



MUSIC IN THE STREETS
of
Kayamandi/Stellenbosch and McGregor
South Africa, 2015





Introduction

Project I: Kayamandi, Stellenbosch/ South Africa

In September 2015, a group of arts students from the Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft Alfter/Bonn under their Professor Dr. Ulrika Eller-Rüter travelled to South Africa at the invitation of Elmarie Costandius of the Visual Arts Department of Stellenbosch University, and I accompanied them as a musician.

Stellenbosch University is placing special focus on examining South Africa's recent history from the "Black and Coloured People's point of view". In the Visual Arts Department, Elmarie Costandius is focussing on this topic in her "Footprints Of Life - Rewriting Art History" courses.

Based on our experience after having worked in social arts projects all over the world since 2008 (KIS Kunst im Sozialen - art from a social point of view), we intended to set up various arts courses, involving the black citizens of Stellenbosch's Kayamandi Township.

Our goal was to collect the stories and points of view of this group of people. I undertook the task of recording people's actively and simply performed everyday music.

Voyou Gijima of the "Kayamandi Creative District" was our contact in the township. He also made contact with township citizens who provided us with rooms for our courses in their homes.

With a small portable recorder or my smartphone, I walked along the streets, asking adults and children to sing their songs into my little microphone. This way I also happened to witness a little school concert in the Town hall, where grade 8-12 students of the local "Makupula High School Kayamandi" gave choir and dance performances on stage. The overly enthusiastic audience was in high spirits. When a dancing chorus happened to pass us by, Ulrika Eller-Rüter spontaneously filmed them.

I met 17-year-old Mkhului, a rapping Xhosa. Together with his friend Songezo, the three of us created and recorded a new song (track 24). For the recording, another friend of the two - Dale- spontaneously joined us, drumming his beats on a table. During our recording, Mkhululi improvised new lyrics.

Translation: Christian Siegel

Introduction

Projekt I: Kayamandi in Stellenbosch/Südafrika

Im September 2015 reiste eine Studentengruppe aus dem Fachbereich Bildende Kunst der Alanus Hochschule, Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft /Alfter bei Bonn und ich als Musiker unter der Leitung von Prof. Dr. Ulrika Eller-Rüter auf Einladung Elmarie Costandius aus dem Fachbereich Visual Arts der Stellenbosch University nach Südafrika.

Die Universität arbeitet in einem groß angelegten Projekt an der Aufarbeitung der Geschichte Südafrikas aus Sicht der Schwarzen und Coloured People. Im Visual Arts Department der Uni vollzieht sich dies am Thema „Footprints Of Life - Rewriting Art History“ unter der Leitung von Elmarie Costandius. Mit unserer Expertise, wir arbeiten seit 2008 in Projekten in aller Welt mit Kunst im Sozialen (KIS), sollten wir in Kayamandi, dem Township in Stellenbosch, mit der schwarzen Bevölkerung in künstlerischen Kursen zusammenarbeiten. Das Ziel war es, Geschichten und Sichtweisen aus der dort lebenden Menschengruppe zu sammeln. Meine Aufgabe bestand darin Musik, die im täglichen Leben eine Rolle spielt, die einfach praktiziert wird, aufzuzeichnen. Unser Ansprechpartner im Township war Voyu Gijima von der Organisation „Kayamandi Creative District“. Er vermittelte uns zu Bewohnern, die Räume in ihren Häusern für die Kurse zur Verfügung stellten.

Mit dem kleinen tragbaren Aufnahmegerät oder dem Smartphone zog ich durch die Straßen, fragte Erwachsene und Kinder nach Liedern, die ich dann aufnahm. Auf diese Weise erlebte ich zufällig auch ein kleines Schulkonzert in der Town Hall der benachbarten Schule „Makupula High School Kayamandi“ mit Schülerinnen und Schülern (Grade 8-12) mit Chorgesang und Tanz. Eine sehr engagierte, über die Maßen laute Zuhörerschaft, trug zur Hochstimmung bei. Ebenfalls spontan entstanden auch die Videos von einer Tanzgruppe, die zufällig auf der Straße auftauchte und von Ulrika Eller-Rüter gefilmt wurde.

Mit dem Xhosa, Mkhului, 17 Jahre alt, traf ich auf einen Rapper, der mit seinem Freund, Songezo, und mir einen neuen Song entwickelte (Trak Nr. 25) und aufnahm. Für die Aufnahme kam spontan ein anderer Freund, Dale, dazu, der auf dem Tisch Rhythmen begleitend trommelte. Während der Aufnahme improvisierte Mkhului neue Texte.

Friedemann Geisler



Song of Mkhululi

Chorus:

I don't know what I am going to be
When I grow up
How do you live without a dream
I don't know
I try and I try and I try
For sure

Verse:

Street and schooling I find it all confusing, mon and dad are gone.
So I do what I be doing.
I wish I read my books.
Just like I learnt these streets.
And what I am going be I think it depends on me.
I am trying find a way to live, I am 17 years old three weeks away.
From my crib can I please send a Rip (rest in peace) to my papa.
Steve I am so real always trying to make a millie (million)
and you'll find me in the streets, nigger believe, cause I try and try
to fit in this life.
I am wrong, sometimes right.
I never chase this life.
Automatically happened this started when I was eleven.
Go to school or meet a bullet halfway.
Oh thank you Lord for this day.
I realise, I am blessed.

Track 23



Song of Mkhululi

Baby girl you are different and I am
jealous 'bout you.
You the type that make a nigger
wanna come back. Are't you?
'U are always on my mind like money,
oh that's lovely.
Maybe you sweet like honey.
Your body like a Ferrari.
I just wish that I could drive it.
And baby, I am really surprised.
I ain't trying fun.
I smile for real baby, when I see you
coming. Your lips look like Rihanna's.
Behind I could never measure. I am
down for whatever.
To meet you it was a pleasure for real.
For you I really feel and I kill girl 'u so
damn hot inside and outside.
Listen I'll hold your hand and I will
kiss your neck.
And you can tell me I'm the best
cause I knew what's next.
No new friend. I put it like that.

Song of Mkhululi

Later going to hate.
I am a homeboy, believe me, I know
what I am talking about.
And the rappers are jealous over a
fellow I staly carvela like spidands
maniger.
Just give me a minute I'll be back in it.
You feel me I ain't really tripping I am
who I am.
You are who you are.
Stop trying to be pac.
Look this ain't life but I am sure that
I am living homie just notice the
difference.
I've been up all night.
I've been trying to get lucky cause I want
the money.
This thing is not funny what's coming
is going, 'u know it.
If you falling just call me I'll do what I
can using what I have.
You should be passing the blunt like
a blessing shit it's interesting you don't
know what happens.
That's why you keep asking.



(3)

haters goin' hate
iam a homeboy believe me i know what iam
talking about.
and the rappers are jelouse over a fellow ^{stabi} I ~~like~~
carvela like spidans manig
Just give me a minute I'll put back in ~~it~~ you feel me
I aint ~~frakky~~ tripin iam who iam, you are
who you are stop trying be pac
look this aint life but iam sure that iam living
Homic just notice the differents I've been up
all ~~night~~ I've been trying get lucky cause I
want the money this ~~shit~~ is not funny
whats coming to gain u know it
if ~~you~~ falling just call me I'll do what I can
using what I have
you should be passing the blame like a blessing
shit is interesting you dont know what happen
thats why you keep ~~askin~~
asking

Song of Mkhululi

I want more

Uh my eyes are like a camera.
But I am human don't compare me to an animal.
And I got feelings, but what I feel is not physical, it's deep
inside.
When two killers meet one must die.
What's a party without a vibe.
I am trying to fight, cause I will fight when it's time to fight.
I am going for the money maniger and I can never stop.
Like I am runing from a cop. It's you from my block.
If you are can you do me a favour.
Tell'm I am not a hater, I am a celebrator.
That throws feelings in the air like I don't give a fudge
nigger what's up.
The jig is up. I heat 'm up.
Naninina (Xhosa: whenever)
It's all about the realest bra I mean it yar you feel me now.
No, no this shit reminds of ma,
oh I step on the floor. Well you know that I got to go.
This a shit really aint easy for you.
I got to go soon as I step on the floor,
you already know am on top of snow and I want more.
They asked me if I write my own songs.
I said yeh cause it was true. You got a gun but can you
shoot?
I am a rapper, I am an actor.
I want to know what about you.
Are you a journalist?
Cause I am what turn niggac into skeletons.
I am a government I tell you what and to whom you may
sell your stuff.
I am positive. To me all these rapper are negative.
Are you high or are you drunk, are you clever or dumb?
Lil Mzonzi (Xhosaname) you my nigger, yes you my nigger.

(4)

I want [↓] more

uh my eyes are like a camera. but I am human
dont compare me to animal
and I got feelings, but what I feel is Not Physical
Its deep inside.

When two killers meet one must die.

Whats a party without a vibe

I AINT tryna fight. ~~this~~ cause I will fight ^{when it's}
I am going for the money manager and I can ^{time to} fight
never stop. like iam runing from a cop. is you
from my block.

if you are can you do me a favour

*tell him
please*

tell ~~man~~ ~~that~~ iam not a hater iam a celebrator
that throws peeling in the air like I dont give a
fucker niggaz wassup. the jig is up. I heat em
up. ~~minimizing~~ *(Xross: whenever)*

its all about the realest bruh I meanit yar
you feel me now

No No this shit reminds of ~~my~~ ~~o~~ mg
oh I step on the floor well you know
that I got go

This shit Rcellly Aint eassy yar
I got to go soon as I step on the
floor you aredy know am ontop of snow
and I want more. they ~~say~~ asked me if I
write my own songs I said yeh cause it
was true. you got a gun but can you shoot
iama rapper ~~acter~~ iam acter I want know ~~what~~
what about you

Are you a Journalist?

cause I am what turn niggaz into skeletons
I am acoverment I tell you what and to whom
you may sell your stuff

I am positive. to me all these rapper are
so negative

are you high or are you drunk
are you clever or dum

lil mzemzi you my niggaz
yes you my niggaz



Songezos Song, written and performed as a lyric

Living my life

I'm living live faithfully without fear,
Pain and suffering is what usually
Plan to wear.....
Being through hell...I feel like
Heaven is almost near.....
Hopefully nothing is done unrepaired
Like wearing jeans with no underwear.....
I'm real...forget it...for real
'U get that I'm mean...no hard feelings
Mr. Bean...cause all I do is win
If you know what I mean....
I stay almost perfect but original
I'm not tedious. I mean what I say,
Say what I mean...Do you feel that
Or so you hear that.....
Imma survive in strong bold
Hard as a rock...hot or cold
I will eat, drink...If it's a real deal.....
Poverty was my breakfast to be,
Hustling is all I could do
Struggling became a good friend to me
And have faith that God will one day
Bless me....

Track 26

My life

written and performed a capella by Mkhululi and Songezo, 29.9.2015, recorded with Dale (DJ) as a percussionist. During the recording they performend new lyrics.

Chorus:

Singer 1: I don't know what I'm going to be. (Songezo)

Singer 2: When I grow up (Mkhululi)

Singer 1: How do you live life without your dreams

Singer 2: I don't know

I try and I try and I try

Singer 1: That's for sure.

Singer 2: I try and I try and I try

Singer 1: Here we go.

Vers: (Mkhululi)

All my life I've been trying to make a living.

No one knows my struggle, they only see the trouble.

I know it's hard to carry on when no one loves you.

My daddy told me to change right now, before it's too late.

I'm old enough I am supposed to put the food on the table.

Cause it was Boika and Saiko, more it's me against the world.

Together we stand all divided then we fall.

I want the money, that's why a nigger up all night

and it's feels damn right and I can never lie.

Chorus:

Singer 1: I don't know what I'm going to be.

Singer 2: When I grow up

Singer 1: How do you live life without your dreams

Singer 2: I don't know

I try and I try and I try

Singer 1: That's for sure.

Singer 2: I try and I try and I try

Singer 1: Here we go.

Vers:

Ah don't dream about your life, my father said, you shoud live your dreams.

And I try and I try and I try that's for sure.

Go to school or meet a bullet half way.

What goes around must come around.

You know that my block stay fine you my homie together.

We grind forever, we shine together in crime there's plenty you can divine

plenty,

if you know what I mean.



Chorus:

Singer 1: I don't know what I'm going to be.
Singer 2: When I grow up
Singer 1: How do you live life without your dreams
Singer 2: I don't know
Singer 1: I try and I try and I try
Singer 2: That's for sure.
Singer 1: I try and I try and I try
Singer 2: Here we go.

Track 25





Projekt II: Breede Centre in McGregor/Südafrika

McGregor ist eine sehr kleine Stadt, ungefähr 200 km nordöstlich von Cape Town. Es leben dort ca. 350 Weiße und 2100 Coloureds, davon 1550 im Squatter Camp.

Im Ort gibt es den „Breede Centre“. Er bietet den Coloureds eine Möglichkeit, sich weiter zu qualifizieren, u.a. in Computerarbeit oder im Schreinerhandwerk.

Kathleen Verschoore, Fundraiserin des Breede Centre, lud uns zum wiederholten Mal ein. Es war unsere Aufgabe, für die Kinder des Squatter Camps ein Ferienangebot zu machen. In verschiedenen Workshops, Malerei, Graphik, Theater, Nähen und Musik, gab es Angebote. Alle Inhalte der Kurse orientierten sich an der Geschichte „Shoemaker“. Sie bildete den Rahmen für die Aktivitäten, so dass am Ende der Woche eine kleine Performance an drei verschiedenen Orten aufgeführt werden konnte. Die Story war von Ulrika Eller-Rüter entwickelt und ist von Kathleen Verschoore in Afrikaans übersetzt worden. Die Lieder, die in der Geschichte vorkommen, vertonte ich zu kleinen drei- vierstimmigen Kanons.

Parallel dazu sammelte ich bei verschiedenen Gelegenheiten Musikaufnahmen von Sologesängen und einem Chor. Dies war möglich, da bei den vorangegangenen Besuchen Kontakte entstanden waren.

Friedemann Geisler

Projekt II: Breede Centre in McGregor/Südafrika

McGregor is a tiny town, about 200 kilometers northwest of Cape Town. There are about 350 white people and 2100 coloured people living in McGregor, and 1550 of the coloured population live in a Squatter Camp.

The “Breede Centre” is located in the town. It offers various possibilities of further education to the “Coloured” people, such as computing and carpentry.

Kathleen Verschoore, the Breede Centre’s fundraiser, had invited us to visit again. This time we were asked to set up a children’s holiday programme for the Squatter Camp. We offered different workshops such as painting, art design, theatre, sewing, and music. All our workshops were based on the story of the “Shoemaker”. Within this framework, we were able to stage a little performance in three different places. The story had been written by Ulrika Eller Rüter, and translated into Afrikaans by Kathleen Verschoore. I converted the songs of the story into 3- and 4-part canons.

At the same time, I used different opportunities to collect recordings of solo performances and a choir. Thanks to contacts we established on our earlier visits, we were able to work very successfully in this way.

Translation: Christian Siegel



(1)

Baby girl you are ~~delicious~~ ^{delicious} and I am jealous
 Bout you
 You the type that make a nigger wanna come
 Back. Arent? you
 u are always on my mind like money ohh
 that lovely
 maybe you sweet like honey your body like a fern
 I just wish that I could drive it
 And Baby I am ~~because~~ ^{because} serious, I ain't trying fun
 I shille for real baby when I ~~see~~ ^{see} you coming
 your lip look like rhinoceros behind I could never
 Measure, I am down for whatever
 to meet you it was a pleasure
 for real
 for you I ~~fucken~~ ^{fucken} feel and I kill
 girl u so damn hot
 inside and outside
 listen I'll hold your hand and and I will kiss
 your neck and you can tell me ~~best~~ ^{best} cause
 I know what's best. No New Friends. I put it
 like that.



1/10/07

LEAVING MY WIFE

- I living like faithfully without fear
Pain and Suffering is what usually
Plan to wear.....
- Being through Hell... I feel like
Heaven is almost near... :-
- Hopefully nothing is done unprepared
Like "Wearing Jeans with no Underwear.."
- I'm real... forgot "I" for Real
U get that I'm mean.. no hard feelings
no bear.. Course All I do is win
If you know what I mean.....
- I pray ~~nothing~~ perfect but Original
I'm not Jealous.. I mean what I say
Say what I mean.. Do you feel that
or do you hear that....
- I'mma survive.. im strong & bold,
Hard as a rock... Hot or cold
I'll eat, Drink... It's a real deal.....
- Poverty was my breakfast to be
Musting is all I could do
Struggling became a good friend to me
Had Have Faith that God will one day
Bless me.....







Track 1: 1st Schoolchoir
Track 2: 1st Schoolchoir
Track 3: 1st Schoolchoir

Track 4: Dancegroup from the school
Track 5: Dancegroup from the school
Track 6: Dancegroup from the school
Track 7: Dancegroup from the school

Track 8: 2nd Schoolchoir
Track 9: 2nd Schoolchoir
Track 10: 2nd Schoolchoir
Track 11: 2nd Schoolchoir
Track 12: 2nd Schoolchoir

Track 13: Live recordings (video) with a choir from McGregor: „We are going to an new Jerusalem“
Track 14: Live recordings (video) with a choir from McGregor: „Do you remember“

Track 15: Familychoir: „Ngizolibonga“ (Xhosa) Gospel
Track 16: Familychoir: „The Night In The Darkness“ Gospel
Track 17: Familychoir „Falling in love“ Gospel

Track 18: Mkhululi, song
Track 19: Mkhululi, song
Track 20: Mkhululi, song
Track 21: Mkhululi, song
Track 22: Mkhululi, song
Track 23: Mkhululi, song
Track 24: Mkhululi, song
Track 25: Mkhululi and Songezo with Dale (perc.): „My Life“
Track 26: Songezo „ Living My Life“

Track 27: Young children in the street
Track 28: Young children in the street
Track 29: Young children in the street
Track 30: Young children in the street
Track 31: Young children in the street
Track 32: Young children in the street
Track 33: Young children in the street
Track 34: Young children in the street
Track 35: Young children in the street

Track 36: a live recording (video) with singers in McGregor
Track 37: a live recording (video) with Ruwayda and Elmarie in McGregor: „I trust where I cannot see lord“
Track 38: a live recording (video) with Ruwayda and Elmarie in McGregor

Track 39: Dancer (video)
Track 40: Dancer (video)
Track 41: Dancer (video)
Track 42: Dancer (video)
Track 43: Dancer (video)
Track 45: Dancer (video)
Track 46: Dancer (video)

Impressum

Collection & concept, text, layout: Friedemann Geisler

Idea and concept „Footprints of Life -Rewriting Art History: Ulrika Eller-Rüter

Foto, Video: Ulrika Eller-Rüter, Friedemann Geisler

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