

LAST ONE STANDING

TOURNOI DE MATCHS DE BOULES DE NEIGE

Press Release

Date and Time: 16 August 2008, from 5pm

**Place: The Drill Hall, Joubert Park (PARKING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE CONFIRMED)
Corner of Twist and Plein Street (entrance on Plein)**

FREE ENTRANCE

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The African premiere of Last One Standing will be held at the Drill Hall on the 16th of August 2008, from 5pm. This landmark event will bring together the citizenry of the inner city of Johannesburg in the staging of a spectacular international sporting event. The event will deploy snowballs as a medium through which a variety of people who have different stakes in the space of the inner city can engage in managed combat with one another. The winning team will be declared 'the last one standing'. The project is being realised through a partnership between the Joubert Park Project and the Official Snowball Fight Association, a Swiss organisation dedicated to the promotion of this unique sport, and engaged in wide-ranging research on the ethical, environmental, scientific, political, theological and literary dimensions of the snowball.

The event will highlight the small but potent place that the snowball has occupied in the shaping of Johannesburg (with snowfalls in 1909, 1936, 1964, 1981 and 2007). The city's memory of the snowball will be brought to life through the screening of exclusive archival photographs and acclaimed writer's anecdotes of snow in Johannesburg.

The centrepiece of the event – the snowball fight tournament – will involve four teams of six players each competing on a 9 x 18 metre court, according to the rules established by the Official Snowball Fight Association. The four teams will consist of the people who shape our cosmopolitan city, including taxi mechanics and trolley pushers, hairdressers, city managers, boxers and models, rugby players, artists and soap opera stars.

The teams have undergone rigorous training prior to the event with the internationally renowned snowball combatant, Anthea Moys. The contestants will wear custom-made combat suits created by the Berlin based fashion designer Birgit Nepl. The evening will be MCed by actor Robby Whitehead. Bishop Paul Verryn of the Central Methodist Church will preside over a blessing of the event. Louw Venter - comedian/actor/philatelist and general creative wholesaler - will open the event with the inaugural Ballad of the Snowball and act as head referee. The Universal Gospel Choir will provide the soundscape for the tournament, co-produced with musicians/composers, Joao Orecchia and Andy Sherman. A technical team of referees and snowball-makers have been assembled to ensure strict adherence to the rules of the game and snowball specifications established by the international governing body.

Georges Pfruender of the Official Snowball Fight Association will present the South African edition of the Last One Standing Trophy, manufactured in Switzerland.

A snowball party will close the event, running till late. Teams of poets and hip-hop performers will compete to win the Battle of the Ballad of the Snowball.

 Snowball*
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