



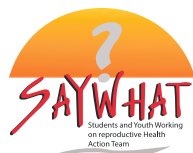
**1ST
EDITION**

CHOICES



THE CHASE & CRAFT

2022-23



**Sweden
Sverige**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A4C	Action for Choice
AHF	AIDS Healthcare Foundation
ZBC	Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation
CRAFT	Creative Reproductive health Arts Festival for Transformation
ECOZI	Education Coalition of Zimbabwe
FACET	Farming Community Education Trust
GBV	Gender Based Violence
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MSU	Midlands State University
NAC	National AIDS Council
NCC	National Coordinating Committee
PZAT	Pangaea Zimbabwe Education Trust
PSEAH	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
PSH	Population Services Health
PSZ	Population Services Zimbabwe
SAFAIDS	Southern Africa AIDS Dissemination Service
SASI	Speak And Solve Initiative
SAT	SRHR Africa Trust
SAYWHAT	Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team
SRC	Sexual Rights Centre
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
YALI	Young African Leadership Initiative
YPN	Young People's Network



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT), in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe, proudly presented the thrilling inaugural season of the CHASE competitions, and the first edition of Creative Reproductive health Arts Festival for Transformation (CRAFT) in 2022. The competitions ran under the theme "Amplifying Young People's Voices on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) through Art" with the objective of identify and nurturing young people's artistic talents and increasing young people's knowledge and agency through dissemination of real-time SRH-GBV information.

The CHASE competitions were promoted and took place across 6 SAYWHAT administrative provinces - Harare, Mashonaland, Manicaland, Masvingo, Midlands and Bulawayo from the 25th of May to the 3rd of June 2023 gaining a total of 347 participants from as young as 10years. 36 (19 Male and 17 Female between the age of 15-24) provincial winners emerged within the categories of music, drama, poetry, and public speaking (1 drama, 1 music, 1 poetry and 3 drama winners/ province). SAYWHAT supported the provincial winners with a 12-week mentorship program in preparation for showcasing their talents and competing for the national championship within their respective categories at CRAFT.

CRAFT was held at Harare Gardens on the 22nd of October 2022. The significant event received wide attention with a record of 1,700 registered attendees among them SRH stakeholders including the Ministry of Women Affairs, National AIDS Council (NAC), Zimbabwe National Family Council (ZNFPC), and the various civil society organizations. Stakeholders supported both the provincial CHASE and CRAFT competitions providing students and youth with SRH-GBV information and responsive services including HIV testing and counselling, demonstrations of use and distribution of condoms, and contraceptives.

7 national winners - 2 music, 1 poetry, 1 public speaking, 3 drama emerged at CRAFT and the young talents were again supported with a comprehensive training workshop - a weeklong bootcamp in September 2023. During the bootcamp, the 7 were exposed to master classes from internationally renowned artist and by the end of the bootcamp they produced their final products - a 30-minute short film titled "CHOICES" and its theme soundtrack titled "iThemba" an isiNdebele language that mean "HOPE". The CHASE and the CRAFT were intentional in increasing young people's participation in SRH-GBV advocacy and improving young people's access to SRH-GBV information. Students and youth took ownership of the SRH-GBV content creation, and their peers related with it provoking post-screening/ viewership/ listenership dialogues and meaningful conversations that promote social behavioral change towards health seeking behaviors.



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INTRODUCTION



With support from the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe, Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) under the Action for Choice Phase II launched the first season of the CHASE and the first edition of the Creative Reproductive health Arts Festival for Transformation (CRAFT) in 2022.

Since 2007, SAYWHAT has used the arts industry among other models to promote the health and well-being of young people through the creation and dissemination of high-quality content. Essay competitions have been used to present writing skills of students and youth on sexual reproductive health and Gender Based Violence (SRH-GBV) issues affecting them. Winning essays are published in the quarterly newsletter, The Observer. Billboard challenges are also implemented allowing students and youth to create artwork depicting SRH-GBV issues and the winning incumbents work are displayed on billboards throughout Zimbabwe.

In the years 2019/20, SAYWHAT implemented initiatives such as Condomize! Riddims and Call Center jingle competitions, where renowned artists were identified to create content alongside students and youth that would appeal to young people and encourage them to make informed choices. Recognizing arts as a powerful mobilization and informative tool to increase young people's participation in SRH-GBV advocacy, enhancing young people's access to quality SRH-GBV information and considering the COVID-19 restrictions on movement which demanded virtual programming, SAYWHAT commissioned the Studio of Choice in 2021.

The studio of Choice is a space where young people can amplify their voices, beliefs, demands on SRH-GBV information through art. With the establishment of the studio and the growing artistic talents among young people being observed the CHASE and the CRAFT was born. The CHASE aim is to identify talented young people in and out of school that would take lead in advancing SRH-GBV advocacy through artistic content creation and dissemination. Identified talents are graced with an opportunity to be nurtured and mentored by renowned artist through collaboration and at CRAFT they can show case their products to the public. Participating young people gain traction in mainstream arts industries and can live meaningful lives by utilizing their talents.

1. The first season of the CHASE and the CRAFT ran under the theme. **"Amplifying Young People's Voices on SRH and GBV through Art"** and had the following key objectives:
2. To identify and nurture students' and youth artistic talents and allow them an opportunity to realize their economic goals through sponsored mentorship and collaboration with well-established artists.
3. To increase young people's knowledge and agency through the dissemination of age-appropriate and real-time SRH-GBV information.



ABOUT THE CHASE & CRAFT COMPETITIONS



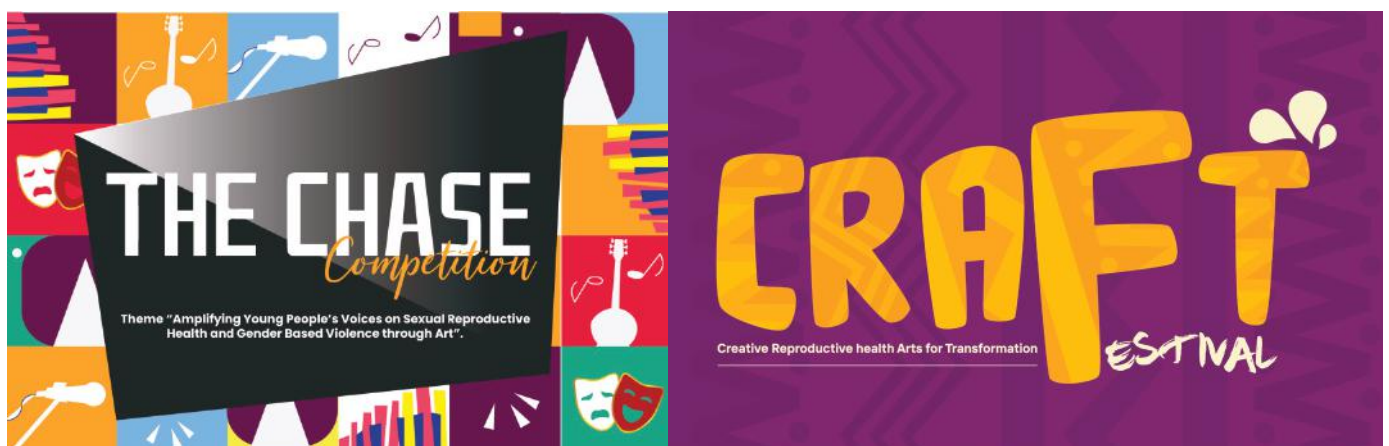
Through social media and traditional media, students and youth are encouraged to register in SAYWHAT's six administrative provinces (Manicaland, Mashonaland, Harare, Bulawayo, Midlands, and Masvingo) to compete in a competition called 'The Chase' to showcase their artistic abilities in music, poetry, public speaking, and drama categories.

The CHASE pursues an unlimited number of artistically talented students and young people in Zimbabwe's various communities, bringing them together to compete at the provincial level. Provincial winners (1 public speaking, 3 drama, 1 music and 1 poetry) are nurtured through a financed mentorship program for 12 weeks, developing epic informative SRH-GBV products.

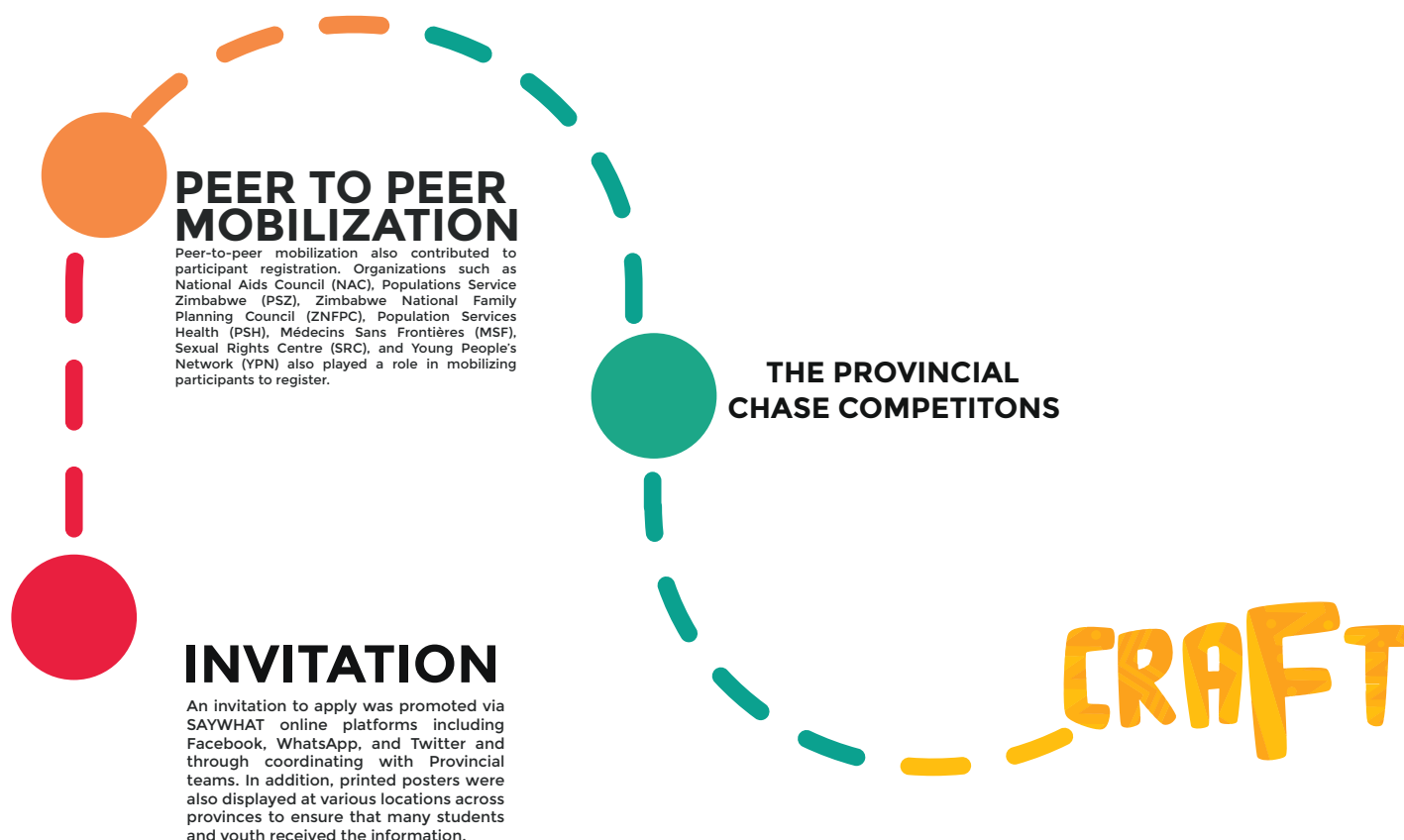
Post mentorship 36 participants from six (6) provinces show case their products at CRAFT competing for the national championship in each category.

The national winners (1 public speaking, 3 drama, 1 music and 1 poetry) through a bootcamp process, are mentored and collaborate with seasoned artist to produce quality SRH-GBV content.

The final SRH-GBV product is broadcasted and disseminated through SAYWHAT online platforms, traditional mediums and with the help of collaborating seasoned artists to reach peers and raise awareness on the issue to relevant stakeholders including the government and development partners thereby contributing to the improvement of young people's health and well-being in Zimbabwe and beyond. National winners are supported to secure short- and long-term employment opportunities within SAYWHAT commemorations and health fairs.



THE ROAD TO CRAFT



3.2 The Provincial CHASE competitions

Each of the six SAYWHAT administrative provinces hosted a competition. A panel of adjudicators comprised of two provincial members and one national all-rounder nominee. The national individual's role was to oversee and ensure that the initiative's objectives and alignment with organizational goals were maintained, while the provincial adjudicators were chosen to ensure that the competitions noted and preserved the diverse cultural beliefs without disadvantage to the participants.

3.2.1 Harare Province

The Harare province CHASE competition was held on May 25, 2022, with a total of 70 (39M: 31F) participants. One participant had a disability out of the total. Participants came from Epworth, Chitungwiza, and Ushewekunze, among other nearby suburbs from both high- and low-density areas. Harare Province also drew children as young as ten years old to participate. In general, the mood was upbeat both inside and outside of the studio of choice.

Table 1: Harare Province winners



3.2.2. Mashonaland Province

The Mashonaland CHASE Competition took place on May 26, 2022, at the Studio of Choice in Harare. Only 14 (7F:7M) physically participated. Eleven more contestants submitted their performances online, bringing the total number of participants to 25. Nonetheless, contestants for The Chase competition came from as far away as Chinhoyi, Mvurwi, Glendale, Shamva, and Guruve.

Table 2: Mashonaland Province Winners

Category	Age	Contestant Name	Gender
Public speaking	19	Tariro Mugona	Female
Drama	22	Allen Chimhoswa	Male
	22	Pennlogias Chibushe	Female
Music	22	Tamiranashe Dewa	Male
Poetry	23	Bridget Mabondiani	Female

3.2.3 Manicaland Province

Manicaland Province hosted its CHASE competitions on May 28, 2022, at Mutare Courthauld Theatre, with over 79 (30M: 49F) contestants in attendance. Participants came from Zimunya, Chikanga-Dangamvura, and other surrounding areas.

Table 3: Manicaland Province winners

Category	Age	Contestant Name	Gender
Public speaking	13	Alyssa Chikorese	Female
Drama	12	Tanniel Muusha	Female
	12	Lizel Nyambiya	Female
	12	Tinotenda Mujeketwa	Male
Music	21	Lee Chitsinde	Male
Poetry	24	Handrick Foroma	Male

3.2.4 Masvingo Province

On May 30, 2022, the CHASE competition was held at Masvingo Sports Club. The competition drew 61 participants (26F:35M).

Category	Age	Contestant Name	Gender
Public speaking	22	Matthias Nyamande	Male
Drama	24	Mike Kanyemba	Male
	24	Panashe Makusha	Male
	19	Rumbidzai Jopoto	Female
Music	15	Mitchel Munyai	Female
Poetry	19	Lisah Sibanda	Female

3.2.5 Midlands Province

On June 1, 2022, the Midlands Province CHASE competitions were held at Gweru Theatre. The competition drew a total of 58 competitors (25F:33M). Young people traveled from as far as Zvishavane, Shurugwi, and Mkoba.

Category	Age	Contestant Name	Gender
Public speaking	19	Rodwell Madondo	Male
Drama	22	Brandon Dumbo	Male
	19	Tafadzwa Mavhura	Male
	23	Abiartha Zulu	Male
Music	20	Rafiq Satiya	Male
Poetry	21	Literacy Nyoni	Males

3.2.6 Bulawayo Province

Bulawayo Province hosted The CHASE competition on the 3rd of June 2022 at Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), Sabela Studio at Mambazo Hall. Young people braved the cold weather with a total of 54 contestants (26F:28M) showing up.

Category	Age	Contestant Name	Gender
Public speaking	19	Blessing Mutemachani	Female
Drama	23	Loveness Ncube	Female
	23	Irvin Mandiware	Male
	23	Sibusisiwe Mpofu	Female
Music	23	Simphiwe Masuku	Male
Poetry	18	Pretty Tshuma	Female

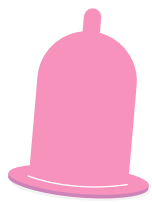
3.3 Observations on the CHASE competitions

In total, 100% of those who registered for provincial CHASE competitions took part, with 36 winning across all provinces. There was a full representation of all ages from the participants, with the youngest participant being ten (10) years old. Midlands State University (MSU) Zvishavane Campus supported 40 students with transport to and from the venue. In addition, local schools from the Midlands Province also supported their children to attend the competition showing how important the competition was to these stakeholders.

Throughout the competition, young people demonstrated their ability to incorporate emerging issues like sexual harassment, and harmful cultural practices in their performances. Manicaland province had the highest turnout as compared to the other 5 provinces and it was the only province where a young man with a disability won. Midlands Province showed their prowess in the drama category with some plays leaving audiences and the judges' panel in emotional tears. A 10-year-old girl from Shurugwi received a standing ovation from the audience and the judges after an excellent performance.

3.4 Stakeholder Support

Various stakeholders in the realm of SRH-GBV programming supported the provincial chase competitions providing SRH information and services to students and youth including HIV testing, pregnancy testing, condom use demonstrations, distribution of condoms, sanitary pads, and contraceptives. Medicine Sans Frontiers (MSF) supported Harare Province where as NAC, PSH, PSZ, SRC, YPN and ZNFPC supported the Masvingo and Midlands province. Lastly, Bulawayo province was supported by AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF).



1985
CONDOMS WERE
DISTRIBUTED.



19
YOUNG PEOPLE WERE TESTED
HIV & RECEIVED COUNSELLING



19
FEMALES RECEIVED DIFFERENT
METHODS OF CONTRACEPTIVES.



179
RECEIVED SRH
INFORMATION.



2
PREGNANCY
TESTS DONE

3.5 The Mentorship Program

The mentorship program for the 36 young people who qualified for CRAFT began in July 2022 with sessions going on for 12 consecutive weeks. The provinces had different mentors for their young people and categories, with names like Comic Pastor (Drama), Adiona Chidzonga (Music), Andrew Manyika (Poetry), and Trynos Dongo (Public Speaking) on the list.

In their modules, the mentees discussed why art was important, its role in addressing life issues, and how young artists could use art to influence positive behavior change. Mentees discussed time management and how they can create brands that are sustainable and how to monetize their brands. Mentorship sessions were held both online and in-person to ensure that the mentor and mentees had constant interaction. Lectures, demonstrations, and performances were used to deliver the sessions.

“The mentorship program was very well designed. I met my mentor daily. Muzvare Makoni exposed me to Heroes and Defense Forces holiday event to observe speeches and perfect my skills. I give her a score of 80% for her wonderful work. My future aspirations are to become a prominent public speaker and be internationally recognized”

Alyssa Chikorese, Manicaland

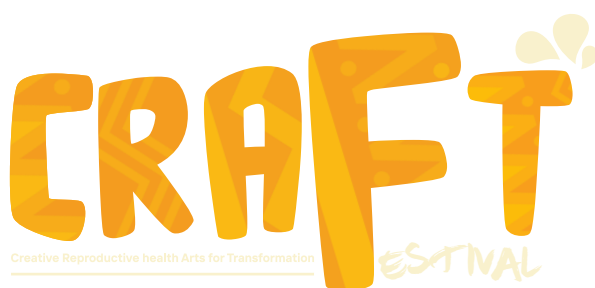


THE CRAFT



The first edition of CRAFT was promoted through SAYWHAT online platforms, and national radio stations inviting young people and the public to witness the 36 provincial winners showcase their talents and compete for the national championship in each category. The significant event that was held at Harare Gardens from 22 October 2022, was graced with a total 1,700 people.

CRAFT featured three (3) seasoned adjudicators with wealth of experience Blessing Ndlovu (poetry and public speaking), Anita Jan (music), and Nigel Maritinyu (drama). Seasoned artist including Aleck Macheso, Anita Jackson, Enzo Ishall, and Freeman were invited and provided entertainment during CRAFT.



The Ambassador to the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe, Asa Pehrson delivered the keynote address on the occasion. Asa Pehrson praised SAYWHAT for successfully hosting its inaugural reproductive health talent festival, increasing young people's participation in SRH-GBV advocacy, and improving young people's access to SRH-GBV information. In addition, the ambassador encouraged the government of Zimbabwe, development partners and civil society organizations to listen, understand, and respond to the various messages conveyed by young people during their performances.

Poetry and public speaking competitors took the stage first, followed by drama and music all performances displaying SRH-GBV content. Drama performers were allowed 10 minutes to showcase their work, while music, poetry, and public speaking had a 6-minute limit.

Table 7: CRAFT winners

Category	Full Names & Gender	Gender	Province
Music	Tamiranashe Dewa	Male	Mashonaland
Public Speaking	Rafiq Satiya	Male	Midlands
Poetry	Bridgetti Mambondiani	Female	Mashonaland
Drama	Sihle Masuku	Female	Bulawayo
Drama	Irvine Mandirawe	Male	Bulawayo
Drama	Sibusisiwe Anna Mpofo	Female	Bulawayo



MENTORSHIP OF CRAFT WINNERS & RECORDING OF FINAL PRODUCTS



To ensure CRAFT winners produce quality SRH-GBV artistic products that can be disseminated to peers and the public, SAYWHAT supported them with a week-long comprehensive training workshop - bootcamp. The bootcamp took place at Pandhari Lodge from the 19th to 25th of September 2023 linking CRAFT winners with seasoned artists, who delivered master classes on the respective categories and aided in the development and recording of a singular final product inclusive of all categories.

The runner up in the music category Simphiwe Masuku (male, Bulawayo Province) was invited for the bootcamp to join the 6 winners and enhance the production of a music product that is inclusive of Shona and isiNdebele as the two major languages spoken in Zimbabwe. Regardless of the category of national championship, all 7 winners received mentorship in all disciplines with the sessions taking place from morning till evenings.

The first day of the bootcamp began with sensitizing the CRAFT winners and their mentors on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy. SAYWHAT has a “Zero Tolerance” approach to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and does not allow any partner, supplier, sub-contractor, agent, or any individual engaged by SAYWHAT to engage in any form of sexual abuse or exploitation against vulnerable or other adults associated with its work. All persons (including children and adults) have the equal right to protection regardless of any personal characteristic, including their age, gender, ability, culture, racial origin, religious belief, and sexual identity.

5.1 Selection of Mentors

5.1.1 Public Speaking and Poetry: Rutendo Denise Mutsamwarira

Rutendo Denise Mutsamwira is a multi- platform creator, award-winning spoken word and voice artist, broadcaster, and writer helping Africa focused businesses and individuals to tell their brand stories clearly and authentically through spoken word, writing and broadcasting. Mutsamwira creates and curates’ content which contributes towards an increased awareness, reverence and knowledge of Zimbabwean history, culture, and indigenous ancestral knowledge systems.

Mutsamwarira’s recent works include “For such a time as this” the piece that celebrates the Coronation of the new King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms. Supported by the British Council Cultural Economy Programme, For such a time as this combines music, animation and spoken word in honour and celebration of King Charles III.





Delivering a 4-hour master class, during the first day of the bootcamp, Mutsamwira guided all the CRAFT winners on how to write poems within one's environment or within minimal resources, script development, packaging, and audience engagement. To complement theory, the winners were divided into 2 groups and asked to develop an impromptu poem and present it to the class.

Group A - Sibusisiwe, Simphiwe and Tamiranashe

Group B - Bridgetti, Irvine, Rafiq and Sihle

Both groups demonstrated skill and expertise in developing a script within a short time and presenting a collective effort with a mix of music and drama.

5.1.2 Drama: Joe Njagu

Joe Njagu is a Zimbabwean filmmaker who directed his debut feature film *Lobola* in 2010, which paved the way for a new chapter of independent filmmaking in Zimbabwe. His next feature film, *The Gentleman*, won him Best Foreign Language Director at the America International Film Festival and Best Film at the NAMA awards in 2012. In 2014, Njagu was listed among the top 35 under 35 in Media in Africa by the non-profit Young Professionals in International Affairs. He is also a Mandela Washington Fellow, and alumni of the flagship program of President Barack Obama's Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI).

Njagu has directed several other feature films, including *Something Nice from London*, *Escape*, *Tete B* and *The Letter*. One of his famous works includes producing the multi award winning film *Cook Off* - the first Zimbabwean film to be acquired by Netflix. Delivering a 4-hour master class on the first day, Njagu demonstrated the process of script and character development with a case study of his recent works, the film *Ngoda* released in March 2023.



5.1.3 Music: Feli Nandi accompanied by producer Alicious Ali

Feli Nandi is a musician who gained popularity and national radio airplay to her singles in 2020. Since 2020, she has performed at major music events in Zimbabwe and has toured South Africa, Togo, and the UK, for the JamAfro Family Festival Show. She has been nominated for Best Album and Best Female artist at the 2023 Zimbabwe Music Awards and she won the later. She also won the award for Best alternative single at the Star FM Music Awards.





CRAFT BOOT CAMP

Mentorship with Feli Nandi (Musician)

Alicious Ali is a well-known music producer who has produced several beats including some of Feli Nandi’s hit songs. Feli and Alicious master class, lyric development and recording of the soundtrack took 2-days, day 2 and 3 of the bootcamp. Day 2 involved, listening to the duo’s work, and their creative process to writing and recording of musical content. In addition, CRAFT winners were also sensitized on some on the arts industry know-how that contribute to building and maintain a successful brand.

Day 3, began with Feli and the 7 winners developing SRH-GBV lyrics were all 7 winners contributed despite Tamiranashe and Simpiwe being the winners for the music category. While Bridgetti, Irvine, Sibusisiwe, and Rafiq contributed with poetry and public speaking verses, Sihle joined Feli and the two young musicians with musical verses.

5.1.3.1 iThemba soundtrack

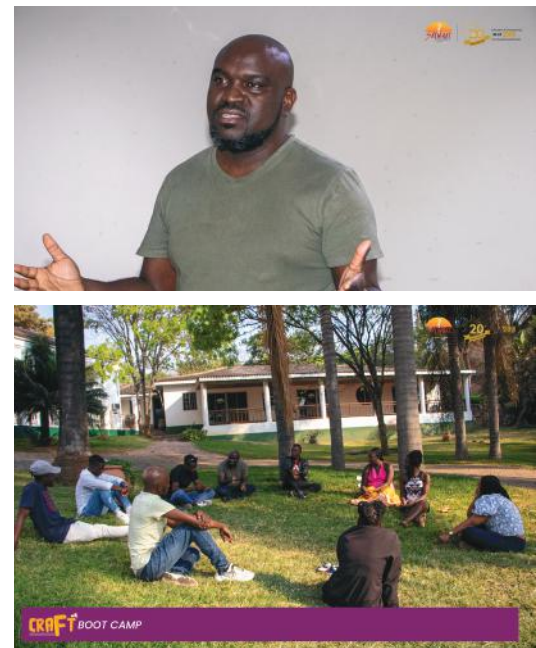
Following the development of lyrics, Alicious developed a beat and recorded a 3minute 34 seconds soundtrack titled “iThemba”. IThemba is an isiNdebele language that means “HOPE” in English. The soundtrack features all 7 winners and Feli Nandi. With the soundtrack iThemba, the CRAFT winners acknowledged the SRH-GBV that students and youth face and aimed to encourage resilience among their peers. IThemba discourages young people from attempting or committing suicides but to amplify their voices on their health rights. IThemba envisions that with determination generations of healthy and empowered young people can be achieved. The soundtrack is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYwVuqqZSMA>.

5.1.4 Creative Producer: Ian P Universal

Ian P Universal is a young vibrant media development company with experience spanning over 18 years of groundbreaking media concepts mainly in mainstream television to now the digital innovation. The company owns over 18 primetime media properties with the global legacy media properties such as NSQC™ National Schools Quiz Championships which is open to every school in the world and has awarded over R5.7million in scholarships to participating school quiz teams. Now NSQC™ is franchised into NSQC™ America, NSQC™ UK, NSQC™ Australia, NSQC™ South Africa, NSQC™ Zimbabwe, NSQC™ Zambia to NSQC™ Swaziland and NSQC™ East West Africa all broadcasting in 92 countries.

With a track record of successfully directing the productions of SAYWHAT National Quiz Challenge and the Speak And Solve Initiative (SASI) debate, Ian P Universal was entrusted with connecting the various master classes delivered by Mutsamwarira, Njagu, Feli and Alicious, directing the script and character development and the production of the final product – a 30-minute short film that would feature all 7 winners and iThemba as the short film theme song.

Ian P Universal began day 4 conditioning participants on self-actualization, the power of imagination, and establishing a vision/ end goal of the bootcamp. Through Ian P Universal's leadership, the CRAFT winners developed the characters and script of the SRH-GBV short film, and the day ended with script table reading. Ian P Universal directed the recording of the short film titled "CHOICES" during day 5 and 6.



5.1.4.1 Choices Short film

Choices available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJu2DPMffvQ&t=734s> depicts SRH-GBV issues that students and youth face in institutions and encourages young people to make smart choices and avoid risky behaviours that has dire consequences to their health and well-being.

Choices follows the life of four young students Amanda, Ishe, Zviko and Themba and the choices they make while pursuing their tertiary education on a college campus.

Amanda chooses to go on a date with a young man she met online, Ishe. Ishe under the influence of illicit drugs sexually abuses Amanda on their first date and chokes her into unconsciousness. With the fear, that he had killed Amanda, Ishe solicits her sister's help Zviko to dispose Amanda's body.

Themba, a poor student chooses to live with Zviko (Ishe's sister) his girlfriend, in what is referred to as a "semester marriage" (cohabitation) due to the anticipated benefits that Zviko can give him - access to a laptop, cell phone, headphones, Wi-Fi, nice clothes, free rentals, and free food. The benefits however, come at a cost on his mental wellbeing due to Zviko's verbal and physical abuse.

The themes depicted in the short film explore the cause and effect of SRH-GBV issues among young people including: -

In the case of Amanda and Ishe

The nexus between drug and substance abuse and sexual violence

Date rape / Intimate partner violence and the importance of consent and protection to prevent STIs and HIV/AIDS

The safety concerns of online dating and mental well-being post a gender-based violence encounter.

In the case of Themba and Zviko

Young men as victims of gender-based violence which affect their mental well-being.

The spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS among students because of semester marriages.

The importance of peer education to improve access to SRH-GBV information and responsive services.

PROMOTION OF CHOICES & IT'S THEME SONG iThemba



To complete the first season of the CHASE and the first edition of the CRAFT with the goal of disseminating Choices and iThemba, promoting the talented and young content creators and call for collective action in response to the SRH-GBV issues being faced by young people, the two final products were released for public consumption during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Annually, the commemoration run from the 25th of November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10th December, Human Rights Day.

First, Choices was launched at Ster-Kinekor Joina City in Harare on the 25th of November 2023 and Ster-Kinekor Bulawayo on the 27th of November 2023. Young people from Harare and Bulawayo were mobilized for screening of the short film in these two major cities first before the release to the public through SAYWHAT You Tube platform. Young people in attendance were engaged in a post-screening dialogue in pursuit of meaningful conversation regarding the SRH-GBV themes raised in the short film.

The struggles faced by Amanda and Themba in Choices sparked conversations with young people relating and confiding to having experienced similar situations or know someone who faced/ is facing similar situations. Depiction of the consequences of choices that young people often take at college promoted the need for behavioural change among young people. In addition to the launch, Choices was also screened for young people's consumption during the SAYWHAT 2023 National Students Conference in commemoration of the World AIDS Day on the 1st of December 2023. Addressing his peers, National Coordinating Committee (NCC) Chairperson, post-screening of the short film, Panashe Chandiwana highlighted that everyone deserved to be loved and as young people they need to build stronger communities that care for one another, reduce stigmas, and promote SRH-GBV advocacy to promote their health and well-being.

Choices and iThemba was released to the public through SAYWHAT You Tube on the 27th of November 2023, post the Bulawayo launch. By the end of December 2023, the short film had gained 1,100 views and over 50 comments while iThemba gained 700 views and 40 comments. Young people shared pride in content created by their peers and appreciated the arts methodology of amplifying SRH-GBV advocacy.

“Choices choices choices, the abuse at Res is beyond belief. Thank you, guys, for this powerful piece”
@surprisemoyo188



“Young people telling our daily stories. It could not have been done in a better way. Thank you looking forward to more”
@stayahmfombe1722

“I became a fan after watching the movie after this masterpiece I'm a whole air conditioner”
@sichelesilendlovu2465

“This is great. Somehow the choices we make always have repercussions, and it is up to us to always make sure we think first then act later. I feel like at campuses the main causative factor is peer pressure, we are so focused on temporary pleasures as young people, and this somehow has us blinded to the extent of sacrificing our mental, physical, emotional, and social wellness. I hope we get to know our worth, we put ourselves first, realize our potential and strive to always make better choices!!”

@Lisbon_Huncho

“This slaps, good work. Lisebenzile”
@TheePitchMusic

“I enjoyed very much the sound track its dope”
@libertyvhiriri.

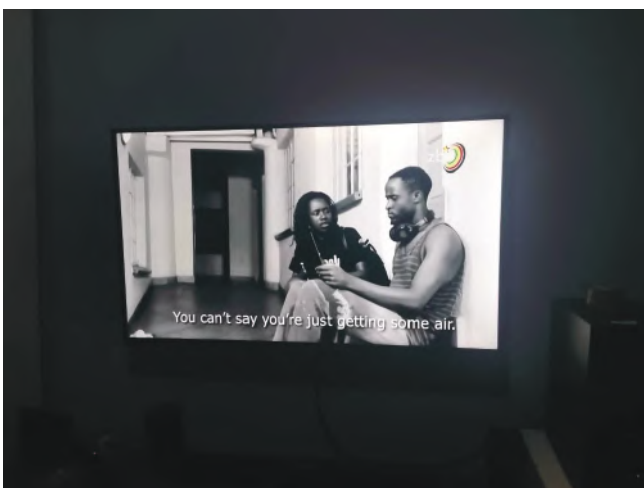
“As we are under the 16 days of gbv activism we thank you for this”
@gladysmvura725

Choices gained recognition with the national broadcasting television network ZBC tv showcasing the impact of young people's health on prime time. ZBC tv broadcasted Choices at 6pm on the 25th of November and on the 10th of December with repeat episodes ensuring extended coverage.

Similarly, iThemba gained recognition with Power FM and Skyz Metro radio stations. The significant media coverage and airtime on radio stations demonstrate the impact and relevance of these artistic creations. With the CRAFT winners becoming ambassadors in their colleges and communities, we foster a network of informed young individuals who can actively engage and support their peers in making sound decisions about their well-being.

Promotion of Choices and iThemba continues in the year 2024 and beyond. SAYWHAT recognizes that young people who are still pursuing their studies and are not employed have challenges in securing internet and or data allowances limiting their opportunities of viewing the art creations online. SAYWHAT Provincial teams will continuously facilitate college screenings and post-screening dialogues to raise awareness on SRH-GBV advocacy.

Nevertheless, efforts will continue to be made to reach a wider audience online, through engagement of the featuring artist Feli Nandi, stakeholders who have been supportive throughout the provincial CHASE competitions and the CRAFT, media reviews, and international festivals including NETFLIX.



OUR PARTNERS



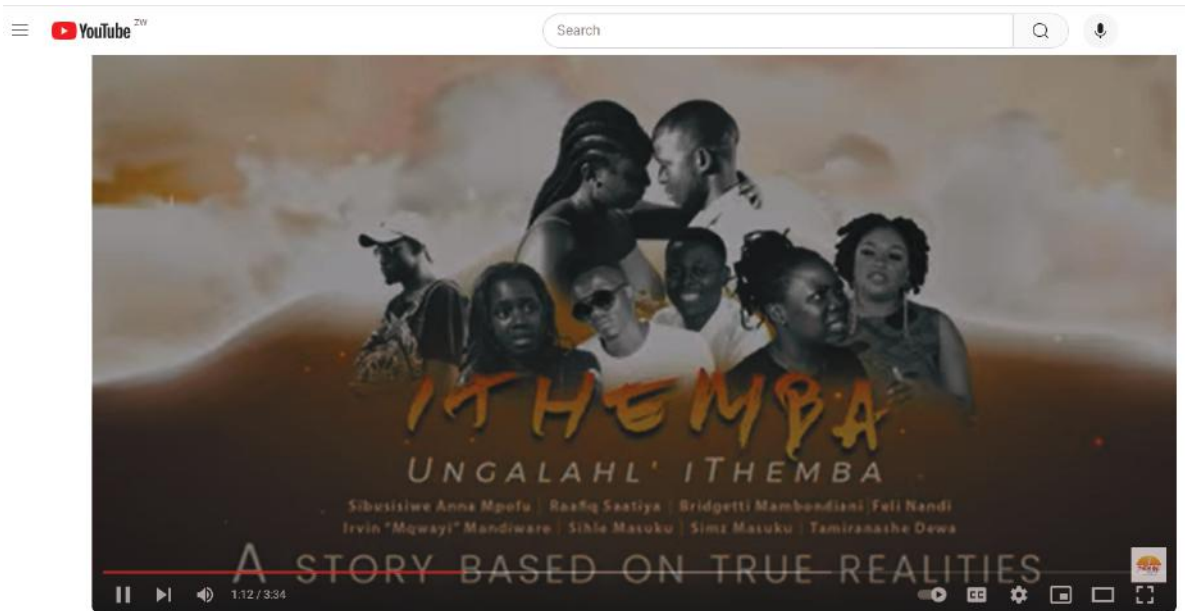
Sweden
Sverige



CONCLUSION



The first season/edition of the CHASE and the CRAFT made intentional efforts to identify young people who are talented in the categories of music, drama, poetry, and public speaking with the goal of empowering them with skills to become SRH-GBV champions in their respective colleges and communities. From 347 entries across Zimbabwe, 36 provincial CHASE winners to 6 national CRAFT winners, The CHASE and the CRAFT mentored young people who are on their way to become recognizable artist in mainstream arts industry. The 2022 CRAFT cohort honed their talents and produced a thought-provoking short film titled “CHOICES” and its theme soundtrack “iThemba” that raises awareness on SRH-GBV issues including sexual harassment, drug, and substance abuse, and the importance of making smart choices. Most importantly, young people had the ownership of the SRH-GBV content, and their peers identified with it. SAYWHAT will continue to promote both the CRAFT 2022 cohort and their final products as the organization implements the 2nd season CHASE competition.



iThemba (Official Audio)

SAYWHAT
1.75K subscribers

Subscribed

112 likes Share Download Clip Save

1K views 5 months ago

Featuring: Felli Nandi, Simz Masuku, Tamiranashe Dewa, Sihle Masuku, Irvine Mqwayi Mandiware, Bridgetti Mambondiani, Rafiq Satiya, and Sibusisiwe Mpfu.

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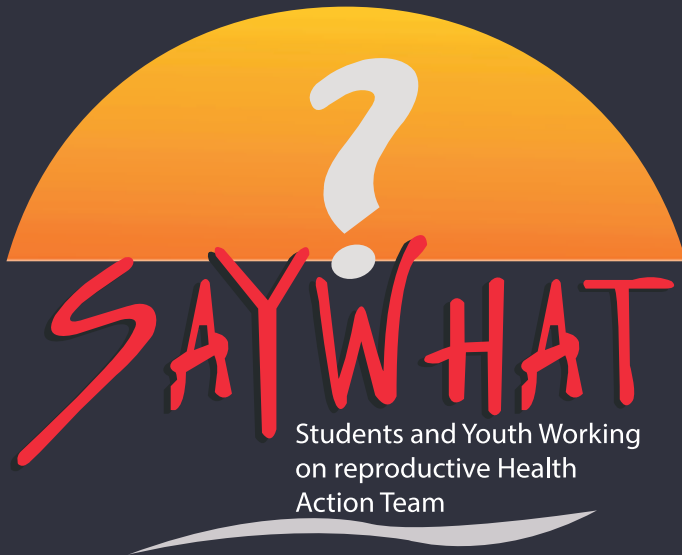
THE CHASE COMPETITION IN PICTURES





BOOTCAMP IN PICTURES





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