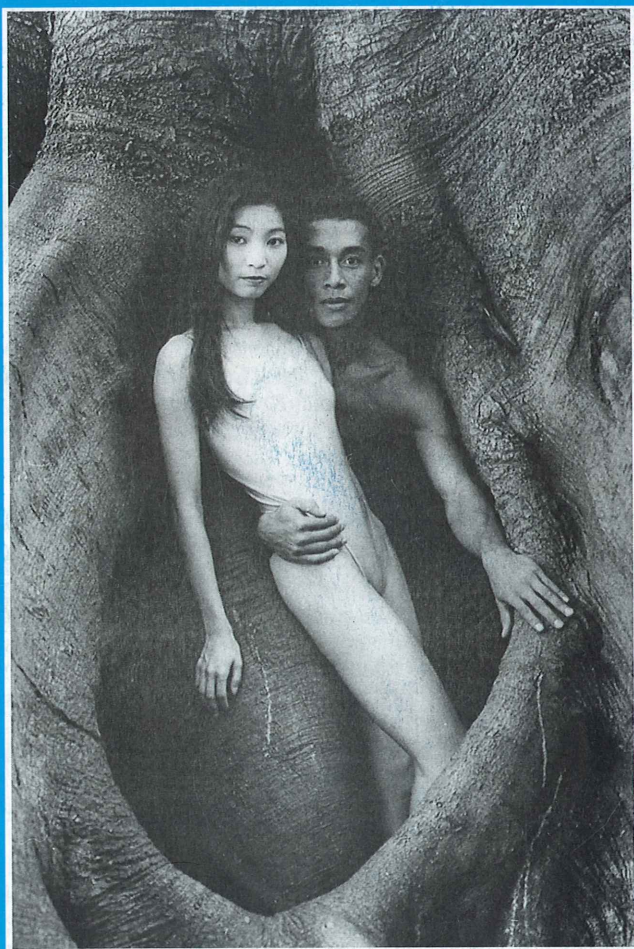

PLAYHOUSE NEWS

JUNE

1995



Vincent Hantam and Tracy Li are two of the special guests in "A Night of 100 Stars" this month.

THEATRE FACILITIES

TELEPHONE

- Dial-A-Seat – Selected Credit Card bookings – (031) 304-3631.
- Visa and Mastercard bookings for out-of-town patrons only – (031) 304-2753.
- To book venues for shows, exhibitions, product launches, office parties, etc. phone the Playhouse PRO on (031) 304-3631.

CONCESSIONS

- 40% discount on sold performances for fundraising.
- Discounts on block bookings: 10-19 seats less 10%; 20-49 seats less 20%; 50 or more less 30%.
- Half-price tickets for students and national servicemen in advance at Computicket on presentation of a valid card or 30 minutes before curtain-up
- Patrons over 65, half price tickets from Playhouse Boxoffice or Computicket in Pietermaritzburg on presentation of I.D.
- Scholar block bookings – R8,00 per pupil in groups of 20 or more.

- Playhouse reserves the right to limit concessions.
- All concessions subject to availability.
- Special Royal Hotel accommodation concessions for country patrons. Phone Playhouse Marketing.

AT YOUR SERVICE

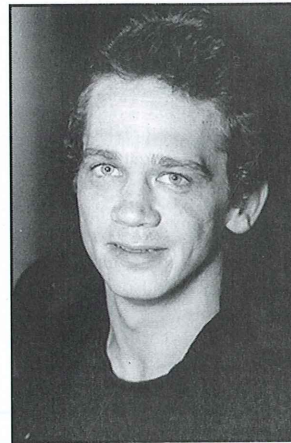
- The Natal Playhouse is accessible to the disabled. Hearing aid systems for Opera and Drama theatres available at Front of House Office: R10,00 refundable deposit – (031)304-3631 for further information. Wheelchairs also available.
- Theatre parking **R4,00** Tues.-Sat. evenings after 17:30; Sun all day/eve. Albany Garage, Albany Grove.
- Theatre Bars: Drinks may be pre-ordered for intervals.
- Foyer Coffee Bar: Mon.-Fri. 09:00-16:00; Sat 09:00-12:00; one hour before performances and during intervals.
- Popular Playhouse Tours: Every Tues. **R5,00** per person – Book at Playhouse Box Office or Computicket.

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

There are a variety of activities for Friends Club members this month:

- **Swan Lake:** June 9 @ 20h00, June 10 @ 14h00 & 20h00, June 11 @ 14h00 & 18h00. Tickets are R40.
- **NBS Sunset Proms** on Sunday June 11 at 17h30. tickets are half-price.
- **A Handful of Keys** on Sunday June 11 at 17h30. Tickets are half-price.
- **Arts Tour through the Playhouse** presented by the Durban Arts Gallery, followed by tea/coffee, on June 22 @ 10h00. Tickets are R8.00.
- **Reachout '95:** June 23 @ 14h00, June 24 @ 19h00, June 25 @ 14h30. Tickets are R8.
- **The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree** (FDR) on June 28 @ 18h00. Tickets are R8.00

As always, if you want to become a member of Friends, simply give the Playhouse Marketing Department a ring and we will mail an application to you. It costs R50,00 a year to join and R80,00 per couple to join. Tickets can be booked through Computicket or at the Natal Playhouse Office. Please remember to show your card when making your booking!



A NIGHT OF 100 STARS

THE PLAYHOUSE OPERA

JUNE 18 AT 18:30

TICKETS: FROM R35 TO R125
(EXCL. COMPUTICKET
SURCHARGE)

The most glamorous evening in our social calendar - **the KwaZulu-Natal's Night of 100 Stars** in aid of the Cancer Association of South Africa, will be held in the Playhouse Opera on Sunday June 18 at 18:30.

The past two **100 Stars** productions were most successful, and this year's promises to be even bigger and better with a host of outstanding artists and entertainers.

This year the show will be devised and directed by Mark Hawkins, following on the huge success of his glitzy festive season production, **Unforgettable**.

The evening's line-up includes the full NPO (conducted by Lykele Temmingh); the Playhouse Singers; the Playhouse Dance Company; the Durban Mens' Choir, Siwela Sonke and Suria Govender. Also special guest performers Joseph Clark, Mark Banks, Vincent Hantam, (by kind permission of UCT Ballet School) Brenda Radloff, Tracy Li, (by kind permission of Capab Ballet) Thokozani Mkhize, Helene Joseph, Jo-Ann Pezzaro, Natasha Sutherland, Linda Vargas, Andrew Young and more!

It also features a "whos-who" of local celebrities including Marjorie Chase, Hannah Lurie, Mary Harrison, Debbie Reynolds, Imraan Vagar, Ian MacKintosh and Dave McLeod.

Celebrities have to meet strict criteria before being selected - they must all have a Durban link. They should have been born here, lived here or worked here to qualify. This ensures that **The KwaZulu-Natal's Night of 100 Stars** is a truly "Durban" event which cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the country. It also shows just how many talented people have their roots in Durban!

All celebrities have donated their time to CANSA. All celebrities and entertainers are performing free of charge, waiving their fees in support of this unique fund-raiser.

A very special cheese and wine accompanies this black tie event. The city's foremost catering personalities will ensure that the finger supper will be five star!

Tickets are R125, R100, R75 and R35 (excluding Computicket charge). Tickets can be booked from CANSA direct on (031) 259525 or through Computicket. Tickets include a finger supper, wine and champagne.

Hurry, as tickets are not surprisingly selling very fast!

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PLAYHOUSE DIARY

Thu 1	Mama Sinfonia Concert Airotica	Drama Opera Cellar	19:00 19:30 20:30
Fri 2	Airotica Mama Airotica	Cellar Drama Cellar	17:30 19:00 21:30
Sat 3	Mama Mama Miss S.A. KwaZulu-Natal Airotica	Drama Drama Opera Cellar	14:00 19:00 20:00 20:30
Sun 4	Mama Music at the Lake Mama (F)	Drama Bot. Gardens Drama	14:00 15:30 19:00
Mon 5			
Tue 6	Airotica	Cellar	20:30
Wed 7	Airotica Airotica	Cellar Cellar	17:30 21:30
Thu 8	NPO (1) Airotica	Opera Cellar	19:30 20:30
Fri 9	Airotica Swan Lake (O) Airotica	Cellar Opera Cellar	17:30 20:00 21:30
Sat 10	Swan Lake Swan Lake Airotica	Opera Opera Cellar	14:30 20:00 20:30
Sun 11	Swan Lake Sunset Proms Swan Lake	Opera Village Green Opera	14:00 17:30 18:00
Mon 12			
Tue 13	The Lunatic, The Lover (O)... Airotica	Studio Cellar	20:15 20:30
Wed 14	Airotica The Lunatic, The Lover (S)... Airotica	Cellar Studio Cellar	17:30 20:15 21:30
Thu 15	NPO (2) The Lunatic, The Lover... Airotica	City Hall Studio Cellar	19:30 20:15 20:30

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Fri 16	Youth Day Airotica The Lunatic, The Lover... Airotica	Cellar Studio Cellar	17:30 20:15 21:30
Sat 17	Handful of Keys (O) The Lunatic, The Lover... Airotica	Drama Studio Cellar	20:00 20:15 20:30
Sun 18	Father's Day KwaZulu-Natal's Night of 100 Stars Handful of Keys The Lunatic, The Lover (F)...	Opera Drama Studio	18:30 18:30 19:00
Mon 19			
Tue 20	Handful of Keys (PWYC) Airotica	Drama Cellar	18:00 20:30
Wed 21	Airotica Handful of Keys Airotica	Cellar Drama Cellar	17:30 20:00 21:30
Thu 22	Handful of Keys NPO (3) Airotica	Drama City Hall Cellar	18:00 19:30 20:30
Fri 23	Reachout '95 Airotica Handful of Keys Airotica	Opera Cellar Drama Cellar	14:00 17:30 20:00 21:30
Sat 24	Theatre Cats Handful of Keys Reachout '95 Airotica	Alhambra Room Drama Opera Cellar	10:30 18:00 19:00 20:30
Sun 25	Reachout '95 Handful of Keys	Opera Drama	14:30 18:30
Mon 26			
Tue 27	Handful of Keys (PWYC) Airotica	Drama Cellar	18:00 20:30
Wed 28	Airotica Handful of Keys Airotica	Cellar Drama Cellar	17:30 20:00 21:30
Thu 29	Rain Queen (P) Rain Queen (P) Handful of Keys NPO (4) Airotica	Loft Loft Drama Opera Cellar	10:00 14:30 18:00 19:30 20:30
Fri 30	Rain Queen (O) Handful of Keys	Loft Drama	18:00 20:00

THE RAIN QUEEN AND THE BAOBAB TREE

The Playhouse Loft Theatre
30 June - 23 July
Tickets: R12,50

June 30 sees the opening of The Playhouse Puppets' first full-length marionette show in The Playhouse Loft Theatre. Written by Jackie Shipster and directed by Murray McGibbon, **The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree** will delight everyone, not just the kids. With stunningly creative designs from Greg King from Keith Anderson's originals, and music specially composed by Anthony Stonier, **The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree** is based on the legend of Mujaji the rain queen. Using magic, humour and bushveld lore, it tells the tale of a young girl's journey to the baobab tree where she will find out if she is to be the next rain queen. Featuring a funky millipede narrator, dapper dungbeetles and a clever chameleon in camouflage, **The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree** is magical, musical and magnificent! For a mid-year treat, don't miss **The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree** in The Playhouse Loft Theatre from June 30 to July 23. Booking is through Computicket or at the theatre itself.

THE PLAYHOUSE PUPPETS Touring productions

If your school or organisation would like one or more of The Playhouse Puppets' educational touring productions to pay you a visit, there's still plenty of time. Here's what's on offer:

Caring Kim

A charming production which teaches children up to the age of 12 about the importance of being kind to animals and other living things.

Hansel and Gretel and the Gingerbread Man

A drug abuse programme aimed at senior primary schools.

Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf

An adaptation of the original fairy story which educates junior primary school children about child abuse.

The cost for each show is R3.00 per child, with a minimum charge of R300.00 per performance. Interested? Then telephone Suzanne du Toit in The Playhouse Information Centre on (031) 3043631 or 3058400 to book.

JULIUS CAESAR... ECHOES OF SHAKA

KwaZulu-Natal tour until June 9

Pupils studying **Julius Caesar** this year still have the opportunity to see the play performed at venues close to home with The Playhouse Company's **Julius Caesar... Echoes of Shaka** still touring KwaZulu-Natal. Directed by Stephen Gurney, this is **Julius Caesar** with a big difference! Set within the context of the great Zulu King Shaka's assassination, Gurney's adaptation will bring Shakespeare's powerful comment on ambition and corruption to life, making it topical and accessible for students' maximum understanding and appreciation. Teachers interested in taking their pupils to **Julius Caesar... Echoes of Shaka** should telephone The Playhouse Information Centre on (031) 3043631 or 3058400 for further details. Tickets are R3.00 each.

DIAL-A-SEAT

Credit card bookings on

3043631



Catch the last few performances of MAMA! Ends 4 June

If you haven't seen it yet then now is your last chance before the show heads off for Europe! Mbongeni Ngema's new musical **MAMA!** has been enthralling audiences at the Playhouse since mid-April and ends its run here on 4 June before moving to Germany.

Here is what the critics have said:

"an energetic cast, some moving songs, eye catching costumes and some soulful performances... Fortune Xaba soars like Kenny G" *The Daily News*

"an excellent cast of singers and dancers... the songs in the production are quite brilliant" *The Natal Witness*

"breathtakingly disciplined choral work, inspired solo singing, massed, well drilled footwork of eager young dancers, lively interplay of singers and a fine, sassy band" *The Sunday Times*

Booking is through Computicket

Coming up next month YOUR OWN DOG WON'T BITE YOU

The Playhouse Drama Theatre
5 - 16 July

Tickets: R15, R20, R25

Award-winning playwright Ronnie Govender will stage his hit musical comedy, **Your Own Dog Won't Bite You**, in The Playhouse Drama Theatre this July, in association with The Playhouse Company.

Govender, whose internationally-acclaimed **At The Edge** played to capacity audiences at The Playhouse last year, has been inundated with requests to stage the comedy after its enormously-successful limited first run two years ago. Featuring the music of Ramesh Hassan, whose songs are regularly heard on radio and television and whose own Gagra Choli show has brought him national recognition, this irreverent romp has a universal theme while poking fun at superstition in the Indian community.

Your Own Dog Won't Bite You takes its title from a remark made by Hassan to Govender. To support an argument, Hassan quoted an Urdu saying: "If you haven't got money, your own dog won't bite you." Govender thought it was a "charming comment on the vagaries of human nature, let alone those of canines" and that was how the comedy was born.

Bookings can be made at Computicket or at The Playhouse Box Office or Dial-A-Seat on (031) 3043631 for selected credit card bookings. The Playhouse Information Centre, contactable on (031) 304361 or 3058400, will provide details on considerable discounts for block bookings for ten or more. Charities interested in acquiring performances of the show for fundraising purposes should contact Ramesh Hassan on 435288 after hours.



THE LUNATIC THE LOVER & THE POET

The Studio
13-25 June
Tues-Sat: 20:15
Sun: 19:00

Garth Anderson and The Actors' Co-operative present a programme of dynamic interactions in major relationships from Shakespeare's **Othello**, **Hamlet**, **Romeo & Juliet**, **The Taming of the Shrew** and **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. It is the perfect programme for lovers of the Bard, as well as being a wonderful introduction to his work.

THE PLAYHOUSE COMPANY 1995



theatre cats

Approximately fifty energetic 6 to 12 year olds, four tins of paint, a mountain of paper, some sequins, feathers, glitter and glue. A recipe for complete catastrophe? Not quite...

Theatre Cats pledges a year of innovative, educational entertainment with

- mime, "make music", dance and drama workshops,
- special performances,
- special day events like a "Halloween Costume party",
- Storytelling
- and "culture vulture" days

We will go further... and negotiate restaurant discounts for the kids, discounted museum tours and more!

R20,00 buys a year's membership. Ensure your kiddies enjoy some really miaow...vellous ENTERTAINMENT!

For further information, contact Phumzile Langa on (031) 3043631 Ext 2166.



A NIGHT OF 100 STARS

THE PLAYHOUSE OPERA
JUNE 18 AT 18:30
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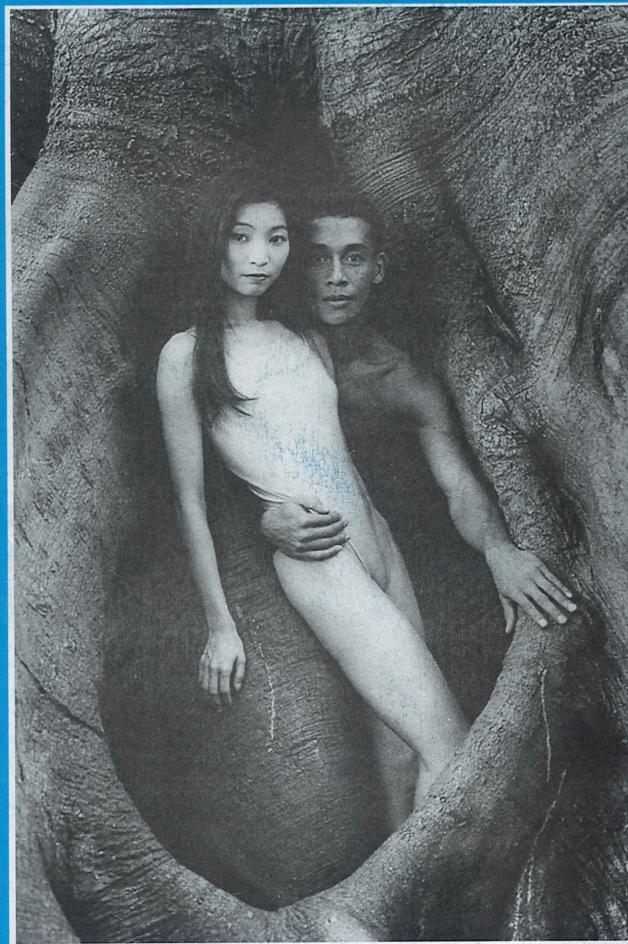
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PLAYHOUSE NEWS

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Coming soon to
the Playhouse

EVITA THE ROCK OPERA



The internationally-acclaimed Lloyd Webber/Rice rock opera, **Evita**, is set to take Durban by storm next month when it is put on in the Opera at the Playhouse.

The power and the glory of the "Rainbow of Argentine", is brilliantly captured in this exciting and compelling rock opera. It is a dazzling look at Eva Peron, mistress and later wife to dictator Juan Peron, who was loved by the poor, and hated by the rich and powerful.

The production promises to capture the magic of this universal story that captured the attention and hearts of people worldwide. A story further underlined by a strong musical score which includes the hit songs *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, *Oh, What A Circus* and *Another Suitcase, Another Hall*.

The production is under direction of top Capetonian director David Matheson and stars Brenda Radloff in the role of Eva Peron. Brenda appeared last year in the CAPAB production of **Evita** and was seen recently in Durban in the Playhouse production of **Oliver!**

The musical director is Lykele Temmingh with Alfred Hinkel as choreographer. The set designs are by Keith Anderson with brilliant costume designs by Penny Simpson.

The Playhouse Company Musicals production of **Evita** is on at the Playhouse from 14 July until 20 August. Bookings open nationwide at Computicket on 1 June 1995.

A HANDFUL OF KEYS

17 June - 2 July
Ticket price: R15, R25, R30

Two of South Africa's foremost showmen, Ian von Memerty and Bryan Schimmel, join forces to present the dazzling and sophisticated **A Handful of Keys**, coming to Durban after sell-out seasons in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town.

Together they flex their musical muscle in a repertoire ranging from ragtime to rock 'n roll, from Basie to Broadway, from the classics to Clayderman - all on two pianos!

Produced by TV's Mark West, scripted by ace comedian Malcolm Terrey and directed by Alan Swerdlow, this keyboard riot pulsates with humour, singing, frenetic wardrobe changes, fun and pure entertainment.

Don't miss this dynamic duo in **A Handful of Keys**.

A Handful of Keys is presented by The Playhouse Company's Industrial Theatre Department.