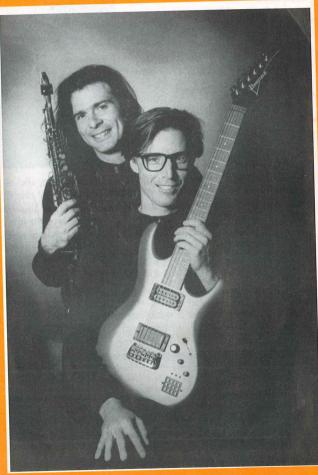
PLAYHOUSE NEWS

APRIL 1995





Two major musicals are being staged in the Playhouse this month: **Buddy - the Buddy Holly Story** and Mbongeni Ngema's new
musical, **Mama!**, which features the NPO. Pictured is Andrew
Young from the NPO, and Joseph Clark who plays "Buddy".

World première of Mbongeni Ngema's MAMA!



Composed, Written and Directed by Mbongeni Ngema
Orchestrations by Michael Hankinson
Set and Costume Design by Sarah Roberts
Lighting Design by Mannie Manim
Previews 13 - 21 April
22 April - 4 June 1995
The Playhouse Drama
Tickets: R16.00 to R26.00

Mbongeni Ngema's first multi-racial production, comprising a forty strong cast of new faces who have been undergoing Ngema's six month training course in the Committed Artists method, a twelve piece band and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Michael Hankinson, is about to première at the Playhouse this month.

Mama! is set in the new South Africa, tracing the lives and aspirations of young artists of all colour, coming to audition for Ngema's (in the play addressed as 'Buti' which means big brother) forthcoming musical production, already commissioned on Broadway. The eyes, the faces and the bodies of the young artists tell the story of tension, hope, determination, courage and a dream of joining other stars on The Wall of Fame, as they go through their paces. The setting is Committed Artists, Buti's internationally renowned training and research centre. The production within the play is about a Soweto Mafia that actually funded Committed Artists from it's inception. No government funding for African companies in the Arts meant that money had to be obtained through other sources.

Mama, the women loved by everyone in Soweto and throughout South Africa, with her daughter Melody and her son Bra Tony, the Al Capone of Soweto and Buti's close friend, became a financial solution for Committed Artists. Anything on wheels or on rail, Bra Tony could obtain. Bank robberies, gun running and drug smuggling were carefully orchestrated by Mama's captain and son, Bra Tony. Close contacts with the highest officials in the police force earned him a release from prison (a computer error), after he had been arrested for the biggest bank robbery in Africa "Operation Underground" in Krugersdorp. Masquerading as one of the ANC leadership from Robben Island earned Bra Tony stature and clout to manoeuvre freely in the run-up to the April 1994 historic elections.

In the final scene of this emotionally charged rollercoaster production, the world will be presented with a kaleidoscope of South Africa's new sound the chilling, thrilling and vibrating music of Ngema, as Buti snatches and marries Melody, the only sister of bra Tony and the songbird of Committed Artists. The wedding celebrations take place just as the cast pack their bags, getting ready to take the Big Apple by storm. New York is their dream. Melody, the songbird is the key to their success. But first, Buti and Melody's wedding must go on!

And Mama, the staunch supporter and lover of the Arts, becomes a symbol of walking history! Booking through Computicket

MARU



The Playhouse Drama until April 2 Tickets: R13.00 - R18.50

Don't miss the final two performances of **Maru**, adapted for the stage and directed by Walter Chakela from the novel by Bessie Head.

Starring Alistair Dube in the title role, this moving love story is set in Botswana in the late 1950s. Also featured in the 11-strong cast are popular local actors Alfred Nokwe and Caroline Smart.

CARING KIM



KwaZulu-Natal tour until June 2

Still touring KwaZulu-Natal schools is The Playhouse Puppets' first production, Caring Kim. It tells the story of Caring Kim's fight to save her friends Clever Col (a droopy basset hound) and Dumbo Den (a

soulful grey tabby cat) from the wicked Mr Catchit and his reluctant assistant Silly Cyril (a chubby marmalade cat), who capture animals and treat them cruelly.

Written by Allan Hagan, directed by Fan Cox, designed by Tharrie Dreyer with music composed by Peter Bezuidenhout, **Caring Kim** teaches children the importance of kindness to all living things. It is recommended for children up to the age of 12.

Caring Kim is touring the following KwaZulu-Natal areas:

25 - 28 April Pietermaritzburg/Midlands/Northern KwaZulu-

2 - 5 May Greater Durban area 9 - 12 May North Coast

16 - 19 May Greater Durban area 22 - 26 May South Coast 30 May - 2 June Greater Durban area

Schools, creches and any other interested groups or individuals can book performances of **Caring Kim** by telephoning Playhouse Block Bookings on (031) 3043631 or 3058400 at a cost of R3.00 per child. As the production has been designed to be as mobile, adaptable and flexible as possible, no stage or hall is necessary.

HANSEL AND GRETEL... a drug abuse programme LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD... a child abuse programme

KwaZulu-Natal tour April 25 - June 2

Coming up from The Playhouse Puppets are two new touring productions, Hansel and Gretel and Little Red Riding Hood. The former is aimed at children from standard one to matric and teaches pupils about the dangers of drug abuse and how to get help when they are in trouble with drugs. The latter teaches children about child abuse, giving them the knowledge and confidence to say "no" and the importance of getting help.

Performances of both productions are available to schools and other interested parties who should telephone the Drama Department on (031) 3043631 to book.

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

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

- The final dress rehearsal of **Buddy: the Buddy Holly Sto**ry on April 20 at 19:30 in The Opera. Tickets are R15.00.
- The final dress rehearsal on **Mama!** on April 12 at 19:00 in The Drama. Tickets are R8.00.
- The opening performance of **African Souls** in the Opera on Friday April 7 at 19h30. Tickets are R10.00
- The final dress rehearsal on Monday April 10 at 18h00, of **Bergville Stories**. Tickets are R8.00
- A very special offer to all Playhouse Friends the management of Ster Kinekor in the Workshop is offering 20% off ticket prices for all week-day performances of **Immortal Beloved**. (Please note this offer is for the Workshop movie complex only and for Monday to Thursday performances only. Booking can only be done at the Workshop booking office.)

Friends which are over 65 years old - please note that the special offer for **Immortal Beloved** does not apply as the Workshop offer special senior supporter concessions, however, over 65's may have a complimentary small popcorn if they see **Immortal Beloved**.

As always, if you want to become a member of Friends, simply give the Playhouse marketing department a ring and we'll 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 box office. Please remember to show your card when making your booking!

PLAYHOUSE DANCE COMPANY 10th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING GALA PERFORMANCE (with the NPO)

The Playhouse Opera Tuesday April 4 at 19:30 Tickets: R35.50 Scholars: R20.50

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Playhouse Dance Company, formerly the NAPAC Dance Company. Over the last ten years the company has aroused interest throughout South Africa and (more recently) abroad with its freshness, its versatility and its quality.

An exciting Gala Performance by the Playhouse Dance Company takes place on April 4 at 19:30. This prestigious gala event is a Birthday Bonanza for the Company - a celebration of all that has been achieved over the last ten years and a celebration of vigorous survival. An opportunity for the company of 18 professional artists to display their skill, talent and artistry,

the event heralds a new era for the company.

The form that this new era will take depends significantly on the funds coming to The Playhouse Company, and more specifically to Dance. The anniversary performance on April 4 is your opportunity to support dance in an effective way. To buy a ticket to this magnificent one-off performance by the Playhouse Dance Company is to express your hope and faith in dance as an art form, to help ensure the survival of this aspect, and to give the Playhouse Dance Company members a ticket to their future as performers, teachers and artists. Featuring the NPO, the programme includes excerpts from the great classics and works by acclaimed contempary choreographers. Guest artist for this performance is former Playhouse Company dancer Vincent Hantam.

STER KINEKOR AND PLAYHOUSE JOIN FORCES

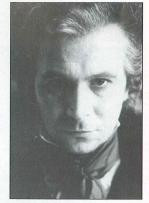
Ster Kinekor in the Workshop and the Workshop management have joined forces with the Playhouse Company on a series of exciting joint projects.

A FEAST OF BEETHOVEN

A FUNDRAISING EVENING FOR NPO EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Sunday April 9 at 17:00 The Workshop Complex Tickets: R100.00

A very special evening for lovers of Beethoven. The NPO will be performing an all-Beethoven programme in the Workshop, followed by a sumptous around-theworld theme cocktail party courtesy of the Workshop restaurants. Keeping to the Beethoven theme, guests are then invited to enjoy a complimentary sneak preview screening of the highly-acclaimed movie, Immortal Beloved. Starring



Isabella Rossellini and Gary Oldman in the title role, the movie examines the love life of this great composer. All money raised will go towards funding the NPO's many education projects throughout the year. Tickets are R100 per person and can be brought from the Playhouse Box Office or the Playhouse marketing department. Early bookings are essential.

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY

April 21 - 28

The Workshop is hosting a week-long festival of Shakespeare films to celebrate the birthday of this great playwright. The Playhouse Drama Department will be hosting special readings and extracts from his work during the course of the week.

CELLAR NEWS

Hanky Panky - A spectacular Denise Britz floor show currently in the Cellar is playing to capacity audiences on Wednesdays through to Saturdays. This musical revue includes numbers such as the title track Hanky Panky from a medley of Madonna numbers, a Tina Turner medley includes Private Dancer and City Limits as well as Gloria Gaynor's I Am What I Am. The show closes on 15 April so book now at Computicket.

MUSIC NOTES

St Matthew's Passion - Bach Durban City Hall Friday, April 14

The Durban Symphonic Choir and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra join forces for the production of Bach's hauntingly beautiful **St. Matthew's Passion** to be performed on Good Friday. Jaun Burgers the DSC's choirmaster sings the part of Christos, Delwine Windell as the Evangelist, Johannes Gwacela - bass, Bongani Tembe (the NPO's Deputy Dirctor) is the tenor part, Playhouse Singer Danelle Smuts as alto and Linda Bukhosini and Stacey Almond as the two sopranos. Book at Computicket.

Sunset Proms
Village Green
April 2 at 17:30
Tickets: R14.50 and R7.00

End your weekend on a Sunset Proms note with your favourite orchestra, the Natal Philharmonic. With a picnic basket filled with food and drinks, your favourite camp-chair, the entire family and a friend or two, come and enjoy a late Sunday afternoon of light classical music at the big tent. Lykele Temmingh conducts.

A Feast of Beethoven April 9, 17:00 Workshop Shopping Centre

See adjoining copy.

IMMORTAL BELOVED The untold love story of Ludwig van Beethoven.

"TWO THUMBS UP.

IT'S A FASCINATING
DETECTIVE STORY, BERNARD
ROSE IS ONE OF THE GREAT
IMAGEMAKERS AMONG
ACTIVE DIRECTORS:
- ROGER EBERT, SISKEL & EBERT

HYPNOTIC POWER

THANKS TO ITS HUGELY
EFFECTIVE USE OF BEETHOVENS
MOST THRILLING, TUMULTUOUS
MUSIC, THIS FILM EXERTS
HYPNOTIC POWER. OLDMAN
CAPTURES BEETHOVEN...
HIS PERFORMANCE COMBINES
BITTERNISS AND ECCENTRICITY
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THAT CAN BE HEARD
IN THE MUSIC.'
IANET MASIIN. THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A MASTERPIECE.
ONE OF THE
VERY BEST
MOVIES OF 1994.

THERE ARE SCENES IN

IMMORTAL BELOVED' YOU

WILL NEVER FORGET:

-JOHN CORCORAN, KCAL-TY



SHOWING FROM 28 APRIL

AFRICAN SOULS



The Opera Theatre
Friday April 7 at 14:30
(Special Schools Performance
R8.00 per pupil)
Friday April 7 at 19:30
Saturday April 8 at 14:30
Sunday April 9 at 18:00
Tickets: R20.00
(excluding VAT & Computicket)

A first for South Africa and a first for Durban, the master of dance and of story-telling in Nigeria, Peter Badejo, comes to Durban this month to join the Playhouse Dance Company and Siwela Sonke - the Playhouse Dance Training Company - for a short season of contemporary dance in The Opera Theatre.

Included in the programme is a taste of 20th century ballet. Choreographed by former Playhouse Company dancer Rajmund Nirewicz, the **Shostakovich Pas de Deux** reveals the choreographer's taste for excellence, his sensitivity as a dancer and his skill as a choreographer. This work was premièred in the Dance Forum season of 1986 by Mark Hawkins, now Artistic Manager of The Playhouse Dance Company, and Robyn Segel.

And then the African Souls start to speak. Through the medium of dance, movement, song and live drumming by lan Parmel from Trinidad, Peter Badejo takes the audience through a Nigerian creation myth in a work called Niibere - meaning in the beginning'. Next in the programme is acclaimed South African choreographer Sonje Mayo's Soul of Afrika performed by the Playhouse Dance Company. Live drumming by Munki Ncaphai and Thabani Sibisi sets the scene for an exciting and powerful work in which the movement strongly relates to the sounds and silhouettes of the African bush. From the souls and soles of Siwela Sonke - the Playhouse Company's Dance Training Company - comes a work entitled vesterday and Beyond. Choreographed by the dancers under the direction of Alfred Hinkel, with music composed by the group, vesterday and Beyond takes dance to new heights, explores new rhythms and new movements. And from this exciting work comes a message of strength and hope.

INFORMATION CENTRE

Suzanne du Toit has joined the Playhouse Marketing team and is responsible for patron information and block bookings.

Patrons are offered special concessions for bringing parties or groups of people to the Playhouse. Suzanne will administer this special block booking facility for all Playhouse productions.

Suzanne is eager to hear from institutions and organisations who would like to find out about the special facilities and discount schemes on offer at the Playhouse.

The Information and Block booking centre is open weekdays from 09h00 until 17h00 daily.

The phone numbers are (031) 3058400 and (031) 3043631 ext 2238.

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Natal

2 - 5 May Greater Durban area

9 - 12 May North Coast

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South Coast 30 May - 2 June Greater Durban area

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BERGVILLE STORIES

The Plavhouse Studio 13 - 30 April

Duma Ndlovu directs the energetic young cast in this vibrant play about a real-life drama. Created by Ndlovu, Bergville Stories is based on the 1956 "Dagga War" in which police invaded Bergville in search of dagga. The villagers resisted the invasion and five policemen were killed. 23 people were found guilty of murder and hanged in the largest mass execution in South Africa's history.

In Bergville Stories, ten men come together to reminisce and out of their stories comes a retelling of the incident in the popular and jolly style popularised by the likes of Mbongeni Ngema and Percy Mtwa in the early 1980s.

Bookings for this show can be made at Computicket or at the theatre itself. Phone Dial-A-Seat on (031) 304 3631 for selected credit card bookings.

JULIUS CAESAR

KwaZulu-Natal schools tour May 15 - June 9

The dramatic history of the Zulus, with its succession of chiefs by assassination, and culminating in the tragic death of Shaka himself, is clearly reflected in the drama of Julius Caesar as communicated by Shakespeare.

In this production, the tragedy of the Roman emperor is set within the context of Shaka's assassination, making it topical and accessible for students. Mark Anthony becomes the praisesinger who turns the tables on the assassins: "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." The Sangoma cries out: "Beware the Ides of March!" Mhlangane is Caesar, the man with the "lean and hungry look", and so on...

A set-work in many KwaZulu-Natal schools, Shakespeare's powerful comment on ambition and corruption in high places is for all people, for all time.

Schools interested in booking performances of Julius Caesar, directed by Stephen Gurney, should telephone the Drama Department on (031) 304 3631 to book.

BE PART OF THE PLAYHOUSE TEAM! BECOME A VOLUNTEER.

The Playhouse Company through Volunteer Services is looking for people with talent and time to donate to insure that the Playhouse Company continues to be a strong cultural force.

Volunteers are needed to:

1. Help with fund-raising: making contacts, co-ordinating telephone drives, writing letters.

2. Help with administrative tasks: answering phones, typing, sending faxes, stuffing envelopes, cataloguing.

3. Planning: drawing up plans for the future of Volunteers Services, for the Playhouse Company's performing groups, and for the Playhouse Company as it reaches out to all cultural groups of KwaZulu-Natal to include them in the Playhouse Company's goals.

Interested? Contact:

Lynne Denig, Director of Volunteer Services Playhouse Company, 29 Acutt Street, Durban 4001 Phone: (031) 3043631 ext. 2156, Fax: (031) 3062166

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
- · Patrons over 65, half price tickets from Playhouse boxoffice or Computicket in Pietermaritzburg on presen-tation of I.D.

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

AT YOUR SERVICE

- The Natal Plavhouse 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
- Theatre parking R4.00 Tues.-Sat. evenings after 17:30; Sun all day/eye, Albany Garage, Albany
- Theatre Bars: Drinks may be preordered for intervals.
- Fover Coffee Bar: Mon.-Fri. 09:00-16:00; Sat 09:00-12:00; one hour before performances and during
- · Popular Playhouse Tours: Every Tues. R5.00 per person - Book at

Playhouse Box Office or Scholar block bookings – R8,00 per pupil in groups of 20 or more. Hugh Grant Alan Rickman AS IN LIF IS ALWAYS **SHOWING FROM 21APRIL**

PLAYHOUSE DIARY

	Maru Maru Hanky Panky Roomful of Rhythm	Drama Drama Cellar Grand Foyer	14:30 18:00 20:30 22:00	S
Sun 2	Maru (F) Sunset Proms	Drama Village Green	14:30 17:30	
Mon 3				S
Tue 4	Dance Gala Performance	Opera -	19:30	
Wed 5	Hanky Panky	Cellar	20:3	
Thu 6	Hanky Panky	Cellar	20:30	
Fri 7	Hanky Panky African Souls (0) Hanky Panky	Cellar Opera Cellar	17:30 19:30 21:30	T
Sat 8	African Souls Hanky Panky	Opera Cellar	14:30 20:30	
Sun 9	A Feast of Beethoven African Souls	Workshop Opera	17:00 18:00	
Mon 10				
Tue 11	Bergville Stories (P)	Studio	18:00	
Wed 12	Bergville Stories (P) Hanky Panky	Studio Cellar	18:00 20:30	
Thu 13	Bergville Stories (0) Mama (P) Hanky Panky	Studio Drama Cellar	18:00 19:00 20:30	
Fri 14	Good Friday St Matthew Passion	City Hall	t.b.c.	
Sat 15	Mama! (P) Bergville Stories Bergville Stories Mama! Hanky Panky	Drama Studio Studio Drama Cellar	14:00 14:30 18:00 19:00 20:30	
Sun 16	Easter Sunday Mama! (P) Bergville Stories Mama!	Drama Studio Drama	14:00 18:00 19:00	
Mon 17	Family Day			
Tue 18	Bergville Stories Mama! (P)	Studio Drama	18:00 19:00	
Wed 1	Bergville Stories Mama! (P)	Studio Drama	18:00 19:00	
Thu 20	Bergville Stories Mama! (P)	Studio Drama F = Final B = B	18:00 19:00	

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Bergville Stories Mama! (P) Buddy Holly (P) (S) (Reach for a Dream)	Studio Drama Opera	18:00 19:00 19:30
Bergville Stories Buddy Holly (P) Bergville Stories Buddy Holly (S) (P) (Mental Health Association) Mama! (0)	Studio Opera Studio Opera Drama	14:30 15:00 18:00 19:30
Mama! Buddy Holly (P) (S) (Hebrew Order of David) Bergville Stories Mama!	Drama Opera Studio Drama	14:00 18:00 18:00 19:00
Bergville Stories Mama! Buddy Holly (S) (Learning Disabled Association)	Studio Drama Opera	18:00 19:00 19:30
Buddy Holly (P) Bergville Stories Mama! Buddy Holly (O)	Opera Studio Drama Opera	15:00 18:00 19:00 19:30
Constitution Day		
Bergville Stories Mama! Buddy Holly (S) (Lifeline) Roomful of Rhythm	Studio Drama Opera Grand Foyer	18:00 19:00 19:30 22:00
Mama! Bergville Stories Buddy Holly Bergville Stories Mama! Buddy Holly Roomful of Rhythm	Drama Studio Opera Studio Drama Opera Grand Foyer	14:00 14:30 15:00 18:00 19:00 19:30 22:00
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DIAL-A-SEAT

Credit card bookings on

PWYC = Pay What You Can (R2,00 minimum)

PACT Drama in association with Paul Elliott, Laurie Mansfield & Greg Smith present THE INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL!
The show you will never forget

Written by Alan Janes Directed by Pierre van Pletzen Based on the original London production by Rob Bettinson Musical director Graham Beggs Playhouse Opera April 21-May 28 Tickets R25.50 to R46.00

Audiences have been raving about PACT Drama's **Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story** - the eighth international production of Alan Janes's smash hit musical - with more than 200 000 people having seen the show countrywide.

Directed by Pierre van Pletzen, **Buddy** stars Durban's own Joseph Clark sharing the lead role of Buddy with Craig Urbani who goes on to join the production in London after its run at The Playhouse.

The show pays tribute to the man, his music and his rapid rise to fame in the '50s. Holly, who along with his band, The Crickets, was responsible for memorable hits such as That'll be the Day, Peggy responsible for memorable hits such as That'll be the Day, Peggy Sue, Rave On, Oh Boy!, True Love Ways and countless other top chart hits. He died tragically in 1959 at the age of 22 in a plane crash along with Ritchie Valens (of La Bamba tame) and "The Big Bopper" J.P. Richardson (of Chantilly Lace fame).

Buddy, also features a host of South African talent, including Paul Ditchfield, Judy Broderick, Jocelyn Broderick, Jonathan Taylor, Alistair Isobell as Ritchie Valens, Mike Huff as the Big Bopper, Simon

Jones, Elzette Maarschalk and others. Buddy runs in The Opera from April 21 to May 28. Matinees are scheduled for Saturdays and Wednesdays at 15:00 as well as on Sunday, April 30 at 14:00. Booking is through Computicket.

WHAT THE CRITICS HAD TO SAY...

"Treat yourself twice over... to a marvellous evening of harmonious music-making" - Mary Jordan - Business Day

"Pierre van Pletzen has done a marvellous job of the direction" and "This polished PACT production is packed with energy, talent and enthusiasm" - Fiona Chisholm - Cape Times

"Buddy is slick throughout and literally brilliant, musically and in performance" - Derek Wilson - Argus "Glitzy rock 'n roll blitz" - Barry Ronge - Sunday Times

SO... RAVE ON!

Charity performances

April 21 at 19:30
April 22 at 19:30
April 23 at 18:00

Reach for a Dream: Sandy Batho: ph. 2668977
Mental Health Association: Lynn Schackleton: ph. 523996
April 23 at 18:00

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Mental Health Association: Lynn Schackleton: ph. 2668977

April 21 at 19:30

April 22 at 19:30

April 23 at 18:00

ph. 7051360 Association for the Learning Disabled: Sarah

April 25 at 19:30 Jane Cross: ph. 4663156 and Stanger Christmas Fair Fund: Sally Maingard: ph. 0322-71394

April 28 at 19:30 Lifeline: Sylvie Garvie: ph. 3031344
May 11 at 19:30 Holy Family College: Trish Martin: ph. 814339