

By Timothy Kirabo

You know "Christmas has started" when cantatas kick off. St Mark College Namagoma staged its seventh edition of the annual Christmas cantata with remarkable flair, drawing crowds to Theatre La Bonita in Kampala on Saturday for the performance themed *Perfect Wait*.

In previous years, the cantata was hosted at the school premises located on the Kampala-Masaka road, but increased demand from supporters prompted the move to the prestigious La Bonita stage.

The decision paid off; audiences filled the theatre as the students showcased an impressive blend of drama, music and storytelling.

One of the evening's biggest highlights was the appearance

St. Mark College Namagoma draws crowds at La Bonita Christmas cantata

PHOTOS BY JOHN MUSOKE

of celebrated stage actor Simon 'Base' Kalema, who joined the young cast in bringing the biblical Christmas story to life.

His presence added professional depth to the performance and inspired both the audience and the aspiring actors.

The production unfolded in two parts. The first act portrayed Zechariah and Elizabeth, revealing their divine roles in the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

Zechariah, depicted as a great leader and Elizabeth, shown as Mary's cousin, helped set the spiritual foundation of the narrative.

The second act followed the emotional and challenging



Kalema (centre) acting in 'Perfect Wait' with the Namagoma students at Theatre La Bonita

journey of Joseph and Mary as they travelled to Bethlehem, capturing the trials and anticipation that surrounded

the birth of Jesus. The scenes were marked by heartfelt acting, vivid staging

and a strong sense of reverence for the nativity story.

The overall artistic presentation was elevated by impressive lighting effects and a dynamic

background setup that shifted between various scenes, including a bustling market and a reverent church setting.

These transitions created a visually engaging atmosphere and enhanced the storytelling, making the audience feel immersed in the unfolding events.

To close the evening, the entire cast joined together in a spirited rendition of the Christmas classic *Feliz Navidad*.

Up next is the always much-anticipated cantata by Watoto Church. Shows kick off tomorrow at the much bigger venue at Kampala Parents School in Kampala.



Actors during the 'Perfect Wait'