

...ententionally toured their own country." The Kampala city tour builds on the Seven

The route also winds through Kampala's historic hills, Old Kampala, home to the Gaddafi National Mosque; Mengo Hill, the political heart of Bu-

moments of silence, reinforcing the cultural spiritual significance of the sites. Pricing has been set to encourage accessibility.

city not just as a destination but as an experience in its own right.

Although there as a judge, Navio showed up more as a mentor, fully locking into moments with some of the artistes that showed up and performed on stage.

BY ISAAC SSEJJOMBWE

On Friday night, Tales Bukoto pulsed with energy as the latest edition of the Guinness Smooth Creators Lab unfolded, not just as a showcase but as a living, breathing workshop where raw talent met real opportunity.

In partnership with AUMEX, the Live Performance Masterclass created a rare kind of stage: one where artists did not just perform; they were seen, challenged, and sharpened in real time. From silky RnB vocals to experimental alternative sounds and high-tempo hip hop, the line-up reflected the restless creativity defining Uganda's new wave.

At the centre of it all was Navio, not just as a judge but as a mentor fully locked into the moment. He dissected performances with honesty and precision, touching on everything from vocal control and beat choice to stage command and audience connection.

But the night's heartbeat came from a rising Luo artiste who stepped onto the stage with *Omera*, a track that instantly grabbed the room. As the performance built, Navio, clearly feeling the energy, stepped in.

What followed was electric. He matched the artiste bar for bar before launching into a spontaneous freestyle that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

The chemistry between the two was undeniable, the kind of moment that blurs the line between upcoming and established. And Navio did not leave it at applause, as he promised the artiste a studio session, calling the track "lit" and signaling a co-sign that could change everything.

That single moment captured what the Creators Lab is becoming: a space where opportunity does not just knock but jumps on stage.

AUMEX founder Abaasa Rwemereza emphasised the bigger picture, noting



Navio's freestyle moment turns creator's lab into star-making night

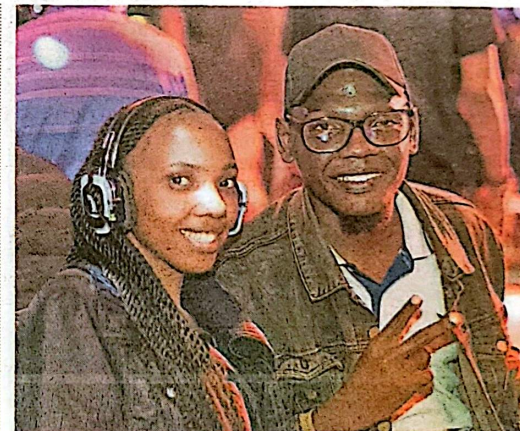
that while Uganda is overflowing with talent, access to mentorship has often been the missing link.

The open format of the Lab where artistes simply show up and step on stage removes barriers and replaces them with possibility.

And just when the night felt like it had peaked, Azawi stepped in to close. Her performance was commanding, effortless, and deeply engaging, a reminder of the standard the next generation is chasing.

Backed by a high-energy DJ set, she brought the night to a euphoric finish, leaving the crowd buzzing long after the music stopped.

Beyond the lights, the sound, and the standout moments, the Creators Lab is quietly building something bigger.



The open format of the Lab has allowed artistes to simply show up and step on stage, removing barriers and replacing them with possibility. PHOTOS/ ISAAC SSEJJOMBWE



KEY

The Creators Lab is shifting the focus from competition to growth, from exposure to development, creating a pipeline where Uganda's next stars are not just discovered but prepared.