



Press Release – Tsogo Sun– 08/09/2016

Awards for top Arts Academy achievers in Diepsloot

Sixty-five learners, 13 teachers and their families and support systems gathered in Diepsloot this week for the awards and recognition event of the Tsogo Sun Arts Academy for the participating Diepsloot schools – Muzomuhle Primary School and Diepsloot Combined Secondary School.

In June this year, Tsogo Sun Arts Academy selected 150 youngsters from grades 4 to 11, from three primary schools and two high schools in disadvantaged areas in the Johannesburg area. The Academy is an upbeat, youth development initiative that uses soft skills and the arts to engage young people in a productive way, addressing life skills, career and work readiness, volunteering, internships, and capacity building. The programme is designed and run by miniMAX, the Tsogo Sun Arts Academy implementation partner.

The awards ceremony is a platform to recognise the learners who have met the required criteria in the Arts Academy, as well as shown academic prowess and growth. Academic Achievers Awards were presented for learners who achieved an 80-89% average, and the prestigious Academic Award for learners who achieved a 90% and higher average was presented to one qualifying youngster, Lillian Sello Ramahlo in Grade 4 from Muzomuhle Primary.

Other awards were presented to learners who were evaluated on their performance throughout the programme and their achievement of four main milestones, which included their application of their newly acquired skills in their own communities. Two teachers were also presented with awards for their commitment to and participation in the Arts Academy programme at their schools.

During the ceremony, five energetic song and dance numbers were performed by the vibrant and enthusiastic learners of the Arts Academy, demonstrating that learning through the fun elements of the performing arts strengthens their skills and confidence on stage.

Says Shanda Paine, Group CSI Manager for Tsogo Sun, “We’ve been impressed at the commitment by the youngsters and teachers, and by their enthusiasm for embracing all the learnings they are being exposed to. Our youth are often hampered in their efforts to join the mainstream of economic growth because of inadequacies in the preparation they are getting to take on responsibilities as productive members of society in the workplace. This Arts Academy programme curriculum is going some way to address that issue.”

tsogosun.com

TSOGO SUN

Press Release – Tsogo Sun– 08/09/2016

Tsogo Sun’s flagship entertainment destination, Montecasino, funds the Tsogo Sun Arts Academy initiatives in Diepsloot as part of its local community development programmes. Glenn Joseph, Montecasino GM, says his team is proud of all that has been achieved by the young people, the facilitators, and Montecasino volunteers in the 2016 programme. “Hearty Montecasino congratulations to all the participants for making the most of this opportunity for personal development, and particularly to the award winners, who went the extra mile to achieve excellence in the programme. We look forward to hearing good news stories about these high achievers in years to come.”

Margaret Makoka, Programme Coordinator at miniMAX, says that the 2016 Tsogo Sun Arts Academy beneficiaries have taken the initiative to be responsible and do their best in the programme. “Research shows that young people who are engaged in focused arts activities and self-development programmes, show signs of being life ready and also show evidence of higher rates of academic growth and a healthy transition into adulthood.”

Tsogo Sun’s portfolio includes over 90 hotels and 14 casino and entertainment destinations throughout South Africa, Africa, the Seychelles and Abu Dhabi. For further information, visit tsogosun.com, follow on Twitter and Instagram @TsogoSun or like on Facebook /TsogoSun.



Captions:

1st: Left to right - Carlo McFarlan, Ms HP Letsapa, Danine Naidoo, Estelle Damster

2nd: from left to right- Danine Naidoo, Estelle Damster, Mbalenhle Cindi, Saletsta Mathe, Thato Mosimane, Shanda Paine, Manamela, Owen, Carlo McFarlan

3rd: left to right - Shanda Paine, Lillian Sello Ramahlo, Carlo McFarlan

tsogosun.com