



## On your marks ...

**FINOLA QUARSINGH**

THE countdown has begun for the Spar Mercury Women's Challenge.

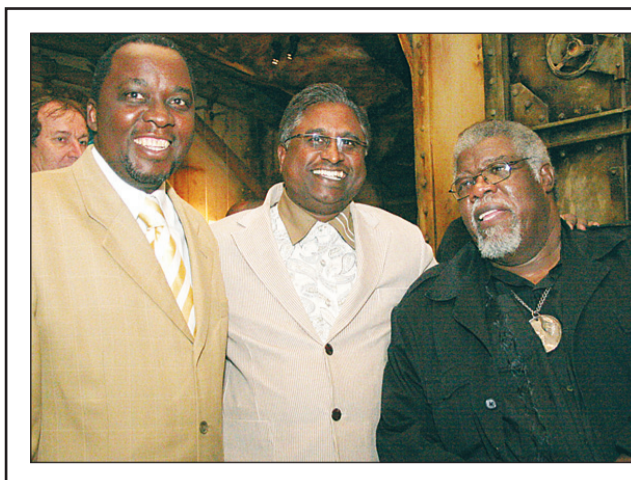
The 24 June Durban race is among the biggest road-running events in South Africa, and attracts some of the country's top athletes.

It is also a day of fun and camaraderie for the thousands of women who take part, said the organisers. And, for the first time, this year's race will include a 5km fun run, open to females over the age of

nine. It is expected to be a popular part of what has become a family day and should give mothers an opportunity to take part in the event alongside their young daughters.

Entry forms are available from Spar stores, KZN Athletics or online at [www.spar.co.za](http://www.spar.co.za). Registration and the Lifestyle Expo will be at Kingsmead from Thursday, 21 June to Saturday, 23 June, from 9am to 5pm.

**FLEET-FOOTED: Ronel Thomas competes in last year's Spar Mercury Women's Challenge**



**INTERNATIONAL delegates, Professor Sihawu (left) and Reverend James Orange with Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo at the launch of last week's African Renaissance festival at uShaka Marine World. A concert, featuring local artists, was held last week, at the ICC Arena as part of the annual celebrations**

## Drum to an African beat

**DERRICK DLAMINI and THEMBA KHUMALO**

IF SOUTH Africa is to succeed in its endeavours to revive the "African Renaissance concept", then emphasis must be placed on encouraging youth participation in cultural activities.

This was the message when hundreds of learners, educators and community members from Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu converged on Ntuzuma "H" Hall during a successful Drum Story Festival.

The event, hosted by Ubunye Artists and INK (an eThekweni Municipality area based management programme) was aimed at reminding both youth and teachers on how best they can use poetry, story-telling

and drumming at schools. It also served to promote unity amongst learners from an early stage.

The initiative targeted fifteen senior primary schools within INK, whereby pupils received training on various traditional and modern drums

Thabani Mbhele, Artistic Director of Ubunye Artists, said the event served as a major vehicle towards stimulating and nourishing youth's artistic skills at schools from a tender age.

"It is our wish to see activities of this nature included in the current core curriculum in our schools. This will motivate them to value their culture. If we groom them at this tender age to connect with their roots and, in the process, unearth their artistic talents

then we will be doing our work," he said.

An inspired 16-year-old resident of Nrtuzuma "H", Zinhle Lushaba, said the event was great. "It has reminded us of our forgotten cultural activities. This serves to inspire us to value our history while moulding our talents," she proudly said.

Event co-ordinator, Scelo Mthembu, attributed some of the success of the event to the teachers. "We will continue with such events as part of nation-building. The fusion of these instruments lay to rest negative perceptions about our arts and cultural activities."

So if you thought the fusion of traditional and modern instruments might not be ideal for today's music enthusiasts, especially the youth, well think again!

## What our Ombuds does

PRESCRIBED by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the eThekweni Municipality's Office of the Ombudsperson and Head of Investigations is designed to ensure that local government is free of fraud, abuse of power and maladministration.

The Office promotes respect for human rights and investigates any conduct in the affairs of the Municipality that includes allegations of maladministration, corruption, abuse of power, undue delay and unfair discrimination.

Reports can be sent to 10th Floor, Rennie House, 41 Margaret Mncadi Avenue, Durban 4001 or PO Box 5542 Durban 4000. The toll free hotline is 0800 20 20 20, Tel 031 311 4002, fax 031 311 4115 or e-mail [ombudsandinvestigations@durban.gov.za](mailto:ombudsandinvestigations@durban.gov.za).

## Community first

THE ETHEKWINI Municipality's Community Participation Unit recently held a workshop with community representatives to improve two-way communication between citizens and the municipality.

A policy workshop held at the Coast of Dreams was aimed at developing mutual trust between citizens and local government; ensure the municipality was in touch with citizen's needs for appropriate resource allocation; and to benefit Civil Society Organisations involved in community participation.

## Urban specialists meet in city

A TEAM of urban management specialists from the Johannesburg Metro were recently in the city to learn from eThekweni's inner city strategies and programmes.

Durban showcased the work of the ITRUMP Area

Based Management (ABM) programme through presentations on a range of issues from urban planning and management to public participation. The presentations were followed by a short tour of some of Durban's flag ship projects.

## DURBAN DIARY:

## Your guide to entertainment in the city

### MUSIC

#### Theodor Ydrestal

University of KZN  
6 June  
Tickets: R20; students: R10  
Call: 031 260 3385

#### Dynamic Durban Duo

University of KZN  
13 June  
Tickets: R20; students R10  
Call: 031 260 3385

#### UB40 – Live in concert

ICC Arena  
4 July  
Call: 083 915 8000

#### Mary J Blige – Live in concert

Westridge Park Tennis Stadium  
19 October  
(May tickets remain valid)  
Tickets: R160 to R280  
Call: 083 915 8000

#### Live Jazz

Centre for Jazz  
University of KwaZulu-Natal  
Durban Campus  
Every Wednesday  
Call: 031 260 3385

#### Jazz on the Deck

Bat Centre  
Every Sunday  
Call: 031 332 0451

#### Live entertainment by Murphy (Music Unlimited)

The Deck at Badgers

Davenport Square  
Every Friday  
Call: 082 259 3743  
New Light International  
Every Saturday  
Durban Ski Boat Club  
3 June  
Call: 082 259 3743

#### Swami Thyagaraja Festival

The Playhouse  
20 May  
Call: 031 369 9555

### DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

#### Bambi in Kaberet

The Rhumbelow Theatre,  
Umbilo  
3 and 10 June  
Call: 031 205 7602

#### Behind Every Man

The Rhumbelow Theatre  
4 and 6 June  
Call: 031 205 7602

#### The Boys Are Back in Town

Barnyard Theatre  
14 August – 23 September  
Call: 031 566 3045

#### The Buddy Holly Story

Barnyard Theatre  
Until 12 August  
Call: 031 561 4151

#### Chicks Rock

Heritage Theatre  
Until 8 July  
Call: 031 312 3187

### VISUAL ART

#### Ceramics SA

artSPACE  
Until 16 June  
Call: 031 312 0793

#### Photographer by Clinton Friedman

artSPACE Durban  
Until 16 June  
Call: 031 312 0793

#### Viva l'artiste art showcase

Le Domaine, Hillcrest  
11 – 17 June  
Call: 031 566 1777

#### Art Amongst the Roses

Off the Wall Gallery, Heritage Market  
Every Sunday  
Call: 031 765 7606

#### Logan Hicks Hollow Cityscapes Exhibition

Taco Zulu restaurant  
Until 8 June  
Call: 031 303 9584

#### Off the Wall 2

The Sketchbook Project

artSPACE Durban  
Until 26 May  
Call: 031 312 0793

#### Art exhibitions for charity

The Village Green, Umhlanga  
Every Sunday  
Call: 031 337 0208

#### Solo Exhibition

By Anton Benzon  
Crouse Art Gallery KZN  
Call: 031 312 2315

### OTHERS

#### Inchanga Choo-Choo

A genuine old-fashioned steam train experience  
Trains depart from Kloof  
24 June, 1 and 29 July  
Tickets: R80 per adult and R50 per child  
Call: 031 303 3003

#### KZN Conservation Services guided walks

Krantzkloof Nature Reserve  
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month  
Call: 031 764 3515

#### Singles night

Krakatoa  
27 June  
Tickets: R40  
Call: 083 480 7661

#### Bhangra Bash

Krakatoa  
1 and 8 June  
Tickets: R60  
Call: 031 580 5555

#### 28th Durban International Film Festival

20 June – 1 July



**OH, BOY!: The successful rock 'n roll musical, The Buddy Holly Story, is now showing at The Barnyard Theatre. It runs until 12 August and features Jonathan Roxmouth as Buddy.**

Call: 031 260 2506  
**Tala Bridal Fair Extravaganza**  
Tala Game Reserve  
23 – 24 June  
Call: 031 781 8000

**Industrial Technology Expo**  
Durban Exhibition Centre  
1 June  
Call: 011 886 3737

**Women in Business Brunch**  
Imbizo Conf Centre, Sibaya  
2 June

Tickets: R150  
Call: 031 580 5555

**Floral Art Workshop**  
Botanic Gardens  
8 June, 5 July, 2 August  
Call: 082 854 0344

☐ Compiled by Premilla Hariganesh. To have your show or event included in the *Durban Diary*, e-mail [hariganeshp@durban.gov.za](mailto:hariganeshp@durban.gov.za) or fax 306 4603.



**CHICKS ROCK: (from left) Angela Dodds, Catherine Mace and Jessey Boyle**

#### Songs of Love and Lipstick

The Rhumbelow Theatre  
5 and 9 June  
Tickets: R60  
Call: 031 205 7602