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Buy the Baxter a cup of coffee – a fundraising campaign

The Baxter Theatre based at the University of Cape Town (UCT) has had to stop operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent nationwide lockdown.

Presenting more than 3 000 performances a year, the Baxter is the most active theatre in South Africa. But it is not funded by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, like other state theatres are, neither does it qualify for funding from the National Lottery Commission. The university allocates it a grant of approximately one-third of its annual operational expenses. The rest of the expenses are paid from the annual income, which includes ticket sales, donations, theatre rentals and interest on its Permanent Endowment Fund.

The Baxter is appealing to theatre lovers everywhere to "buy the Baxter a cup of coffee every month", which means contributing R30 per month, or R360 per year, and to help it reach 30 000 contributors by sharing this initiative with friends and family.

"We need to accumulate 30 000 donors over the next year. This would amount to approximately R10 800 000 per year. I do not see our theatre operating functionally until early 2021. We have to raise R5 million to get through this year. The Baxter's very existence depends on this amount," said Lara Foot, Baxter Theatre chief executive.

"I am sure you will agree that when this pandemic is over, the arts will play a significant role in finding meaning, healing, and bringing communities together in celebration of our humanity. It is extremely difficult in these times to find a sizeable annual grant from any individual or business, and this brings me to our carefully considered drive to ensure our sustainability."

[Visit the Baxter Theatre website for more information or to make a contribution.](#)

ENDS

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