

BAYAYISHAYA LABAFANA!

By JABU KUMALO

The complete darkness that engulfed Soweto because of load shedding on Friday did not discourage theatre lovers from filling the Soweto Theatre to capacity. Even the rain added to the misery, but it was not a deterrent. People

were determined to watch *Rhythms – The Gumboots Show* at all cost.

And oh boy! They were not disappointed.

Right from the start as the dancers poured onto the stage as if they were running away from a falling mine, the audience was

whistling and ululating. Their rhythmic dance, with the background of soothing music from a six-piece band, was refreshing coming from a

Dancers leave audience whistling, ululating

week of political nightmare.

Their sweating bodies gave a feeling that they were indeed deep in the belly of the earth, digging for the minerals that made a handful of our countrymen rich. When it came to individual dancing or solo singing, it was difficult to pick out who was the best. They all had come prepared to entertain.

It was no wonder one member of the audience shouted: "Jealous down, bay-

ayishaya labafana!"

The show is not only about dancing. It also highlights the painful truth of what the men who work in the mines endure.

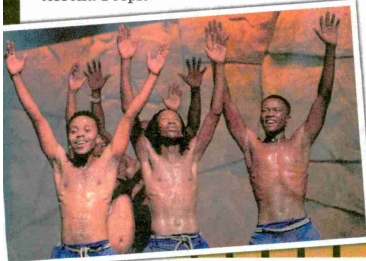
It is about how easy many of them could lose their lives when there's a rock fall.

The story is also a sad reminder that those who work in the mines have little to show when they retire.

The dancing and singing

competitions the miners engaged in were a way to help them forget about home sickness and the fear of going underground.

■ The show will run until 1 March. Tickets are available from Webtickets from R100



Scenes from *Rhythms – The Gumboots Show*, which will run at the Soweto Theatre until Sunday. Photos by Jabu Kumalo

Dudu's fight not only in the ring

By SUN REPORTER

CELEBRATED film director Jahmil XT Qubeka's much anticipated film *Knuckle City* opens in theatres on Friday.

The film, which is Mzansi's official entry to the 2020 Oscars, paints the story of Dudu "Nightrider" Nyakama, played by Bongile Mantsai.

Dudu's a down-and-out, aging boxer who struggles to get the one fight he believes will uplift his broken family.

Contending with the criminality of the boxing world, Dudu unwittingly enlists the help of his reckless but resourceful gangster brother Duke (Thembekile Komani), who's just been released from jail. Duke's extreme ambition is a magnet for danger.

Their mum lost the use of her

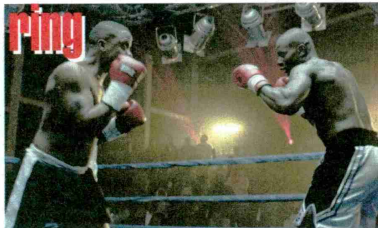
legs in an ambush that claimed the life of their dad, the notorious Art Nyakama (Zoliswa Xaluva).

Dudu also struggles with the fact that his teenage daughter is hanging out with a kasi gangster.

Also haunted by the ghost of their father, Dudu soon finds the fight at home is far more challenging than any opponent he can possibly face in the ring.

The cast also includes Faniswa Yisa, Patrick Ndlovu, Siv Ngesi, Owen Sejake, Angela Sithole and Nomhle Nkonyeni.

The film is produced by Yellowbone Entertainment, in partnership



A scene from *Knuckle City*, which is Mzansi's official entry to the 2020 Oscars.

with Mzansi Magic, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Empowerment Fund, the Eastern Cape Economic Development Corporation, and the National Film & Video Foundation. *Knuckle City* was shot in East London and Mdantsane, where the film director Qubeka grew up.

