

Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Awards 2023

In his 30th year on the Fringe, Mervyn Stutter has announced his Spirit of the Fringe Awards – the MERVs – chosen from all the genres who have performed here.

This year's winners are Horizon Showcase: *Birthmarked*, *Ian Stone Will Make It Better*, *Death Suits You*, *N.Ormes*, *Goodbye Uncle Fudgey*, *Al Porter: A Work in Progress*, *A Migrant's Son*, and *Yes-Ya-Yebo!*

There was outstanding new music from the gig theatre show which has rocked the Fringe, **Horizon Showcase: *Birthmarked***.

Performed by Brook Tate and his band of five, this pick of the Fringe depicts the narrative of a young Jehovah's Witness who comes to terms with his sexuality and finds his feet (and high heels...) on the stage.



Brook Tate

The provocative, dysfunctional and tender winners *N.Ormes* pushes the limits of gender norms, through jaw-dropping acrobatics. Skilfully combining acrobatics and dance, this show follows two protagonists and their relationship, navigating between complicity and power struggles.

Yes-Ya-Yebo! rounds out the list of well-deserved winners in a celebration of the 12 official languages of South Africa, all explored through the medium of song and dance, from traditional folk songs and dances such as *The Click Song* and *Kwela-Kwela* to modern songs sprinkled with that township vibe!



Mervyn Stutter PHOTO by Steve Best