



Buwa Fela Productions

PRIVATE COMPANY | (PTY) LTD

A Creative Engine for the Creative Mind

Live productions • Media • Creative development
Publishing • Cultural storytelling

An independent South African creative production company developing original African work and professional production services across performance, media and cultural enterprise.

Based in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, Buwa Fela brings artists and project teams together to give stories form, presence and an audience. This profile introduces our production offering, selected creative projects, leadership and approach to responsible collaboration.

Registration 2025/328183/07

Managing Director Maakomele Rethabile Manaka
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01 COMPANY AND PURPOSE

An African production house

Buwa Fela Productions develops original live and media work and offers production services to artists, cultural institutions, corporate clients and commissioning partners. Our creative direction connects theatre, poetry, music, screen storytelling and publishing with the practical work of planning and delivery.

Registered name	Buwa Fela Productions (Pty) Ltd
Registration number	2025/328183/07
Incorporated	17 April 2025
Former registered name	Buwa Fela Media Solutions (Pty) Ltd
Name change effective	12 November 2025
Managing Director	Maakomele Rethabile Manaka
Trading location	Sophiatown, Johannesburg, South Africa 2092
Business contact	buwafelapros@gmail.com +27 67 615 1434

Our vision

To build an independent African production house recognised for original storytelling, artistic excellence and work that connects local and international audiences. We want artists to have the infrastructure to develop, own, produce and distribute their work.

Our mission

To develop and produce African creative content across live performance and media, creating professional opportunities for artists through creative development, disciplined production management and purposeful collaboration.

Our philosophy

Art for Social Transformation guides our interest in cultural memory, identity, disability and contemporary African experience. The name Buwa Fela, meaning “just speak” in our brand language, expresses our commitment to voice and artistic agency.

Company particulars are supported by CIPC-issued incorporation and amended registration certificates held in company records. The amended certificate confirms the name change within the same legal entity. Contact details and strategic direction are supplied by the company. These documents do not constitute a current compliance-status check.

02 SERVICES AND DELIVERY

Production capabilities

We assemble creative and technical teams for each project, matching the scope, budget and production requirements. Services are agreed per commission; the offer below describes our areas of work and development.

Live performance and events

Original theatre, poetry, spoken word, music and interdisciplinary performance, alongside cultural concerts, curated programmes and commissioned events. Services cover concept development, creative-team coordination, rehearsal planning, venue liaison, technical coordination, event delivery and touring logistics.

Media and audiovisual production

Documentary development, filmed performance, interviews, artist profiles, promotional video and digital cultural programming. We develop screen and multimedia formats that extend the reach of live work and support cultural institutions and commissioning partners with original storytelling.

Creative development and artistic direction

Creative consultation, dramaturgical and narrative development, artistic programming, project packaging and production planning. We work with artists to shape an idea into a viable production while respecting their creative decisions and authorship.

Publishing and intellectual property

Development of literary and cultural content for print, live presentation, recording, licensing and digital distribution. Our aim is to build original work that can support future adaptations and income. Ownership, permissions and revenue sharing are agreed for each project.

Artist collaboration and production management

Project-based representation, commissioned engagements and collaborative programming, supported by budgeting, schedules, stakeholder coordination and reporting. Funding research and proposal development may support an agreed project; securing a grant is never assumed or guaranteed.

How we work

We begin with a brief and creative consultation, then define the scope, budget, team and delivery plan. An agreed contract sets responsibilities, payment terms and rights. Production proceeds through rehearsal or content development, technical preparation and delivery, followed by reporting and project closure.

Clear responsibilities, fair professional engagement and respect for creative ownership underpin our production model.

03 SELECTED CREATIVE PROJECTS

Selected creative projects

These projects reflect the director's practice and the wider Buwa Fela development programme. Historical founder work and proposals are identified separately; this is not a list of completed company productions.

MINA NAWÉ

The Last Language and The Last Letter

Mak Manaka's multidisciplinary work brings poetry, music, movement and theatre into questions of identity, disability, memory and relationships. The Market Theatre Foundation's 2024/25 annual report records The Last Language at the Mannie Manim Theatre on 14 March 2025, crediting Mak as writer, producer and performer. This is founder work preceding the commercial company's incorporation.

The February 2026 partnership proposal uses the title The Last Letter for a later production and schools access programme. It proposes accessible performances, transport, learner support and workshops, with a target of 1,500 learners from six schools. Those figures are planned targets, not reported outcomes.

Status Previously presented founder work, documented in the 2024/25 annual report. The proposed May 2026 run, schools programme, sponsorship and delivery outcomes are not verified in the evidence reviewed for this profile.

SAKHILE

The Sound of Home

A live music, poetry and heritage concept developed around a proposed collaboration between Mak Manaka and Khaya Mahlangu. It connects South African jazz memory with contemporary expression and opportunities for intergenerational exchange.

Status Development and proposal stage; no completed company production is claimed.

BLACK IN THE BLUES

A performance concept combining poetry, an instrumental ensemble and visual art to explore memory, survival and contemporary African experience through the language of the blues.

Status Concept for a proposed live presentation; no confirmed dates or delivery are claimed.

Cultural and literary programming

The BUWA FELA Multilingual Poetry Festival and BUWA Poetry Express are programme concepts within the wider creative network. The responsible entity, funding, rights and delivery agreements must be established for each initiative. Neither is presented here as a completed company credit.

Sources Company-supplied profile draft; MINA NAWÉ partnership proposal dated 13 February 2026; Market Theatre Foundation annual report 2024/25, p 124. Status reviewed 13 October 2026.

04 LEADERSHIP

Mak Manaka

MAAKOMELE RETHABILE MANAKA

Founder | Managing Director | Creative Director | Producer

Mak Manaka is a South African poet, writer, performer and cultural producer whose practice crosses literature, theatre, music and multidisciplinary performance. Born in Soweto and based in Johannesburg, he is the son of playwright and theatre director Matsemela Manaka and dancer and choreographer Nomsa Kupi Manaka.

His work considers Black identity, cultural inheritance, disability, intimate relationships and the connection between personal memory and collective history. That artistic background informs his approach to cultural production and his interest in work that gives artists agency over their stories.

Selected publications and recording

If Only	Poetry collection 2003
In Time	Poetry collection 2009
Flowers of a Broken Smile	Poetry collection 2016
Oncoming Traffic	Poetry collection 2018
Word Sound Power	Dub-poetry album

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Creative Writing from Rhodes University. His work has reached audiences through literary and performance engagements in South Africa and internationally. His practice includes creative direction, artistic programming, publishing and cultural production. MINA NAWA brings these interests together through poetry, movement, music and theatre.

As Managing Director, he leads Buwa Fela's creative direction, project development and relationships with artists and commissioning partners. His objective is to build an independent production platform in which experimentation is supported by clear agreements, professional preparation and sustainable commercial practice.

Art for Social Transformation

The director's publications, recording and personal performance history are individual credentials. They do not automatically become Buwa Fela Productions company credits.

Sources Director biography supplied by Mak Manaka; [Market Theatre biography](#) confirms the four collections; [UKZN Poetry Africa announcement](#) corroborates the degree and recording.

05 PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Distinct entities and shared purpose

Buwa Fela Productions (Pty) Ltd is the commercial production company. Buwa Fela Research Project NPC is a separate non-profit company, registration 2025/012134/08, with its own governance responsibilities. Its proposed focus includes cultural research, literary heritage, knowledge preservation, creative education and public cultural access.

The NPC was formerly Buwa Fela Mzansi Literary Arts Foundations of South Africa NPC. Its CIPC-issued amended certificate confirms the name change took effect on 9 July 2025. NPO registration is intended; it is not represented as completed. No SARS PBO approval, tax exemption or section 18A status is claimed.

A responsible collaboration model

Where a programme requires professional production services, the NPC may consider Buwa Fela Productions as a supplier only where the arrangement advances the NPC's purpose and meets its governing documents, applicable law and funder conditions. Collaboration requires the following safeguards:

- A genuine project purpose, defined deliverables and a written service agreement with reasonable, evidenced pricing.
- Disclosure of related interests, recusal where required and a recorded decision by directors entitled to approve the arrangement.
- Compliance with procurement rules and funder restrictions, including consent where required before appointing a related supplier.
- Separate entity accounts, budgets and records, with clear treatment of assets, intellectual property, reporting and payment for verified work.

This is the proposed collaboration framework, not a claim that these controls have already been implemented. The NPC's resources must serve its objects; its role is not an automatic source of commercial-company funding.

Partnerships and commissions

We welcome enquiries from theatres, festivals, cultural institutions, public agencies, corporate clients and independent artists for commissioned productions, creative development, production services, licensing and project collaboration. A useful first brief includes the intended audience, format, location, dates, budget range and accessibility requirements.

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Basis CIPC-issued amended certificates held in company records. Governance framework informed by [CIPC NPC guidance](#), the [Companies Act including section 75](#), [DSD registration guidance](#) and [SARS guidance](#). Jacana's company and literary-foundation profiles informed the structure only. Evidence reviewed 13 October 2026; no live CIPC compliance certification is asserted.