

VIEW FROM THE BIG TOP!

Township kids discover the magic of the circus

By NTOMBOXOLO MAKOKA

THE MUSIC, the sparkling costumes, the shiny lights, the roaring crowds.

That's the magic of the circus.

And now black kids are joining in as well!

There are black circus champions, teaching and recruiting others in the townships around Cape Town.

Kagiso Mutlone (21), from Khayelitsha, told *Daily Sun* he was recruited by a school friend to join the circus.

"I could not believe my eyes when I saw other black kids in action. I just knew that I wanted to do it."

Now Kagiso is a professional performer and is recruiting other kids himself.

"It takes time to pull them in but once they get involved they are very good," said Kagiso, a star of the flying trapeze.

Andiswa Nkebedu (20), also from Khay-

elitsha, said she was recruited by her friend's mother.

She explained: "At first I thought they were talking about ice-cream suckers or lolly-pops – but I was inspired by three young girls on the trapeze.

"Those girls were doing wonders. I told myself that I wanted to do exactly that. Since that day I have dedicated all my time to the circus."

Andiswa has performed in America, Jamaica and Australia and is now teaching other kids as well.

Cape Town's director of economics and social development, Mansoor Mohammed, applauded the initiative of the Zip Zap Circus School.

He said: "Circus arts give youths a chance to blossom, to express themselves and to forge new links in a society which has often rejected them."



SWINGING SENSATIONS!
Portia Kewana from Nyanga and Andiswa Nkebedu from Khayelitsha show off their trapeze talents to the SunTeam.

Photo by
Eusebio Ntshong