UKZN student to perform at Hong Kong’s Disney World

UNIVERSITY of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Bachelor of Arts student Bonisile Ndlouv has landed the role of Rafiki in The Lion King, which will be performed at Disney World in Hong Kong.

The excited 36-year-old is thrilled to be leaving South Africa to star in the celebrated musical, adding that she never dreamt an opportunity like this could happen to her.

Coming from a musical family and singing from the age of 11, Ndlouv’s first experience came with the gospel group, the Spiritual Healers, who would rehearse in a house in her neighbourhood.

Sixteen years later she heard about the auditions for The Lion King.

“They were in Durban to hold auditions for singers and actors to star in the production... I had not watched The Lion King. Shangase’s career, to date, has included 254 performances of The Rocky Horror Picture Show in Johannesburg and Cape Town, between other commitments, including Janice Honeyman’s pantomime Aladdin.

“Rocky was the most insane experience,” he says of the show, which recently closed after 444 performances. “It was my first professional gig after studying musical theatre and it taught me so much about working with artists who have been doing this for so many years. “And it has been great preparation for doing a show like The Lion King. I now know that I can do a long run.”

Shangase, who also sang in Handel’s Messiah in Durban and Phelelani Mnomiya’s opera Ingqayizivelwa, created for the 2010 Soccer World Cup, begins rehearsals for The Lion King on March 31.

The Disney musical is now in its sixteenth year at London’s Lyceum Theatre and has just completed a record-breaking tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The show has been seen by over 75 mil-

lion people around the world, and, in addition to the London production, is currently being staged in New York, Hamburg, Tokyo, Madrid, Brisbane and on tour across North America and Japan.

Further productions are set to open in Mexico City and Shanghai Disney Resort.

— Arts Editor.