

Alex makes it Bay hat-trick

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All three local 'Voices' through to show's knockout round

As the battle rounds on popular reality TV show *The Voice SA* came to an end on Sunday night, Port Elizabeth's Alex Cavan became the third Bay contestant to make it into the next round of the singing competition.

All three Bay singers - Cavan, Emma Ellis and Amanda Faku - are now through to the knockout round on April 30.

Cavan, 23, went up against Cape Town singer Jean Citto, performing *Magic* by Rude, a song chosen by coach and Afrikaans musician Bobby van Jaarsveld.

Cavan said although the song was not what he would have chosen, he tried to give it his own feel.

"I'm just glad I had the right energy for the tune," he said. "I felt my performance was ex-

actly what I was going for.

"I wanted to have fun, and I did. I let loose and was just myself."

Even though he was the winner of the battle round, Cavan received some fierce criticism from coaches Lira and Karen Zoid for turning his back on the audience.

But coach Kahn Morbee said Cavan would still have been his winner. "That's someone I would want to watch perform," he said.

Going into the knockout rounds, Cavan said the feedback received from the judges was "definitely something I will take into consideration".

"The coaches are so wise when it comes to showbiz and performing for a crowd. I was nervous when Karen and Lira had their bit to say but felt that Kahn saved me a little and Bobby knew exactly what Kahn was implying.

"Kahn actually hit it right on the head - the fact that I sang towards the audience behind me wasn't deliberate, I was just caught in the moment of the performance," he said.

He said his experience on *The Voice SA* so far had been amazing.

"Meeting the coaches and co-coaches is something that will be in my memory forever.

"Bobby is so down to earth and here to give the best advice. "I can't wait for the rest of the journey," Cavan said.

The knockout round is a new addition to season two of *The Voice SA*, but viewers who have watched the American version of the show will be familiar with this tense round of the competition.

This will ultimately determine which four singers from each team will be singing for the public's vote in the live shows.

The Voice SA is on Channel 101 on Sundays at 5.30pm and Mondays at 6pm on Channel 115.



TALENT RECOGNISED: Alex Cavan is through to the show's knockout round. Picture: MIKE HOLMES

Award-winning rap artist puts PE on map

Amir Chetty
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A NORTHERN areas artist who won a major Afrikaans music award hopes his win will encourage youngsters to raise awards, not guns.

Fresh from his win at the Ghoema Afrikaans music awards, rapper and hip hop artist Earl Swartz wants his award to inspire youngsters to make positive changes in their own lives.

Affectionately known as Early B, Swartz, 28, from Bloemendal, scooped the award for his hit song, *Bene Lam* in the Hip Hop Song of the Year category in Johannesburg on Sunday.

Another of his songs, *Cerebellum*, was nominated in the same category.

Swartz said he was proud to be the first winner of the category, which was introduced this year.

He believed Port Elizabeth was not truly on the map when it came to Afrikaans hip hop music.

"I'm still in shock, I can't believe I won the award," Swartz said.

"I went up against some big hitters in the Afrikaans hip hop game, guys whose music I listened to. Now my songs are going up against theirs."

Swartz said he had been interested in rap music from an early age.

He said the idea behind the *Bene Lam* was to have some fun.

"I wanted to create a funny dance move so I teamed up with PE's Finest dance crew and we shot a music video

for it as well," Swartz said.

Despite focusing a lot of his music on rap, Swartz said: "I don't want to put a barrier around my music, but I wouldn't classify it as just hip hop."

"I am predominantly a rapper, but my music can be categorised in other genres as well," the *Leka Dji* hitmaker said.

He takes much of his inspiration for his songs from his surroundings.

His tag line, which features in all of his music, is *Vannie Dal af Meisie*, which he said "aims to give recognition to the place that has given me so much".

Swartz said he did not believe in releasing albums, as he felt albums were not appreciated anymore.

"When an album is released, only two or three songs are appreciated and the other songs just fall by the wayside," he said.

Swartz said he owed a lot of his success to the Port Elizabeth public and, even more so, to his family.

He was working on another song, *Bring die Bump Terug*, which is set for release sometime next month.

Swartz wanted his music to resonate with young people in the northern areas to encourage them to stay away from a life of crime and violence.

"I want them to do positive things with their lives and get them away from the negative elements in the northern areas," he said.

"Go for something that is going to



SUCCESS STORY: Earl Swartz has made his name in Afrikaans hip hop and rap

Picture: FREDLIN ADRIAAN

make people look at you and be like, 'I want to be like that guy'. I want them to raise awards, not guns."

There were other projects he would like to get involved in when his musical career ended.

"I'd like to rap some more, but I would also like to break into the television scene, perhaps my own show or something," he said.

The ultimate goal was to set up a

hub where creative talent could come together, share ideas and collaborate.

Swartz is managed by his sister, Rochelle, and Hyron Booyesen.

Rochelle said: "I'm so proud of him, he has worked so hard for everything he has today."

Rochelle said they were planning a tour later this year centred around young women and how they valued themselves.

Lauded scientist lived up to dad's expectations

Katharine Child

THE "great people are coming" is what Dr Glenda Gray, paediatrician and medical research scientist, would say jokingly to her late father, after she was chosen as one of Time magazine's top 100 most influential people in the world.

She is the second South African to make the list, following Thuli Madonsela in 2014.

Her work in determining which drugs would stop HIV-positive mothers transmitting the virus to their babies and which drugs the HIV-exposed babies should be prescribed, was recognised by the prestigious magazine.

This year, less than 1% of all babies with HIV positive mothers are born HIV positive in South Africa. Before Gray's work, about 25% of all infants born to positive mothers contracted the virus.

Gray's father died when she was a child, but she recalled him using the phrase "great people are coming" in refer-

ence to his six children's talents.

"He would always say this to us. My father expected the best from us."

James McIntyre, Gray's partner in setting up the Perinatal HIV Research Unit at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, said: "South African research, including Gray's, directly contributed to the global policies and success in preventing mother to child transmission."

"Whether standing up to President Thabo Mbeki's denialism, or fighting for the advancement of South African researchers, Glenda's courage and determination have always been evident."

Their work led to people getting their HIV results on the same day that they tested, which is now standard practice in South Africa.

Gray is currently leading the world's only trial that is advanced enough to lead to an HIV vaccine if the trial is successful. - TMG Digital/Times-LIVE

Thousands of bikes to turn East London into Harley heaven

Barbara Hollands

ABOUT 12 000 motorbikes from all over South Africa are about to roar into East London for the R10-million Harley-Davidson Africa Bike Week which starts tomorrow.

This is the first time that the major biking extravaganza, partially sponsored by the Buffalo City Metro (BCM), will be hosted by the city.

Spokesman Sibusiso Cindi said the rally fitted in with the metro position-

ing itself as the events capital of the Eastern Cape.

"It gives the city exposure and is good for the business community. We want the public to come out in large numbers," Cindi said.

BCM is putting in R5.8-million, event project manager Carl Frayne said yesterday.

Touted as the biggest free motorcycle event in Africa, the family-friendly event, which runs until Sunday, is expected to draw up to 35 000

people to the beachfront.

Crowds will be able to see the latest Harley bikes, buy biking merchandise, watch stunt shows, a fashion show, cool off at three bars and take in an impressive entertainment lineup on the massive stage.

The event includes Super GP racing at the East London Grand Prix circuit on Saturday morning and a mass ride of up to 3 000 bikes on Sunday at 10am. "There is going to be a huge carnival atmosphere," Frayne said.

The event was held in Margate for eight years before relocating to East London in what has been hailed as an economic coup for the city.

"In Margate, the economic impact was in excess of R60-million a year to the economy and here we will be happy to reach R40-million for the first event," Frayne said.

Hotels on the Esplanade strip were 90% full and 10 000 people had registered online, giving them free access to the entertainment area.



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