A – Z guide to studios in Gauteng

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Gauteng has studios

Studios are an essential element of both film and television workflow and provide a rounded mix of services to the industry. It is well known that Gauteng has a wide selection of production and post-production services, but the question is often asked –

Has Gauteng got studios?

The Gauteng Film Commission (GFC) embarked on a survey of studios in Gauteng to establish what is on offer and provide details of each studio as an aid to local and visiting film makers.

How does one determine what constitutes a studio?
Certain criteria must be applied. The term ‘studio’ has a myriad of translations.

Wikipedia describes it thus:
An artist’s or worker’s workroom, or an artist and his or her employees who work within that studio. This can be for the purpose of architecture, painting, pottery (ceramics), sculpture, stamp book, photography, graphic design, cinematography, animation, radio or television broadcasting or the making of music.

The word studio is derived from the Italian: studio, from Latin: studium, from studere, meaning to study or zeal. The French term for studio, atelier, in addition to designating an artist’s studio is used to characterise the studio of a fashion designer. Atelier also has the connotation of being the home of an alchemist or wizard.

In terms of this Guide the focus will be on only a portion of the definition. To cover all options would be impractical as this survey is focused on the film and television industry, therefore only studios capable of accommodating cinematography, television broadcasting and programme origination have been included. Again with a survey of this nature it is possible that some studios may have been omitted. If this is the case it is unintentional, and any information received from a studio not included in this survey will be included in future up-dates.

All the studios included in this Guide currently provide services to the industry and the information is correct as of January 2010. However, all information and detail is subject to change and should be confirmed with the individual studio. There are 20 studios listed in alphabetical order:
Atlas Studios

Atlas Studios is conveniently located close to the SABC at 33 Frost Avenue Milpark, Johannesburg. Access from major highways is good, the complex offers off-road parking, and is close to amenities such as shopping areas and hotels.

The complex offers a bouquet of seven studios of various sizes:

**Studio 1**
440m²

**Studio 2**
460m² – Ideal sizes for TV series, soapies and sitcoms.

**Studio 3**
580m² – Mezzanine of 150m². Perfect for daylight shoots, cocktail parties, launches and fashion shows.

**Studio 4**
270m² – Commercials, screenings and special events.

**Studio 5**
70m² with infinity curve/cycorama. Perfect for interviews, newsroom, music and corporate videos, as well as chromakey painting.

**Studio 6**
320m² – Game shows and commercials.

**Studio 7**
160m² – TV drama.

**In addition Atlas Studios offers:**
- Drive-in vehicle access with secure on-site parking
- Control rooms
- Audience holding area
- Audience seating
- Casting studios
- Chromakey painting
- Rehearsal space
- Wardrobe
- Hair and make-up areas/rooms
- Production offices including standard production office furniture
- Meeting rooms
- Telephone lines and ADSL
- Artist lounge/green rooms
- Catering area and bar service with liquor licence
- Screening facilities
- Set storage facilities, goods lift
- Back-up power generator
- 24 hour surveillance cameras and security

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Camera Facilities

Camera Facilities is located at 9 Nerina Street, Kensington B, Randburg, Johannesburg. On offer is a single studio known as Studio 9.

Camera Facilities measures 10m x 10m (100m²) with a double infinity curve for chromakey recording. A full complement of lighting is included with a 3.5m high lighting grid with dimmer control. The studios is acoustically treated for sync sound recordings, is air-conditioned and has 175kva back-up generator power.

In addition Camera Facilities offers:
• Make-up and dressing room facilities
• Client viewing room
• Kitchen area for catering
• Two x 6m weather proof containers on site for set and equipment storage
• Wireless internet
• Telephone lines with basic office supplies

Recent shoots include: DSTV — Kyk-Net kids educational series, EMI — local artist music videos and SABC magazine programmes.

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Clive Morris Studios

Owned by Clive Morris Productions (CMP), Clive Morris Studios is located north of Johannesburg at 8 Grove St, Ferndale, Randburg.

A single studio is available:

**Studio 1**
9m x 9m with a roof height of 4.5m, soundproofed with air-conditioning and level floor; it contains a movable lighting grid with fully equipped control rooms for HD video and audio with auto-cue.

**In addition Clive Morris Studios offers:**
• Comfortable make-up and change room areas
• Storage areas
• Catering on request

**Recent shoots include:** 50/50, Verimark advertisements, Green Screen music video and corporate work

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D3 Studios

D3 Studios is a brand new studio situated at 2 Johannesburg Road, Balfour Park, (next to Balfour Park Shopping Centre) in Johannesburg. It is owned by Evolution Media and is a single studio facility.

Studio 1
The studio is 9m long, 7m wide and 6m high. It is soundproof, with a level floor and green screen infinity curve. It offers a full lighting grid and full live broadcast capabilities.

In addition D3 Studios offers:
• Fully equipped control room and audio facilities
• Four Avid edit suites and 1 final cut pro suite
• Wardrobe facilities with make-up and hair
• Production areas and crew on request
• Graphics and 3D animation
• Production consultants
• Production house facilities on hand
• Located next to a catering facility

This is a brand new facility and therefore has no immediate history. However, recent shoots in the previous studio include: Tshwaganang, World of Winners, Iksetse, various music videos, Strictly Come Dancing opening sequence and Saphron Television imaging.

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Foghound Studios

Foghound Studios is located at 24 Richards Drive, Midrand, between Johannesburg and Pretoria – opposite the Gallagher Estate complex and close to major highways. The owner is Neil Symon. The complex offers two studios:

**Studio 1**
18m Long x 11.6m wide and has a 5.8m high lighting grid with raisers. It is fully air-conditioned, soundproofed and has an infinity curve on three sides with a level floor and 4m wide x 4.5m high access door. Three-phase power for 60 amp Marachelle and 60 amp/32 amp C-form adaptors is available.

**Studio 2 (also known as the packshot studio)**
7m Long x 5.7m wide and has a 4.7m high lighting grid with raisers, an infinity curve on one side, is well-ventilated with high-powered extractor fans, has a 2.9m wide x 3.1m high access door and 15 amp power points.

**In addition Foghound Studios offers:**
- Studio lights available for hire
- Green room
- Make-up room
- Men’s and ladies change rooms including showers
- Canteen area with kitchen
- 60kva Back-up generator
- Studios may be painted to client requirements

**Recent shoots include:** Adverts for Makro, Kellogg’s Coco Pops, Furniture City, Urban Living and Kia, and MTN – weather report.

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Genesis Studio

Genesis Studio is located in Wessel's Road in Rivonia, Johannesburg in the premises of Telemidea (Pty) Ltd – the major supplier of satellite and microwave links within South Africa. Genesis Studio is a single studio facility.

Studio
7m x 14m With a height of 4.5m, soundproofed, air-conditioned, level floor; 3 x camera chains, lighting, and control room.

In addition Genesis Studio offers:
• Make-up and dressing rooms
• Green room
• Docking areas
• Storage areas
• Catering areas
• Good access into studio
• Telephone lines and internet
• Generator

Recent shoots include: Kingdom Life Network.

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Global Access

Global Access is the old Broadcast Centre at the corner of Fox and Troye Streets in downtown Johannesburg – address: 169–171 Fox Street. Owned by Ronnie van Wijk and Rick Grantham, the complex offers three main studios, all of which have the necessary equipment required for live broadcasts (to any broadcaster) as well as to record sitcoms, dramas, game shows, talk shows, infomercials, launches and training videos.

It has the capacity to accommodate a medium to large audience. All the studios at Global Access are soundproof and fully air-conditioned.

Studio 1
231.4m² – 13m x 17.8m, height to grid 5.5m, studio door width 3m, height 4m.

Studio 2
32.5m² – 5m x 6.5m.

Studio 3
129.36m² – 8.8m x 14.7m, height to grid 4.2m, studio door width 1.8m, height 3m.

In addition Global Access offers:
• Goods lifts to allow easy access for delivery of sets, equipment and vehicles
• Each studio has own VIP room (guest lounge), make-up room, crew room and drawback area (storage facility for sets)
• Production office space available for rental
• Telephone and fax lines
• SMS facility
• Internet
• Generic and chromakey sets available in all studios
• Studios available dry hire (with or without lights) or with studio floor and equipment only, or with the full complement of production and crew personnel and equipment
• Generator

Recent shoots include: Dinner with the President, City Ses’la, and Family Bonds.

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Gold Island Studios

Gold Island Studios is situated at 79 Reeduck Crescent, Corporate Park, Old Pretoria Road in Midrand, Johannesburg. The studios are owned by Panalux. There are two studios in the complex as well as other Panalux offerings which include cameras, lights and grips.

**Studio 1**
620m² and 9m to top of cyclorama wall (8.3m to lighting grid). Lighting grid with walkway and side access stairs. Drive-in access.

**Studio 2**
420m² and 7m to top of cyclorama wall (6.3m to lighting grid). Drive-in access.

**In addition Gold Island Studios offers:**
- Production offices
- Wardrobe
- Make-up
- Ample parking

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Henley Television Facilities

Henley Television Facilities is located in Henley Road, Auckland Park Johannesburg and is owned by the SABC. It is used for in-house programmes as well as being a rentable commodity.

The complex offers seven studios some of which are used on a permanent basis for SABC’s major productions.

**Studio 1**
112m² (7.7m X 14.5m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 2**
140m² (10m X 14m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 3**
297m² (16.5m X 18m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 4**
305m² (16.5m X 18.5m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 5**
671m² (22m X 30.5m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 6**
297m² (16.5m X 18m, height to grid 9.4m)

**Studio 7**
305m² (16.5m X 18.5m, height to grid 9.4m)

Note: Studio 6 and 7 share one control room

All studios are soundproof, with a comprehensive lighting grid which employs mechanical monopoles to hang lights, and are air-conditioned.

**In addition Henley Television Facilities offers:**
- Dressing rooms
- Green rooms
- Catering areas
- Vehicle access to studio floors
- Telephone lines and internet
- Offices
- Set storage
- Audience seating

**Recent shoots include:** Generations, Isidingo, Muvhango, Spirit Sunday, Noot vir Noot, Asikhulume, Interface and Gare Dumele.

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Jelly Bean Studio

Jelly Bean Studio is located at Unit H92, Allendale Park, Corner Le Roux Ave and Morkel Close, Midrand, Johannesburg. It is a new studio and is housed in a secure office complex. The owner of the studio is Nicole Phillips (Nikki). Jelly Bean offers one studio.

**Studio facilities include:**
- 13m infinity curve and 180m² shooting floor – total studio 400m²
- Three-phase power
- Make-up rooms
- Change rooms with shower
- Conference room
- Coloured paper backdrops
- Picture editing
- On-site printing
- Two large white movable ceiling scrims
- Drive-in access
- Ceiling height is 7m, floor completely level, well insulated
- Ideal studio for cars

**In addition Jelly Bean Studio offers:**
- Kitchen facilities – catering, tea/coffee and refreshments provided
- Easy access to studio
- Ample parking
- Conference room
- Rental equipment available
- Make-up room and change room with shower
- Product table
- Chromakey backdrops
- 4.5m Lastolite soft box

**Recent shoots include:** Daihatsu, Celrose Clothing, Mad Stuff Productions, Creative Media Productions Kwenta Media and F64 Photography.

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Lonehill Studios

Lonehill Studios is situated at 5 Concourse Crescent, Lonehill, north of Johannesburg. The complex houses two studios. Both studios are currently being used for 7de Laan – a daily drama on local television. The studios are managed by local post-production house The Refinery.

**Studio 1**

± 544m²

**Studio 2**

458m²

**Studio facilities include:**

- Infinity curves
- Soundproofed
- Fully air-conditioned
- Level studio flooring
- Lighting grids
- Wall boxes
- Three camera control rooms with separate audio, production, vision and lighting suites
- Two x 132 Channel ETC dimmer racks
- Full complement of lights

**In addition Lonehill Studios offers:**

- Make-up area
- Nine dressing rooms
- Extras room
- Green room
- Two catering areas (outside deck and dining hall)
- Two kitchenettes
- Laundry
- Set storage area
- Various prop storage rooms
- Wardrobe area
- Telephone lines
- ADSL
- Double set doors into studios
- 250kva Super-silent genset

**Recent shoots include:** Permanent home for the Danie Odendaal Productions: 7de Laan.

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M-Net Broadcast Services

M-Net Broadcast Services is located north of Johannesburg on the ground floor of the Broadcast Centre, 239 Oak Avenue in Randburg, Johannesburg. The studios are part of the subscription broadcasters' facilities, and whilst used for in-house production, are also available for rental.

Three digital studios are dedicated for the use of the Supersport channels, and there is one recently completed full HD studio. There are six studios in total.

Studios

Range from small presentation studios to a recently re-vamped full HD studio of 165m² with SD/HD 5 camera capability and a 500m² SD/HD 8 camera studio. The studios are to full broadcast specifications, air-conditioned, fully equipped with lights, audience seating and all other required studio support equipment.

Recent shoots include: Boots & All, Power of 10, On the Ball, Carte Blanche, KTV, Kweia, Idols, Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader? and Temptation.

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Q Studios

Q Studios is located at 149 Tenth Road, corner Fourth Avenue, Kew, Johannesburg. The complex has easy access from major highways, and has one of the largest studios available for hire in Gauteng province. Q Studios is owned by Ilse Hahn. The complex consists of one sound stage (Stage 2) and a number of units of varying size and sophistication.

Unit 1 (not soundproof)
Floor area 900m² (48m x 19m x 10m high). Grid height 7.5m. Cyclorama of 18m width x 7.3m high, with returns 16.7m (left) and 31m (right). Three-phase power (total 400 amps each).

Sound Stage 2 (soundproof)
Floor area 700m² (17.5m width, 42.25m length). Grid height 8.2m (capacity 500kg between load points), ceiling 8.9m, sound doors 4.75m high x 3.7m wide, three-phase power (400 amps each).

Unit 4 (not soundproof)
Floor area 604m² (18m width, 33m length). Includes 1 x 24m². Office (8m x 3m).

Unit 5 (empty warehouse not soundproof)
Floor area 550m², (18.5m width x 30m length), height 11m. Includes D/S store rooms with racking.

Units 6 (empty warehouse not soundproof)
Floor area 500m² (18.5m width x 27m length), height 11.5m. Includes D/S store rooms with racking.

Unit 7 (empty warehouse not soundproof)
Floor area 150m² (12.5m x 12m).

The Paint Factory (empty warehouse not soundproof)
Floor area 830m².

In addition Q Studios offers:
- Green/change room
- Kitchen
- Shower facilities
- Telephones: 4 x lines and ADSL internet
- Ample parking

Recent shoots include: District 9, Mrs Mandela, Strike Back, McCain’s, Standard Bank, Caivil, KFC and Kelloggs.

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Realtime Pictures

Realtime Pictures is located at 34 – 7th Street Linden in Johannesburg and is a single studio facility owned by Quentin Hafern.

Studio 1:
80m² studio, height 4m to lighting grid, dimmer board with 14 x 1K strand studio and 4 x 2K. It has an infinity curve for chromakey shoots (three sides), soundproofed, air-conditioned with a control room. The floor level meets BBC specifications and has a 2mm tolerance from corner to corner.

In addition Realtime Pictures offers:
• Green room for make-up and dressing
• Good access
• Double door entrance (can drive a car in)
• Telephone lines and internet access
• Control room
• Limited set storage (55m²)
• Generator available on request

Recent shoots include: Currently shooting two kiddies puppet shows for Kyk Net (Koei channel) which alternate every two weeks – Do Ray Me and Zoomie, in total shooting 364 x 15 min programs in eight months.

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Red Pepper Pictures

Red Pepper Pictures is located in the Linden precinct at 37 – 7th Street, Linden, Johannesburg and is run by Cecil Barry. The complex has multi-studios; there are four studios in total, all of which are fully set up and equipped for television and commercial programming.

**Studios:** Studio sizes and floor plans are available on request. Studios have air-conditioning, level floors and are soundproofed.

**In addition Red Pepper Pictures offers the following:**
- Make-up, dressing rooms and green room
- Docking areas
- Storage areas
- Catering areas
- Good access into studio
- Telephone lines and internet
- Generator
- Cycorama
- Audience seating

**Recent shoots include:** Jam Alley, Phat Joe Live, Afro Café, Flash, LunchBox, Laugh out Loud, Chatroom, Jika ma Jika, Late Night with KgomoTso, Cool Catz, Powerball Live Draw and various commercial shoots.

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Red Pepper Pictures
Sasani Studios/ZSETV

Sasani Studios/ZSETV is located at 2 Johannesburg Road, Highlands North, Johannesburg and is owned by Sabido Investments (Pty) Ltd. Sasani Studios is the largest complex of its type in Gauteng, and is a multi-studio facility offering a wide variety of studios. Within the complex is a self-contained post-production facility which offers two sophisticated television studios, and a total of six stand-alone studios elsewhere in the complex. This is the only film laboratory in Gauteng. Some of the studios are permanent homes to various local soapis.

**Studios:** On offer are a variety of studios, ranging in size from 62m² to 1000m² and the majority are linked to generators with UPS. The grid height ranges between 4.4m and 7.2m. Each studio is fully soundproofed and air-conditioned with levelled floors, make-up rooms, dressing rooms and green rooms. The studios can link to digital/analogue control rooms, depending on the requirements (including hybrid video and audio servers) with multi-camera configurations. Live broadcasts from studios can be transmitted to all channel providers. HD is currently being implemented.

**In addition Sasani Studios/ZSETV offers:**
- One stop shop for all television requirements
- Dressing rooms
- Catering areas – certain studios have dedicated kitchens
- Live broadcast television studios
- Digital post-production editing
- Digital audio 5.1 surround post-production
- Multimedia
- Bulk DVD, CD, VHS duplications and transfers
- Standards conversions
- Camera and edit suite rental
- ISDN broadcast
- DVD authoring
- Furnished production offices to rent
- Internet access and telephones

**Recent shoots include:** Big Brother, Scandal, Rhythm City, Jika Majika, Moferefe Lenalong, Gospel Gold, Bonisanani and Glam Guru.

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Senepe Studios

Senepe Studios is the only studio listed which is Pretoria based. It is located at Unit 34 Tannery Industrial Park, 309 Derdepoort Road, Silverton, Pretoria, and the owner is Pieter Roos. Senepe Studios is a single studio facility.

**Studio:**
20m x 10m (complete area) with 6m x 8m (Infinity curve floor space), 16m infinity curve length, 5m height up to lighting grid and 6.5m to roof. It is air-conditioned with a semi-carpeted level floor, and acoustic panelling throughout. It is equipped with a lighting grid including lights.

**In addition Senepe Studios offers:**
- Make-up and dressing room
- Audience seating (upper level)
- Docking area
- Storage area
- Catering area
- Drive-in vehicle access
- Shooting area of studio can be painted for mural/green/blue on request
- Generators
- Internet
- Telephone and fax lines
- Control/ final mix room
- Sound recording booth (5m x 3.5m)
- Recording booth (4.5m x 3.5m)
- Transfer facility
- Animation studio
- Graphic design facility
- Two edit suites

**Recent shoots include:** Mercedes Benz sales training, Malik G (International Hip Hop Artist), NBL Entertainment (corporate video), Van Coke Cartel Music Video and Romans Pizza TV Commercial.

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Stark Studios

Stark Studios is located at 66 Aimee Street, Fontainbleau, Randburg, Johannesburg and is owned by Stark Films. The complex houses two studios and various post-production areas, and is to be the new home of a popular daily drama Binelanders.

Studio 1
750m²

Studio 2
500m²

The grid height is 7m. Both studios are soundproofed with silent air-conditioning throughout; level floor (raised); six full HD studio cameras. There are production, vision and audio control rooms for each studio. 500kva Generator back-up is available.

In addition Stark Studios offers:
• Large make-up room (eight chairs with lights and mirrors, three basins)
• 18 Dressing rooms
• Two green rooms
• Large catering area with supporting kitchen and scullery
• Cinema-style (47 seats) and final-mix auditorium
• Voice booth
• Two audio suites
• Four edit suites
• Three production offices
• 15 Executive offices
• Basement parking for 70 vehicles
• Open parking for 40 vehicles
• Pre-build, workshop, set and props storage areas (1 500m²)
• Two boardrooms
• Telephone lines
• Internet
• Video feeds from studios throughout building and offices
• Security system
• Garden area

Recent shoots include: The studios opened in January 2010 with Binelanders, a daily drama produced for M-Net.

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The Production Works & Avery Studio

The Production Works is located at 96 – 7th Avenue, Melville, Johannesburg and Avery Studio is at 97 – 6th Avenue, Melville. The studios form part of a production/post-production/animation facility. Both studios are co-owned by Markus Davies and Brink de Villiers.

Studios:

The Production Works
68m² with a green screen and infinity curve. Soundproofed.

Avery Studio
40m² with a green screen and infinity curve.

In addition The Production Works offers:
• One studio
• Make-up room
• Catering facilities

Recent shoots include: Lappies and Virtual Lawyer.

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Urban Brew Studios

Urban Brew Studios is located at 28 Harley Street, Ferndale Randburg in Johannesburg. It is a multi-studio facility and is an independent empowerment-orientated communications company.

**Studios:** There are a total of five studios which range in size between a 35m² chromakey and audition studio, to a 540m² studio suitable for live transmissions. The studios are all full television specification with air-conditioning.

**In addition Urban Brew Studios offers:**
- Full lighting rigs including moving lights and colour scrollers
- Multi-cameras
- Full audio facilities and jibs available
- Control rooms (including a control room which is HID ready)
- Other associated studio accessories and rooms

**Recent shoots include:** Get a Life, Generation Game, Friends Like These, Live Lotto Draw, 3 Talk with Noleen, House Calls, Bid Breakfast and Live ‘n Lucky.

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Looking for more?
Find it on the Gauteng Film Directory

The GFC’s online film directory is an up-to-date and comprehensive sector database for the audiovisual industry. The directory covers all service providers required for the production of film, television, documentaries, commercials, stills photography and multimedia, as well as providing access to a wide range of specialist services and functions ranging from script development and film direction to post-production, financing, deal making, distribution, exhibition and broadcasting.

Visit the directory at www.gautengfilm.org.za

Contact us

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