

# Take a bow baby, eish do you deserve it!

Africa's queen of pop Yvonne Chaka Chaka turns 40 in style, writes Lesley Mofokeng

**A**HAND-PICKED few made it onto the guest list of Yvonne Chaka Chaka's 40th birthday party on Friday night. So determined was Africa's princess of pop to party up a storm that she turned down an invitation to perform for Queen Elizabeth in London that night. She left only yesterday for the show today at the Royal Festival Hall — without the UK monarch.

But on Friday night, surrounded by her nearest and dearest — including her mother, Sophie Machaka — Chaka Chaka looked not a day older than her 40 years as she shared the celebration with her son Themba, who turns 21 next week.

At the Indaba Hotel north of Jozi, she emerged from a German sedan showing off her curvy figure in a body-hugging pink mermaid dress. It was made by up-and-coming Joburg designer Siculo Ntshahintshali who said he used different kinds and shades of silk to make the garment, in four days.

MC Bob Mabena had guests in stitches. "Is Gwen [Gill] here? I am tired of trying to impress that woman, I just want you to know that this is me, that's how I am coming out," he declared, referring to his baby-blue suit, pink shirt and tie. My judgment, as Gwen's stand-in this week? Not bad, considering it was only the second time I had spotted Uncle Bob in that suit. Praise was heaped on Chaka Chaka. In a recorded message played on two big screens either side of the stage, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said he could say whatever he liked because he couldn't be charged with sexual harassment at his age. "Wow! Isn't she gorgeous. Ngqanisa ke seponono. You give so much of yourself to others... You are like good wine." Another recorded message was from former President Nelson Mandela who said



DOUBLE ACT: Yvonne Chaka Chaka and her son Themba celebrate their birthdays in style. MC Bob Mabena (right) takes to the floor with the guest of honour



SPECIAL GUEST: Deputy President Jacob Zuma heaps praise and gifts on the birthday girl



SOUL MATES: Chaka Chaka's friendship with SA legend Miriam Makeba goes back many years



SUPPORTING ACT: Chaka Chaka's husband, Tiny Mhinga, welcomes Makeba to his wife's bash at the Indaba Hotel

## Dancing shoes charm diners

GILLIAN ANSTEY

**S**HOES on a table have always been regarded as bad luck, let alone bad taste, but those that adorned the tables at the Joburg Civic Theatre on Tuesday set the tone for a night with a difference.

First, they were pink, worn ballet shoes, placed among bright pink roses. Others were strung from ribbons.

Second, the tables were backstage at the Joburg Civic Theatre. And, third, we were seated facing the set of the ballet *The Nutcracker*.

It was a fundraiser for the SA Ballet Theatre and the first function I have been to where guests were implored to start eating because everyone was so engrossed in the performance.

Guests included Anglo American's Tony Trahar and his wife, Trish; legal tax whiz Professor Michael Katz and his wife Babette; Michael de Pinna of *Yebo Gogo* ad fame; business consultant Bontle Mpakanyane; hotshot divorce lawyer Billy Gundelfinger and his wife Michelle; Liberty Life's Hylton Appelbaum and his wife Wendy; Lotto spokesman Sershan Naidoo; PR Penny Stein; socialite and publicist Edith Venter; charming do-gooder Ivan May of the Cow Parade; and former dancer and choreographer-turned rose seller Esther Nasser.

And of course, the Civic's devoted board chairman, Cas Coovadia, otherwise known as MD of the Banking Council.

The best lookers were undoubtedly the female dancers in their evening gowns, but the most striking outfit was worn by the ballet company's expert fundraiser — R20-million to date — Annzie Hancock. Made of Thai silk she'd bought a few years back, it comprised a mauve short jacket and bright green trousers, each trimmed with snippets of the other colour.

Yet the biggest surprise of the evening was the guest speaker, Tito Mboweni, governor of the Reserve Bank.

He delighted everyone by saying when he was part of the government from 1984 to 1998, it had made two mistakes — stopping funding the orchestra and the ballet company.

**Food: 4/10** — Unusual veggie terrine as starters, followed by kingklip, but full marks for the granddella crème brûlée.

**Flowers: 9/10** — Exquisite with that added balletic touch.

**MC: 8/10** — Witty Jan von Memery made us laugh and later burst into resonant song.

**Vibe: 5/10** — Loved the setting and the dance but there were a tad too many speeches and the evening ended abruptly.

Chaka Chaka had played a role in the liberation struggle. He called her a world-class performer who was original and creative and who boasted consummate showmanship.

Mandela added that Chaka Chaka's impersonation of an old man (meaning himself) spoke volumes of her sense of humour.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma (aka Jay-Zee), who Mabena introduced as "South Africa's next President" to wild applause, presented the birthday girl with a framed collection of colourful traditional Zulu beaded accessories.

Some speakers, such as Gloria Mthombeni, her nursery school teacher who has known her since she was four, took us back to the beginning of Chaka Chaka's life.

Mthombeni, who at 73 still works at the nursery school, said Chaka Chaka filled her with pride as she never forgets her roots, which are in

Dobsonville, Soweto. Miriam Makeba, who complained of a sore hip, is a woman in love. She jokingly called her first great-grandson, who was her partner for the night, "my husband".

The close friendship between Makeba and Chaka Chaka goes far back. The latter's children call Makeba "grandmother" and she sometimes cooks for them while Chaka Chaka tours the world.

When Makeba turned 60 she hosted her party at Chaka Chaka's place.

Hubby Tiny Mhinga in a blue suit and pink shirt warmed many hearts when he declared his undying love and support for his famous wife.

In her speech, Chaka Chaka paid tribute to the late pop queen Brenda Fassie. "I wish her soul rests in peace. She was a great person and I don't have the voice she had. She was taken advantage of..." Her pledge for life after 40 is to grow as a businesswoman

and to acquire more wealth. The menu failed to impress. For starters, spinach and ricotta cannelloni, main course a duo of supreme of beef fillet and chicken breast with root veggies, and for dessert, a light meringue, berries and cream. A bit uninspiring — Indaba Hotel could have done better.

Other guests included royal couple and social butterflies deluxe pregnant Zulu Princess Ntandoyesizwe and husband Prince Oupa Molloa, and also pregnant Basetsana Kumalo and husband Romeo, who refuses to talk about what he wears nowadays.

His sister-in-law Johanna Mukoki, who's just had her second baby, made a rare appearance. Also there were 5FM DJ Gareth Cliff, Elite editor

Jacqui Chemaly, Vodacom exec Mthobi Tyamzashe, Eskom CEO Thulani Gcabashe, ANC Youth League president Fikile Mbalula, the Arch's wife, Leah Tutu, and YFM DJ and TV presenter Shu Leope, sporting the night's most bling-bling stylish shades. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was a no-show.

**Food: 5/10** — Forgettable, but impressive presentation.

Gwen Gill is on leave

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**MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS**  
The University of Cape Town, through its Equity Development Programme, offers several individual Scholarships and Fellowships, with an overseas tenure at a designated university, to black South African students. These awards are intended to support those who have an interest in making their careers in higher education, and are available only to students who will register, or are registered, at the University of Cape Town for full-time study towards an Honours, Masters or Doctoral degree in various disciplines, and for Post-Doctoral Fellowships. The awards are outlined individually below.

Applications are sought from excellent Honours, Masters and Doctoral graduates intending to proceed with the Honours, Masters, Doctoral degrees, AND from Doctoral degree graduates wishing to proceed with Post-Doctoral study, in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town. Information on the research interests of the Department can be found on the departmental web page: <http://www.mcb.uct.ac.za>  
Alternatively, contact the Head of Department, Professor Jill Farrant on email: [farrant@science.uct.ac.za](mailto:farrant@science.uct.ac.za) or telephone: (021) 650-5070.

**Values/Tenure:**  
**Honours Degree:** tenable for ONE year only.  
**Value:** R16 000 and R10 000 for laboratory running expenses.  
**Masters Degree:** tenable for TWO years, subject to satisfactory progress.  
**Value:** R42 000 for the first year at UCT, R35 000 for laboratory running expenses. €16 000 for SIX MONTHS of the second year in Europe, inclusive of tuition, subsistence and travel. R21 000 for SIX MONTHS of the second year at UCT, R17 500 for laboratory running expenses.  
**Doctoral Degree:** tenable for FOUR years, subject to satisfactory progress.  
**Value:** R63 000 per annum for THREE years at UCT, R35 000 for laboratory running expenses per annum. €32 000 for ONE year in Europe, inclusive of tuition, subsistence and travel.  
**Post-Doctoral Fellowships:** tenable for TWO years, subject to satisfactory progress.  
**Value:** R90 000 per annum for the FIRST year at UCT. €35 200 for the SECOND year in Europe, inclusive of travel costs.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships are available to talented black South African PhD graduates wishing to do research in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at UCT. The Fellowship incorporates a year of study at a world-renowned research laboratory in Europe. Applicants should have a PhD degree in Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology or Microbiology or a cognate discipline, and a proven research record.  
**Application** by letter, including a full CV, academic records, a statement of research interests and the names and addresses of two referees, one of which should be an academic, should be submitted. Please mark your application with the Reference: MCB-EDP 2005.

**Applications to be submitted to:**  
The Director, Postgraduate Funding Office, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700.  
Closing date for applications: 4 April 2005.

**BMW PENSION FUND: SURPLUS APPORTIONMENT**  
The Pension Funds Second Amendment Act, 2001, (the Act) which became effective on 7 December 2001, requires the Fund to apportion the surplus in the Fund.  
The BMW Pension Fund was established with effect from 1 October 1968 and in terms of the Act, all former members who left the Fund for any reason since 1 January 1980 are recognised as being entitled to a portion of the surplus, should any surplus exist in the Fund at the Surplus Apportionment Date.  
In terms of the Act, the Trustees are required to appoint a person to represent the interests of the former members in the surplus apportionment. The Trustees have appointed Mr Berry Willis in this capacity.  
The Trustees have also appointed the Fund's consultants, Alexander Forbes Financial Services, to assist with the identification and collection of information of former members. A special Surplus Help Desk has been established for this purpose.  
If you are a former member of the BMW Pension Fund and you left that Fund on or after 1 January 1980 you are invited to register your details at the Surplus Help Desk and quote the name of the Fund as "BMW PENSION FUND".  
**The following details will be requested from you:**  
 Your full name;  
 Your current address and telephone number;  
 Your ID number;  
 The date you left the Fund;  
 For exit;  
 Amount of benefit paid;  
 How the benefit was paid — by cheque, payment directly into your bank account or transfer to another fund.  
**You will also be requested to furnish (by fax or post) if available:**  
 Copies of the last benefit statement you received;  
 Any correspondence you received at the date of your exit.  
Once you have registered your details you will receive communication regarding the proposed apportionment and you will be given an opportunity to address any enquiries you may have with the person representing former members, whose details are set out below.  
Please advise any person you know who may be entitled to claim a portion of surplus to record their details as soon as possible as, in terms of the Act, former members who cannot be traced within 6 months from the date of this advertisement, may be excluded from the surplus apportionment exercise.  
**Surplus Helpdesk contact details:**  
Phone number - (011) 324 3407  
Fax number - (011) 263-2199  
E-mail address - [surplusqueries@aforges.co.za](mailto:surplusqueries@aforges.co.za)  
Former Member Representative: Berry Willis - (012) 426 2707  
Alternative: Dennis Vilsmas - (012) 807 3649

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**SURPLUS APPORTIONMENT EXERCISE**  
In terms of the Pension Funds 2nd Amendment Act, 2001, the Fidelity Guards Pension Fund (the Fund) is undertaking its surplus apportionment exercise as at 1 September 2004, the Fund's surplus apportionment date. Former members (including pensioners) of the Fidelity Guards Pension Fund who left the Fund between 1 September 1990 and 1 September 2004, are requested to submit their written claim (by providing the Fund with their contact details as well as possible proof of membership (eg. a previous benefit statement)) to the following address for possible inclusion in the surplus allocation (if any) of the Fund:  
**Fidelity Guards Pension Fund**  
Absa Consultants and Actuaries  
PO Box 490, Randburg, 2125  
Please note that should your submission not be received by 30 September 2005, you may be excluded from the surplus apportionment (if any). Please note that the Trustees do not expect this exercise to be completed before the end of 2005, they will however advise you in writing of any developments as they occur.  
Yours sincerely  
**The Principal Officer**  
**The Fidelity Guards Pension Fund**