



KIDDIES
Teletubbies
K-TV, 2.30pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1999



Living Treasures

Ushaka Oratorio to open festival

Mezzo soprano Nomthandazo Mkhize (left) is among an impressive line-up of soloists who, alongside the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, will launch next month's multi-cultural Festival of Living Treasures at the Shongweni Resource Reserve from December 16-19. William Charlton-Pearns reports.

AT the opening concert of the Living Treasures Festival at the Shongweni Resource Reserve, which is expected to attract several thousand people, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra will team up with the KwaZulu-Natal Chorale, the Durban Serenade Choral Society, and other choirs from in and around Durban, to perform the epic Zulu oratorio *uShaka*.

Composed by Professor Mzilikazi Khumalo and set to a text by the well-known poet and academic, Themba Msimang (who will also perform the role of narrator/praise singer), the oratorio centres around the historic saga of King Shaka, founder of the Zulu nation.

Professor Msimang is uniquely qualified to have undertaken the artistic project of creating a libretto on his chosen subject.

Born and educated at the Ethanlaneni Mission in Nkandla in the heart of Zululand, he was socially restricted as a young child in that the church would not allow its members to mix with the traditionalists who occupied areas bordering the mission. Consequently, the child grew up fascinated by their seemingly curious customs and became a keen scholar of Zulu history and traditions.

Although the first books he read on Shaka portrayed the legendary monarch negatively, Msimang never doubted his status as one of the greatest empire builders in history. He made it his mission to portray Zulu history from the Zulu people's point of view.

He started by fictionalising the causes of the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 with the drama *Izulu Eladuma Esandlwana*. Khumalo got hold of a copy and was touched by the dialogue in the epilogue, where it refers to the assassination of Shaka, his parting curse on the assassins, and, by implication, on the Zulu nation itself, wrote Msimang in a programme note on *uShaka* for its KZN premiere two years ago with the KZNPO under the baton of the African-American maestro Leslie Dunner.

Khumalo then asked Msimang to elaborate on the episode, to provide a text which he could use as lyrics for his musical treatment of the subject. The result was a short poem,

Siyashweleza Nodumehlezi, which now forms the final chorus of the present work.

This received high praise from the public, and the two men became firm friends. They worked together on the project with the common objective of presenting Shaka from an African perspective. They sought to correct historic imbalances left to posterity as perpetrated initially by contemporary writers who knew and met Shaka, men such as King and Isaacs, who they felt clearly had ulterior motives to portray the king in a negative light.

The oratorio presents the two opposing stand points, of the blood-thirsty, irrational monarch, and the courageous, far-sighted nation-builder who eradicated crime and brought peace to the land.

uShaka is a major landmark in the history of South African music, and has drawn unanimous praise from public and critics alike on its previous performances in Gauteng and in Durban two years ago.

In a marathon feat of musicology, the American conductor Robert Maxym has notated the music and orchestrated it for concert performance. Maxym will conduct the Festival of Living Treasures opening performance on Thursday, December 16 at Shongweni. Booking at TicketWeb and Engen outlets.



15-16 December 1999, St Lucia
16-19 December 1999, Shongweni

1 3 2 0 6 3 WILD ONE

TEACHERS END OF YEAR GETAWAY

November 1999 - January 2000

Wild Coast Sun on selected dates between November 1999 and January 2000 are having special accommodation rates. To make a booking contact central reservations on (031) 312 6205 and quote the group ID-"TEACHERS".

HOW TO BE A SUPER HERO

22 December 1999

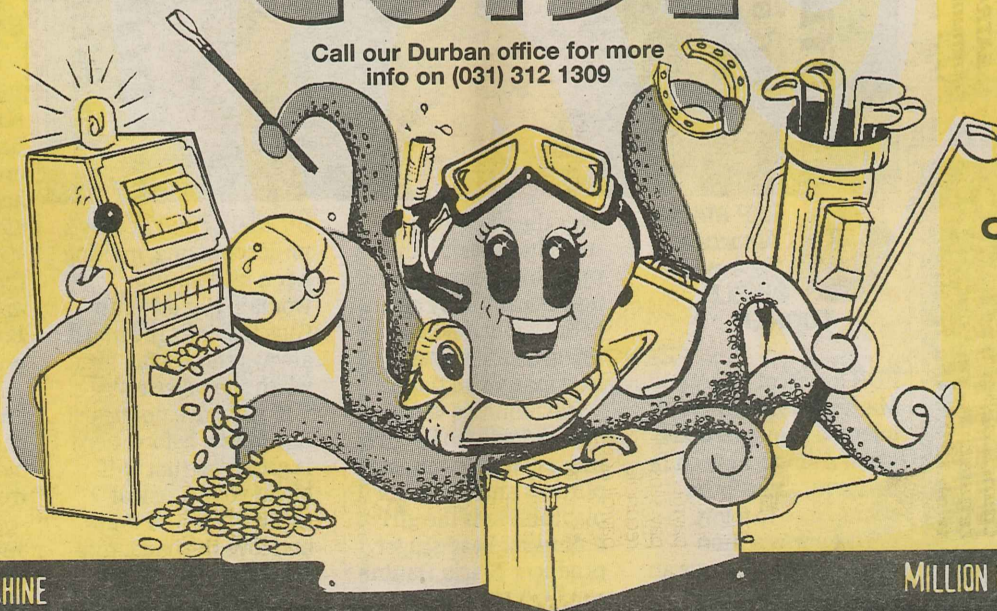
Meet Captain America, Wolverine, Spiderman and Spidergirl direct from New York City. They will be appearing at the Wild Coast Sun in the Tropical Nights theatre. For more information contact Gillian on (039) 305 2768.



Sun International

EXCITEMENT GUIDE

Call our Durban office for more info on (031) 312 1309



8 TEASE

The new Wild Coast Sun cabaret show is directed and choreographed by Julie de Jager and Debbie Venter. The feature singer for this show is the talented Kerry Forshaw. This show features a number of hits from the eighties. So if you would like to step back in time and attend the new show contact the Wild Coast Sun box office on (039) 305 2955.

CHRISTMAS BINGO BASH

15 December 1999

For more information contact Deon Roos in the Promotions Department on (039) 305 4703.



WILD COAST SUN

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Dukuduku dwellers divided

FACTIONS HAVE EMERGED OF RESIDENTS IN FAVOUR OF MOVING AND THOSE OPPOSED TO

People living in the once-pristine Dukuduku forest say they will be moved, reports Eric Ndiyane.

THE drawn-out dispute over the forced removal of Dukuduku residents from their north coast forest homes has taken a new twist with growing divisions among the community.

This issue has led people from the Dukuduku forest, north of KwaZulu-Natal, actually to take up arms against each other. There have been physical attacks on families of some of the residents. They have started to call each other names, with some being labelled as sell-outs. And the residents insist that if the Government continues with its plans to remove them, the real fight will begin.

The two factions have been formed by those who are in favour of moving and those who are opposed to it. Their formerly peaceful forest life is now marred by threats and attacks among members of the different factions.

Residents no longer speak as one voice on the issue and the number of those attacked for advocating

moving out of the area is increasing.

Different factions continue to hold meetings in the forest, but the pro-removal group hold its meetings in private. Confusion still reigns in the rich forest as the residents do not know who the right people to consult are.

The committee, formed by the residents to negotiate on their behalf, has been disbanded and re-formed about five times.

Most residents are adamant that they will not go anywhere. They go on with their daily chores as if nothing has happened. Others plant their mealie fields and no one publicly talks about moving.

At a meeting at the weekend, organisers told people they need not worry because they would not be moved.

Mr Themba Mnguni said people were not prepared to be moved until their needs were addressed "in a proper way".

Mnguni said the Dukuduku issue needed an independent body that would sit down with all the stake-holders.

"Last week's meeting showed that we will not be moving anywhere until someone sits down and talks to us. They can not run



DUKUDUKU forest-dwellers continue with their daily activities as their removal appears to be a distant dream

PICTURE: ERIC NDIYANE

He said the reason for different factions in the forest was that some people had been bribed to support the move.

Mrs Nelisiwe Khumalo said she did not think there would ever be a

move because the various involved were not sure what they wanted.

"Today they tell us we and the next day they say something else. I decided to plant mealie field because I expect rains."

She said the Dukuduku had been fought for a long time and could not be won over.

Another resident said she was encouraged at the meetings to continue with their lives in the forest and that they could even build new houses if they wanted.

"We were told to forget about being removed because it would not happen."

The Government remained unaware of the situation. And the land that was to be resettled the residents to the cent farm is not ready for anything. There are just no signs of a first move will happen in the area as promised by the Government officials plan of meetings with amaXhosa local white farmers who are concerned about the issue.

One official, who asked for names, identified, said there were several problems in the forest.

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PICTURE: ERIC NDYANE

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"Today they tell us we will go and the next day they say something else. I decided to plant my mealie field because I expect good rains."

She said the Dukuduku issue had been fought for a long time and could not be won over night.

Another resident said people were encouraged at the meeting to continue with their lives in the forest and that they could even build new houses if they wanted to.

"We were told to forget about being removed because it would not happen."

The Government officials remained unaware of the situation. And the land that was bought to resettle the residents to an adjacent farm is not ready, because nothing has been done to date. There are just no signs that the first move will happen in January as promised by the Government.

Government officials plan a series of meetings with amakhosi and local white farmers who appear to be concerned about the issue.

One official, who asked not to be identified, said there were still problems in the forest.