

Top guns fly in for Mozambique festival

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GUESTS who have been flown in to participate in the Focus on Mozambique Festival running until April 4 at the University of the Witwatersrand include writer and filmmaker Luis Honwana; former Frelimo cabinet minister Jose Luis Cabaco, and director of the Mozambique School of Photography, Ricardo Rangel.

Tomorrow, from 10am, they will all be present at the Focus on Mozambique Open Day, a non-stop 14-hour event which, it is hoped, will both draw attention to the South African government's continuing involvement in the destabilisation of this neighbouring state and give people the opportunity to learn more about the culture of a country we have effectively blocked from our vision.

Mozambican films, a matinee performance of the play, *Samora Continua*, workshops, a photographic exhibition of the works of Rangel and some of his students and a panel discussion focusing on South African support for Renamo, are all part of the line-up. African National Congress head of information Pallo Jordan will chair the debate. Panelists include Jose Luis Cabaco, Luis Honwana, Radio Mozambique journalist, Leite Vasconcelos and, from the ANC, Jacob Zuma and Albie Sachs.

● Jose Luis Cabaco, who read for his PhD in sociology at Trento University in Italy, joined Frelimo's underground movement in 1971. From 1974 he was deputy director of the newspaper *Noticias* and, during the transitional period before independence, he was appointed to the cabinet, first as minister of transport and, from 1980 to 1986, as minister of information. Cabaco served as a member of the Frelimo Secretariat until 1990. He is currently the general director of Ebano Multi-Media and is still a member of parliament.

● Luis Bernado Honwana is perhaps best known here for his collection of seven short stories *We Killed Mangy Dog*. The stories were first published in Portuguese in the newspaper *A Tribuna* in the mid-1960s, and were immediately banned by the Portuguese authorities.

During a spell in prison for political "crimes", Honwana studied for his matric. After his release he spent some years in Portugal, Algeria and Tanzania, before returning to Mozambique to work for the transitional government from 1974-5 as minister of education. Since then Honwana has made several documentary films. Now retired from government, he continues to pursue his career as a writer.

● Leite Vasconcelos spent much of his youth in exile in Portugal, where he pursued a career in radio broadcasting and is credited with being the person given the signal by the armed forces to play *Grandola Vila Morena* on Radio Renascenca, the code used to begin the military coup that led to revolution in 1974.

Returning to Mozambique, Vasconcelos joined Radio Mozambique where he was director until, for health reasons, he moved to South Africa in the mid-1980s. Today he works as a correspondent for Coop Imagem, an independent media enterprise.

● Ricardo Rangel joined the newspaper *Noticias da Darde* as a photo-journalist in 1952, becoming the first black member of the Mozambican press. Moving around the country, working for several different newspapers he became, in 1970, a co-founder of *Tempo*, a magazine attempting to disengage from the mind-set of the colonial administration.

By 1981 Rangel had become director general of the weekly paper, *Domingo*, and, from 1984 he has been director of the Mozambique School of Photography. He has exhibited all over the world and is considered by many to be the father of Mozambican photography.

They made it all possible ...

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