

Auditions running

TONIGHT Reporter

AUDITIONS are being held for actors who are available in the mornings to join Universal Creative Arts for a tour of Durban schools with educational programmes.

The Durban speech and drama centre also has openings for part-time teachers in the afternoons and on Saturday mornings.

Anybody interested in either teaching or acting, should phone Brenda Lauth on 214310 (weekdays 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm).

Napac arts thrust

By WILLIAM CHARLTON-PERKINS

Development of education policy

NAPAC has stepped up its education programme to help keep the performing arts alive.

This is in addition to Kwasa, the performing arts council's community outreach programme.

Two years ago the Loft Theatre Company set up its own education group, the Loft Schools Company, under the direction of an education officer.

This year the Napac Dance Company has followed suit, appointing an education officer to work with the NDC 2 in promoting an awareness of dance in schools and other community groups.

Education programmes for youth have become central to the curricula of most progressive theatre organisations, highlighting the importance of keeping the performing arts alive in society — and illustrating the

communal role the arts can and should play in the fields of education and communications.

Heading the arts council's drama and dance education programmes respectively are Fran Cox and Nicolette du Plessis. Both have Masters degrees in Drama from Rhodes University.

Each has an in-depth backing in theatre-in-education with teaching experience at both secondary and tertiary levels.

Long-standing friends and associates, Nicky and Fran are keen to collaborate on as many projects as possible.

Before joining The Loft in October 1991, Fran spent time in the UK gaining experience with a touring Theatre-in-Education company.

Last year the Loft Schools

group toured seven programmes to primary and senior schools with topics ranging from ecology, family support and street law to poetry and prescribed set-works.

Fran was encouraged by the degree of interactive theatre skills encountered in the schools her company visited, and is eager to put her 1993 programme into action, six productions with substantial follow-up material for both pupils and teachers.

Nicky recently attended a conference on Dance Education and Training in London and took the opportunity of visiting other education officers of various leading British dance companies including the Royal Ballet, the English National Ballet and the

London Contemporary Dance Trust.

She accompanied the London City Ballet on a visit to Poole, where she observed a week-long workshop for children of wide-ranging backgrounds and ages.

Nicky is keen for NDC2 members to extend their own skills in the teaching arena, with workshops for adult dance classes offered.

Two prominent dance education specialists who will be working with the group during the first few months of the year are Bev Elgie, who has choreographed a piece based on an African folk tale for primary schools, and Alfred Hinkel, with *Dance 4 U*, an amalgam of African, Western and contemporary dance aimed at empowering young people to celebrate their own individuality as well as their own and other cultures.

Troy Game, Robert North's internationally acclaimed celebration of the male dancer will also tour to schools, besides being presented in the NDC's opening season of the year at the Playhouse in March.