



THE PLATFORM

1943 - 2013

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Second Term 2013

Change! That was the topic of our Chairman, Mervyn McMurtry's Report, presented at the Annual General Meeting in March, a copy of which you should have received by now.

In keeping with the theme, in this issue we have a story about one person's decision to make a career change after 30 years, and information on learning a new language. *Spanish 101* offers you an opportunity to stimulate your mind and learn the 2nd largest growing language in the world.

Read the *Festival News* and join us in welcoming our newest members and catching up with an old friend. Also please take note of all the reminders on this and the next page.

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SYLLABUS 2014 - 2016

We are currently working on compiling the new syllabus.

Poems and suggestions will be most welcome.

Cut off for submissions is 31 May.

CLOSING DATES FOR THIRD TERM FESTIVALS

July and August festivals -
entries MUST be in by **Friday, 21 June.**
September festivals - **Friday, 26 July.**

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Vyvienne Ball



Festival News

Festival 2013 is well underway with a record seven first term festivals completed and 47 lined up for Term Two. We have also conducted several workshops, with more still to be held this year. Entry forms for festivals in the third term have been posted; however it's not too late to book a festival or workshop for August, September or October. This may be done by phoning, faxing or emailing your dates to the office, or by using the convenient Booking Form which can be downloaded from the 'FORMS' page on our website: www.speechanddrama.co.za

We are very pleased to welcome back two 'old' adjudicators, Allan Hagan and Caroline Palmer, and extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Aneesa Hassim, Anjuman Islamic Primary School, Glenashley Junior Primary School, Go Big Productions, Liv School, Midlands Home Schooling, Mandini Academy, Oasis Christian Academy, Sathya Sai School and St Monica's Diocesan School. We hope you will all enjoy many happy festivals with us.

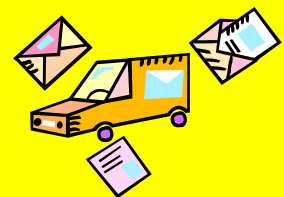
We were delighted to hear from ex-Durban teacher and adjudicator, Colette Said, who I'm sure is remembered by many readers. Colette, who returned to live in the U.K. some years ago, is pictured below with Loretta Holz at her 85th birthday celebration in March.

Finally, a reminder that we are starting to gather material for the 2014 syllabus. If you would like to offer your favourite poems, or have any suggestions for the new syllabus, please email them to the office before the end of May.

Enjoy your festivals this term.



Colette Said and Loretta Holz at Colette's recent birthday celebration in London.



POST NOT ARRIVED?

Don't wait too long for your stationery to arrive. It may be lost or just not delivered.

Contact the office to check when it was posted.

OBSERVATIONS OF A LEARNER SPEECH AND DRAMA TEACHER

By Margie Marnewick

I am a qualified ballet teacher with over 30 years experience. My mother was an English teacher and librarian so I grew up with an interest in words and spoken language, and studied speech and drama until I left school.

When I was asked to coach trainee ballet teachers in voice projection and pronunciation, and realised I didn't have any notes to work from, I contacted Vyvienne Ball at the Speech and Drama Association to ask her to put me in touch with someone with whom I could take lessons. I am now working on the three year Licentiate Course (Speech and Drama College of SA) with Zelda van den Berg, and so enjoying learning how to 'speak proper' again. Zelda is a wonderfully encouraging and inspiring teacher and I have also had a lot of useful advice and support from Dawn Haynes. I think speech and drama teachers are really nice people!

I have been adjudicating speech and drama festivals for over a year now and this has been a very rewarding experience for me and has redoubled my desire to teach speech and drama. It has been interesting to note the differences in confidence between boys and girls and privileged and under-privileged. Children who have experienced speech and drama lessons show a definite advantage. I have adjudicated a few pre-primary schools where there were children with speech impediments. You would never have thought so as they were enthusiastic, lively and spontaneous. They were having fun - all due to the confidence inspired in them by their speech and drama teacher.

Notwithstanding the advantages for children in knowing that they can communicate well, wouldn't it be tremendous to have television and radio announcers, reporters and anchormen, speaking clearly and fluently?

I wish I had started studying speech and drama seriously a long time ago. It would have made such a difference to my approach to teaching ballet. Reading *Development Through Drama* by Brian Way and *Child Play (its importance for human development)* by Peter Slade, has brought home to me how essential Drama in Education (D.I.E.) is and how crucial it is to build confidence in children as well as adults.

Let us all try to nurture a generation of children and young adults by encouragement, confidence-building and understanding. It doesn't matter who we are - we all need ego-boosting. Why else do we go on stage? It's for that great feeling you get when you hear the audience clapping and cheering - the feeling that tells you, "They like me, they really like me!"



Spanish 101



Spanish 101

BE UNIQUE!

STIMULATE THE MIND!

LEARN SPANISH, THE 2nd LARGEST GROWING AND 3rd MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD.

Exposing your child and yourself to another language allows you to optimize the learning potential, helping to shape the brain at its most flexible stage.

We have qualified teachers of the language who lecture at Universities in the Spanish language, and have over 20 years of teaching experience to all ages. We have dealt with large organizations such as FIFA, COP and Child Line International.

We now offer you the opportunity to learn this widely spoken language by bringing it to you, your friends and family, either face to face with us or in the comfort of your own home, throughout South Africa.

Learners enrich their lives and open up doors to their future by gaining:

- **An expanded world view.**
- **Greater intercultural appreciation and sensitivity.**
- **Ability to learn additional languages more easily.**
- **Foreign language learning increases critical thinking skills, creativity, and flexibility of mind in young children.**
- **A competitive edge in future markets and the global marketplace.**

We Offer:-

- Step by Step introduction to the language, slowly building towards sentences, understanding and speaking of the language.
- With focus and dedication a student is able to hold basic conversations in 3 months.

We offer Adult and Children's classes, Group or one on one, Conversational classes, Spanish for Travellers allowing you to travel with basic knowledge of the language, enhancing your travel experience.

- **Printouts and worksheets are provided. All you need is a notebook & pen.**

Your car is Japanese, Your pizza is Italian, Your beer is German, Your wine is Spanish, Your democracy is Greek, Your coffee is Colombian, Your tea is Chinese, Your watch is Swiss, Your fashion is French, Your Spices are Indian, Your radio is Korean, Your vodka is Russian and the world can be your oyster.

So what are you waiting for?

Learn a new language, experience new cultures, share a dream, build a bridge and let us share with you.

SIGN UP TODAY AND OPEN A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES BY LEARNING AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

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