

Ink gets write stuff

THEMBA KHUMALO

THE Centre for Creative Arts has forged a fruitful partnership with the City to teach young people creative and leadership skills.

"This initiative was not only about teaching young people to write. It was about opening their minds to a lot of things, encouraging them to read and start book clubs in their areas," said the centre's Special Projects Coordinator, Tiny Mungwe.

The Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre hosted the initiative as part of the 12th Time of the Writer Festival. Writers shared their knowledge with young people from the Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu (Ink) area.

The centre co-ordinates the week-long, yearly literature festival.

It brings together South African, African and international writers for literary activities, including readings, discussions and book launches.

"As part of the festival's efforts to promote reading, writing and creative expression, writers visit schools and host seminars across the city."

Mungwe said the centre's relationship with the City's Ink Area Based Management office had grown over the years, thanks to its active involvement in the arts.

"We have worked with

them in the past during the Durban Film Festival and they showed the same level of commitment that they are showing now," she said.

Ink Project Manager Linda Mbonambi said: "The festival created a space for young people to interact with great African writers like Mtuzuzeli Matshoba, Max du Preez and Ngcina Mhlophe, who have found their voice in the world and are inspiring others to do the same."

The festival also exposed youngsters to opportunities in new media.

"We have been working with young people through the Ink cartoon project that has created opportunities for young artists to graduate as illustrators. Some, like Themba Siwela of KwaMashu, have made their mark in the media, locally and internationally," Mbonambi said.

He said that Senzo Ndlovu of Inanda, one of the participants in the event and a top student at the Durban University of Technology, was testimony to the link between a love of reading and academic achievement.

"We intend to use the inspiration of the festival to invigorate the Inanda Writers Trail tourism initiative, which seeks to promote the rich literary and cultural heritage of Inanda and the Ink area," Mbonambi said.

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WISE WORDS



MBONGISENI Mbele of Ezimbokodweni recites his poem, *Ithemba isiSekelo Sempilo Yami (Hope is the Foundation of My Life)* at an open mic session at the Workshop amphitheatre last Wednesday. Mbele, 25, was one of a number of artists who performed at the session, which was organised by the City's Arts and Living Culture Unit. More recitals, as well as music, dance and drama are planned for Wednesday afternoons. If you would like to take part, call Xolani Dlamini at 031 311 4479 Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

Gcina Mhlophe sings art's praises

THEMBA KHUMALO

MORE young people need to learn to appreciate art because of its ability to raise awareness of social issues.

That was the message from award winning storyteller and poet, Gcina Mhlophe, speaking at the recent opening of the exhibition, *In the Light of Play*, at the Durban Art Gallery.

It features sculptures, paintings and photographs by various women artists.

"There is movement and dance to these exhibits. You can see they are speaking to you through the voices of the givers of life (women)," Mhlophe said.

"This exhibition will open doors and shed light on issues affecting the African continent. Young people should not be turned off by art. They need to embrace it because artists are able to make those invisible threads visible."

The gallery's education officer, Bongani Mkhonza, said: "The exhibition communicates the way artists are dealing with some of the pertinent issues affecting society."

"The artists work in a diversity of media including sculpture, painting, photography and mixed media which captures culture, identity, tradition, and social injustice."

One of the artists featured is Pinar Yolacan, who presents her critically acclaimed series *Maria*, a



IMPRESSED: Gcina Mhlophe recommends people go see *In the Light of Play*, now showing at the Durban Art Gallery

collection of 22 life-sized portrait photographs of Afro Brazilian women.

The portraits were taken over a period of 12 months. They show women dressed in elaborately hand-sewn, costumes with trimmings of unusual materials such as velvet, satin, tripe, placenta and liver.

Through this series, Yolacan engages with issues of beauty, the female body, colonialism, photography and death.

It also feature Bongi Bengu's work from her recent *Emancipation* series in which she develops her themes of women's rights, slavery, meditation, freedom of expression and the right to education.

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DURBAN DIARY:

Your guide to entertainment in the city

DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

The 70s Homegrown Retro Rewind Festival

The Heritage Theatre
Until: 29 March
Call: 031 765 4197

Beatlemania on Tour

Sibaya Casino
Until: 5 April
Call: 083 915 8000

Legends Forever

UKZN Westville Centre
4 April, 7pm
Tickets: R50 to R60
Call: 079 045 6854

Barry Hilton – Grey Matters!

Sibaya Casino
9 to 13 April, 8pm
12 and 13 April, 3pm
Tickets: R114
Call: 083 915 8000

Viva Las Vegas

Barnyard Theatre
Until 5 April
Tickets: R70 to R105
Call: 031 566 3045

Those Indian Guys

Playhouse Drama
Ends March 29
Tickets: R80
Call: 083 915 8000

The Little Shop of Horrors

Sneddon Theatre
Until 19 April
Tickets: R100 to R120



JAWS: Raquel Peterse and 'Sharky' look forward to the Baba Indaba

Call: 083 915 8000

ART

YES to DAY & Shadow Dance

ArtSPACE
Opening: 30 March, 6.30pm
Call: 031 312 0793

New Connection

KZNSA Gallery
Until: 29 March
Call: 031 277 1705

All Eyes In African and Harbour

KZNSA gallery

31 March to 19 April
Call: 031 277 1705

New Connection

KZNSA Gallery
Until 29 March
Call: 031 277 1705

Siemon Allen: Imaging South Africa

Durban Art Gallery
Until 26 April
Call: 083 310 1930 or
073 532 3113

Not Alone Art Exhibition

Durban Art Gallery
Until 20 May
Call: 031 311 2267

Stamps and Newspapers

Durban Art Gallery
Until 30 April
Call: 031 311 2264

Records

Bank Gallery
Until: 26 April
Call: 031 312 6911

Exhibition in the park

Arena Park, Bluff
19 April and 31 May
Call Joanne: 031 466 5562
or 072 727 2094

MUSIC

Murphy (Music Unlimited)

Badgers
Saturdays from 6pm
Call: 084 060 9078

Sinatra's Italian restaurant and takeaway, La Lucia
Wednesdays from 6pm
Call: 031 572 2604

EVENTS

Kitchen Garden Course

Botanic Gardens
28 March
Call: 031 309 1170

Queensburgh Orchid Club Show

Mistrals Hall, Walnut Road
27 to 28 June
Tickets: R5
Call: 083 789 2287

Kengai Bonsai Kai Show

Kearsney College
28 to 29 March
Tickets: R10, under 12s free
Call: 083 254 1022

KZN Conservative Service guided walks

Krantzkloof Nature Reserve
First and third Sundays
Call: 031 764 3515

Andrew Zondo exhibition – "Why I did it"

KwaMuhle Museum
Until end April
Call: 031 311 2222

Darwin Reluctant Revolutionary Exhibition

Natural Science Museum
Until December
Call: 031 311 2249



GIGGLES GALORE: Funnyman Barry Hilton will be performing live at Sibaya from 9 to 13 April

Open Mic Sessions

Workshop amphitheatre
Wednesdays, 1pm to 4pm
Call: 031 311 4470

Easter Eggcitement

Kloof and Highway SPCA
6 April, 10am to noon
Call: 031 764 1212

Cars in the Park

Kloof and Highway SPCA
26 April

Call:
031 764 1212

In the Light of Play

Durban Art Gallery
Ends today
Call:
031 311 2264

Yoga

ICC Arena
Wednesdays,
5.30pm
Call:
031 360 1359

Baba Indaba

Durban Exhibition Centre
27 to 29 March
Tickets: R40
Call:
031 309 8670

The Night of 100 Stars

Suncoast
19 April
Call:

031 309 1106

Golden Hours Family Market

Near Hyper by the Sea
Sundays, 10am
Call: 083 262 3693

□ Compiled by Themba Khumalo. To have your events included in the Durban Diary, fax 031 306 4603 or e-mail khumalotk@durban.gov.za .