Okushal Cordials
- Coca Cola Peninsula Beverages
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IMAGES

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