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Kennel 92

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Festival not so 'jazzed up'

Headline acts were a no show.

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All alone: Sibongile Khumalo was the only diva to arrive at the much published 'Divas' Evening.



Jazz lovers: Shadreck Xolo with MEC Weziwe Thusi's husband, Nhanhla, enjoying some music at the Ugu Jazz Festival.



Enjoying themselves:

Mafika Motshwa (left) and Molly Masinga dance to the sounds of Zakes Bantwini at the Diva's Evening.

LAST weekend's highly publicised Ugu Jazz Festival has met with mixed reactions, with at least one of the events - the Divas' Evening - being branded a 'total flop'.

Jazz lovers throughout the country were wooed to attend the Divas' Concert at the Ugu Sports Grounds on Friday night, organisers Cyassound promising that at least four 'big names' would entertain the expected crowds.

The Herald team putting the pre-publicity together even debated whether 'Divas' should have the apostrophe before or after the 's'.

As it turned out, the apostrophe before the 's' would have been more correct as only 'diva' pitched up.

Those who braved a rather chilly night had to be satisfied with Sibongile Khumalo on her own, except for host DJ Zakes Bantwini backing her up.

A rather irate audience shouted: 'lento eniyenzayo asiyihandi' (meaning: 'We don't like what you are doing'). Other much loved jazz icons Judith Septhuma, Thandiswa Mazwai and Zama Jobe were nowhere to be seen.

However, the main event the following day



Great sound: Zakes Bantwini performing at the Ugu Jazz Festival.



Well done: All the way from Tunisia, Nabil Khamir left jazz lovers chanting for more.

proved to be more of a hit, although also not without its temper tantrums.

Local artist Naima Key refused to perform as she was relegated to a smaller stage.

Sources said the Metro award-winning artist spent about five hours sitting in her car waiting to be called. Meanwhile, her manager was frantically trying to negotiate for her to be moved to the main stage... but in vain.

Regardless of the backstage wrangling, the large crowd did love Tunisian Nabil Khamir who, to many, was the superstar of the festival.

South African superstar Lira was supposed to be the main drawcard and organisers swore that she was there to perform. However, she was, many missed her performance.

Siya Msomi of Cyassound acknowledged that there were some 'irregularities'.

"The main problem we had was with the transportation for the artists. Secondly, the idea of two stages was new and now we realise we still have a lot to learn," he said.

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Margate trashed

MARGATE was trashed after last Friday's 'Jazz Shandis' at Backintheight club, but high praise must go to the organisers and Hibiscus Coast Municipality for clearing up the mess in record time.

The event was organised by Superwukwuz Trading & Projects, owned by Bongani Zakuza (also known as Dj 10), together with kwaito artist Professor Langa.

However, Cyassound

Holdings - the official Ugu Jazz Festival organisers, unfairly took the blame.

"Liquor bottles, papers and used condoms were all over Marine

Liquor bottles, papers and torn condoms were all over Marine Drive.

drive and some parts of Margate beach. It was filthy, even in front of some shops," said irate business owners.

A regular at one coffee shop said she just couldn't stand the filth, so she just returned home.

Organiser Bongani Zakuza confirmed Cyassound had nothing to do with the event.

"Our team also helped clean the town the following morning. They started as early as 6am and when HCM staff arrived much of the work had been done. We must understand that that people get excited at these events and, unfortunately, litter is inevitable and beyond our control."

Simon April, HCM spokesman, said the event was organised at private property and the municipality was not part of the planning.

However, municipal manager Maxwell Mbili praised his staff for a super effort to clean up.

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