

01 April 2026

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

NTN STAGES BANG BANG TO SPARK CONVERSATIONS ON YOUTH AND VIOLENCE

The National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) will stage ***Bang Bang***, a prescribed text for Grade 8 English Second Language learners across Namibia, from **8–10 April 2026** at the NTN, with two daily performances at **09h00 and 11h30**.

Written by South African playwright Chris Djuma and directed by Namibian theatre-maker Veronique Kuchekana-Chirau (professionally known as Berny Chirau), the production brings to life a story that speaks directly to the social realities many young people face today.

Set in a community marked by poverty, crime, and violence, *Bang Bang* follows a group of children whose games with toy guns begin as innocent play but gradually reveal how deeply violence has become normalised in their lives. Minimal in structure yet commanding in impact, the play uses children’s voices to expose the psychological and social effects of growing up in such environments.

For director Berny Chirau, the production is not only about staging a prescribed text, but about opening urgent conversations around youth development and emotional well-being.

“Stories often reveal truths that communities struggle to say aloud. When we place a story on stage, it becomes a mirror,” she says. “Many young people are navigating deep emotional contradictions, yet very few spaces exist where they are allowed to express what they are carrying.”

Drawing from her work in educational theatre, Chirau highlights the pressures facing both boys and girls today. While boys are often expected to embody strength through silence and endurance, she notes a growing reality where girls are also expressing anger and violence shaped by their environments.

Board of Directors:

Manna Matswetu Chairman, **Hazel Hinda** Vice-Chairperson

Angelika Schroeder, Jesse Nombanza,

***Ms. Martha Katonyala-Simasiku, *Ms. M’kariko Amagulu**

*Ex-Officio members





🏠 12 John Meinert Street
📮 P.O Box 3794,
Windhoek, Namibia
☎ +264 (0)61 374 400
🌐 ntn.org.na

“Children do not grow in isolation. They absorb the tensions, frustrations, and fears around them,” she explains. “If we want to see less violence, we must begin much earlier, not only with discipline, but with guidance, attention, and the tools to process their emotional world.”

The production features a mix of storytellers, performers, and creatives including, Sandile M. Mondlane, Lekenanda Eliakim, Otja Kooper, Albertina Musilika, Uajorokisa Culenda, Naledi Nakuta, Georgina Namises, Michael Nakale, and Brandon de Wet. Musical direction is by Nyasha Kuchekana-Chirau, with stage direction by Fellemon Ndongo.

These staging forms part of NTN’s Prescribed Text Project under its Main Programme, an initiative designed to bring literature from the classroom to the stage. The programme promotes experiential learning while encouraging critical thinking, empathy, and cultural engagement among learners.

The production is free of charge for learners, with schools across the Khomas, Otjozondjupa & Hardap Regions invited to attend. A limited number of seats are available for members of the public who would like to attend. To reserve your seat, please email pro@ntn.org.na.

For more information visit www.ntn.org.na.

Issued By:

Desiree Mentor
Public Relations Officer
National Theatre of Namibia (NTN)
+264 61 3744 00/ +264 81 366 3255

Board of Directors:

Manna Matswetu Chairman, **Hazel Hinda** Vice-Chairperson

Angelika Schroeder, Jesse Nombanza,

***Ms. Martha Katonyala-Simasiku, *Ms. M’kariko Amagulu**

*Ex-Officio members

