

MILESTONE

Zip Zap circus flies into magical 30 with pride

STAFF WRITER

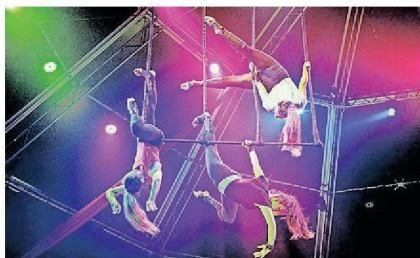
BORN from a simple dream, a trapeze bar in a tree in Langa, a box of costumes and a rusty old car, the Zip Zap circus is celebrating its 30th anniversary this month.

Zip Zap was established in 1992 by South African-born Brent van Rensburg and his French wife, Laurence Estève.

Their dream was to use the “circus as a tool to bridge socio-economic gaps and to inspire and empower young people to build a new culture of peaceful co-existence, inspired by the late president Nelson Mandela”.

“Time flies when you are having a good time ... Celebrating this milestone has brought back many memories and confirmed we must carry on daring to dream and teach our children to do the same,” said Van Rensburg.

Zip Zap runs six outreach and four



ZIP Zap Circus School is turning 30.

| JEFFREY ABRAHAMS

youth programmes with children from diverse communities. All its programmes are offered free of charge.

Starting out with 15 children in 1992, now 1 800 children go through their doors each year.

A total of 30 000 children have participated in Zip Zap's programmes over the past 30 years. “The programmes have also increased from

three in 2001 to 10 in 2022. “From a laundry room on the railways to renting warehouses to a hi-tech dome in Founders Garden on the foreshore to a custom-designed training and office space in Salt River, Zip Zap has even more exciting plans for the future,” the circus said. “Contributing to the development of young people and the sustainability of the circus arts has seen Zip Zap being recognised in South Africa, and the world over.

“This 30th anniversary will be celebrated with two events: one for the children from its programmes and the other for alumni, supporters, donors and friends of Zip Zap.”

Estève said: “We have so many people to thank ... From the parents who trusted us with their children, sponsors, individuals and the government who dared to invest in a circus to change lives. I express my deepest, most sincere gratitude to all of you.”