MARLENE le Roux, theatre fundi

This theatre fundi is the director of audience development at Artscape, and takes responsibility for important functions at the venue, including the Youth Jazz Festival, the Women’s Humanity Arts Festival and the Schools’ Arts Festival. She is a Shoprite/Checkers Woman of the Year 1998 recipient in the arts category, and received a Western Cape Provincial Award for Arts and Culture in 2005. She conceptualised and edited a book on women with disability, called Look at Me.

MAMELA Nyamza, dancer

She is described as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and activist. Nyamza is known for her autobiographical solo performance Hatched, which tracks her journey from marriage to sexual liberation. Last year, she performed this piece as part of the South African Season in France. Nyamza was born in Gugulethu and trained at the ZAMA Dance School, where she later taught. She is an alumnus of the Tshwane University of Technology, where she completed a National Diploma in Ballet. Nyamza was named the 2011 Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winner for Dance. She will show her new work at the Baxter Dance Festival in October.

ERNESTINE White, curator

She is the curator of contemporary art at the Iziko South African National Gallery. White obtained her initial curatorial experience working as the exhibitions and senior projects co-ordinator for Parliament’s nation-building initiative, the Parliamentary Millennium Programme, and as a collections manager at the national gallery. She is also an independent artist exhibiting in national and international exhibitions. White has had her artwork included in New York’s Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collection. She holds an Honours degree in curatorship.

MELANIE Scholtz, singer

One of this jazz vocalist’s biggest achievements was recording Freedom’s Child with poet James Matthews. It is an album of jazz adaptations of his poems that was launched last year. Scholtz is probably one of the busiest jazz singers in Cape Town, also releasing a solo album, Our Time, last year. Having come in through the Eoan group where she learnt piano, Scholtz later earned a Performers’ Diploma in Opera (Cum Laude). Scholtz was the 2010 Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz. In 2012 Scholtz won all three prizes in the Jazz Revelations competition as part of the Jazz a Juan Festival held in Nice, France.