

Chris faces tough challenge

CHRIS CONSANI is an actor facing a tremendous challenge on new theatre territory. He plays the hunchback, cripple and in many other ways twisted boy in "The Grand Ceremonial," the first time Arrabal's play has been presented in English in this country.

Chris has a great deal to his credit on the acting side, having done an intensified course under Robert Mohr, and then having joined Pacofs in Bloemfontein for a theatre apprenticeship before going on to the "big time".

Approach
Important about Consani is his approach to this medium. He feels that acting should never be just an imitation, but should come from deep within the person taking the role. No superficiality for him.

While with Pacofs, he tells me, he found it more difficult to do the story-telling aspect of the Damon Runyon part, than to play the psychologically strange character in "The Collector".

"When I had just started rehearsing 'The Collector' the film version opened, and I deliberately stayed away

By BILL EDGSON

from it, not wanting to watch another actor doing it."

He added that one of the disadvantages of Pacofs is that it is a smaller company, doing things on a smaller scale in a not very big city like Bloemfontein.

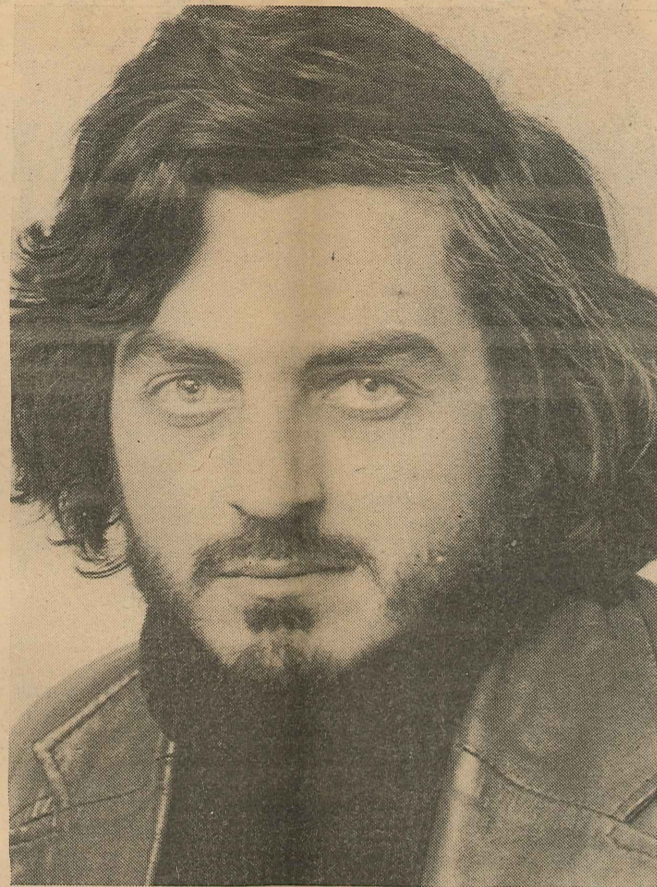
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"The Grand Ceremonial" is something else. "I find it a great play, complex and interesting. It has an astonishing array of levels, and it is rewarding to work with Lindsay Reardon as the director.

"We have been shifting the interpretations, throwing some over, trying other approaches and retaining some. It is like an actor undertaking Hamlet by never having seen or read the play before, and drawing from his own bank of experience and imagination.

"This is particularly applicable to the character I'm now playing. It is a matter of digging deeply and even finding things you don't like. He is cripple, kept cocooned by his mother and his whole vision of life is black and jaundiced.

"At the same time he is credible and has lovable energy. He wants to get out of his mother's claws, and has a fantasy world full of rituals with dolls — he loves, hates and whips them. He also meets a girl in a park and leads her into his fantas-



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tic rituals. She has a strong fascination for him, like a frog and a snake."

Chris feels there are all the ingredients of a great drama, none of emotion imitation, but love, hate and death. He says the aim of the production, which has Ruth Oppenheim and Leonie Hofmeyer in it, is to make the audience feel they are watching something really taking place, and not just being performed.

"The aim is to achieve a quivering needle covering the entire range of emotions. It is a very exciting play, with guts-to-guts going on all the time and not just on an intellectual level," he said.

When not on the stage, Chris runs an art gallery in Sandown, and he feels art has now become more selective — in both exhibiting and buying.

"Art, like this play we are doing, now tends, to dig down to the raw, and the works have a strange blend of violence and compassion, going right down to the root of what we are."

Which all sounds anything but conventional.

All the answers

By MARILYN JENKINS

HOW does one string a marionette or make the tiny costumes or light a miniature stage?

All the answers, and much more besides, are being offered during the four-day Marionette Workshop being held at the Civic Theatre, Johannesburg, from August 9.

This is the first national workshop of its kind ever set up, and at a registration fee of R15 it must rank as one of the bargains of the year.

Lecture demonstrations will be given by the staff of the Civic's Marionette Theatre, and specialised discussions will be held with other experts.

For registration write to Box 31900, Braamfontein 2017.

C.I.C THEATRES NOW SHOWING

Market St. Metro 1 23-3358 **BLACK SUNDAY** (4-10) Mon-Sat, 10, 145, 5, 15, 8.45 Thriller — Robert Shaw, Marthe Keller
 Market St. Metro 2 23-3358 **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Fri, 10, 2, 5, 15, 8, 15 Sat, 10, 2, 5, 45, 8, 45 Comedy — Terence Hill, Bud Spencer
 Hillbrow Metro 1 724-2511 **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Fri, 10, 2, 5, 30, 8, 30 Sat, 10, 2, 15, 6, 9 Comedy — Terence Hill, Bud Spencer
 Hillbrow Metro 2 724-2511 **BLACK SUNDAY** (4-10) Mon-Sat, 10, 1, 45, 5, 15, 8, 45 Thriller — Robert Shaw, Marthe Keller
 Norwood Metro Grant Ave **BLACK SUNDAY** (4-10) Mon-Thur, 10, 2, 8, Fri, 10, 1, 45, 5, 15, 8, 45 Sat, 1, 45, 5, 15, 8, 45 Thriller — Robert Shaw, Marthe Keller
 Bedford. Metro 1 616-2523 **AIRPORT '77** (All Ages) Mon-Thur, 10, 2, 15, 8, 15, Fri, 10, 2, 15, 5, 30, 8, 30 Sat, 10, 2, 15, 6, 9 Adven. — Jack Lemmon, George Kennedy
 Bedford. Metro 2 Bedford Centre **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Thur, 10, 2, 15, 8, Fri, 10, 2, 5, 15, 8, 15 Sat, 10, 2, 5, 45, 8, 45 Comedy — Hill, Spencer
 Randburg Metro 48-0340 **BLACK SUNDAY** (4-10) Mon-Thur, 10, 2, 8, Fri, 10, 1, 45, 5, 15, 8, 45 Sat, 1, 45, 5, 15, 8, 45 Thriller — Robert Shaw, Marthe Keller
 Randburg Gala 48-5313 **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Fri, 10, 2, 8 Sat, 10, 2, 6, 9 Comedy — Terence Hill, Bud Spencer
 Brixton Metro 35-3537 **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Fri, 10, 2, 15, 8 Sat, 2, 15, 6, 9 Comedy — Terence Hill, Bud Spencer
 New Carlton 21-3087 Von Wielligh St. **BAD NEWS BEARS** (All Ages) Mon-Thurs, 10, 2, 8, Fri, Sat, 10, 2, 6, 9 Comedy
 Edenvale Cine Eden 53-1411 **WON TON TON The Dog Who Saved Hollywood** (All Ages) Mon-Fri, 2, 8, 15, Sat, 10, 2, 6, 9 Comedy — Bruce Dern, Art Carney
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 Bookings for New Carlton and Cine Eden, Edenvale, at Computicket.

PRETORIA

Sunnyside Metro 44-9867 **CRIME BUSTERS** (All Ages) Mon-Thurs, 10, 2, 15, 8, Fri, 10, 2, 15, 5, 30, 8, 30 Sat, 10, 2, 5, 30, 9 Action Comedy — Hill, Spencer
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GBBA 20/7/18x2/PE/REV

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Live Theatre Entertainment

THEATRE	SHOW	GENRE	CAST	TIMES	NOTES
ACADEMY Theatre of Laughter	BIRDS OF PARADISE	ADULT SEX COMEDY NO. 4 - 18	REX GARNER, MELODY O' BRIAN, PATRICIA SANDERS & GEORGE KORELIN return in the Record Breaking Smash Hit.	NIGHTLY 8.30 p.m. FRI. & SAT. 6 & 9 p.m.	THEATRE BOX OFFICE 9.00 - 5.00 p.m. (725-5620) AFTER 5.00 p.m. PHONE 724-8022. RESTAURANT 724-5810
ALEXANDER	ANASTASIA	DRAMA	TRUK TONEEL presents SANDRA PRINSLOO and WILMA SNYMAN in the play by Marcelle Maurette. Translated into Afrikaans by Peter Metelerkamp.	NIGHTLY 8 p.m. SATURDAY 5.30 & 9 p.m. LAST 2 DAYS	A SUPERLATIVE EVENING OF THEATRE IN AFRIKAANS... SANDRA PRINSLOO SUPERB - Citizen Directed by FRANCOIS SWART.
ALEXANDER	BOEING-BOEING	FARCE	TRUK TONEEL presents the naughty sophisticated farce, translated into Afrikaans by Pieter Paul Fourie. Directed by Francois Swart.	OPENING WEDNESDAY 8 p.m. NIGHTLY 8 p.m. SATURDAY 5.30 & 9 p.m.	Starring FRANZ MARX with HARRIET PIENAAR, LOUISE MOLLET PRINSLOO, ELISE HUBBERT, DAVID VAN DER MERWE & TRUDIE TALJAARD.
BARNATO THEATRE Comm. & Sauer Streets (724-6782 & 836-5591)	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SWAMP	COMEDY DRAMA 35th WEEK	Pieter Toerien & Shirley Firth present GRAHAM ARMITAGE & ECKHARD RABE in the controversial new play by ROYCE RYTON "A HIT" - Star "Remarkable theatrical experience" - Sun. Times.	MON. to THURS. 8.30 p.m. FRI. 8.30 p.m. SAT. 6 & 9 p.m. LAST 8 DAYS: Ends 30th July	INDIANS & COLOURED Admitted Monday to Thursday "An excellent Show Now an Even Better One" - R.D.M. "Dynamic Duo... excellent - terrific" - Citizen
BROOKE THEATRE (838-3254)	THE MOON IS BLUE	COMEDY	CLIVE SCOTT, ELIZABETH RAE, BRIAN DARNLEY - A SCINTILLATING TEAM DIRECTED BY CLIVE SCOTT.	OPENING WEDNESDAY 8 p.m. MON. to THURS. 8.30 p.m. FRI. & SAT. 6 & 9 p.m. Booking now Open	THE BROADWAY & MOVIE COMEDY HIT BROOKE TAVERN RESTAURANT OFFERS SPECIAL THEATRE DINNER AT R1.95 PHONE 834-2189 IN GOOD TIME
CIVIC THEATRE	FESTIVAL OF BALLET	PACT BALLET	TONIGHT 8 p.m.: 'GISELLE & VESPRI' with Guest Stars GALINA SAMSHOVA & ANDRE PROKOVSKY	NIGHTLY 8 p.m. 2.30 p.m. Matinees Tomorrow, 30th July and also 6th August.	Guest Stars MERLE PARK & DAVID ASHMOLE in LA FILLE MAL GARDEE (Tuesday to Saturday) and SWAN LAKE (2nd - 6th August)
FILM TRUST ARENA (616-1230)	CIRCUS OSLER	MUSICAL YOUTH CIRCUS	FILM TRUST SMASH HIT CIRCUS WHICH BEATS ALL CIRCUSES!	TODAY 2.15, 5.45 & 8.45 p.m. TOMORROW 2.15, 5.45 & 8.45 p.m.	NEXT WEEK MON. to THURS. 2.15 & 7.30 p.m. FRIDAY & SATURDAY 2.15, 5.45 & 8.45 p.m. LAST 8 DAYS
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ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S **THE BIRDS** NEXT ATT. ROSE TAYLOR SUZANNE PLESHETTE WHISPERING DEATH

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BOOK FOR THESE SHOWS AT ANY **COMPUTICKET CENTRE 28-3040** TELEPHONE **28-3040** BOOK FOR THESE SHOWS AT ANY **COMPUTICKET CENTRE**

METRO CLASSIC VOORTREKKER RD., CAPITAL PARK, PRETORIA TEL 22-789

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S **THE BIRDS** NEXT ATT. ROD TAYLOR SUZANNE PLESHETTE WHISPERING DEATH

MON - THURS. 7 p.m. FRI 6 & 9 p.m. SAT 2.15, 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.