



THE PLATFORM

After all the public holidays and long weekends we are now settling down to a busy term of Festivals and Workshops.

Festival News on page 2 offers a brief guide to Convenors who are organising for the first time, giving deadlines for entries to be submitted, and welcomes the return of an adjudicator.

Join us in congratulating Westville Senior Primary School on its 60th birthday, on page 3.

As you are aware the isiZulu syllabus has been upgraded and it now contains some delightful new poems, one of which is printed on page 4.

Pages 5 & 6 advertise the third in the trilogy of Mambas, *Mamba Republic*, which comes to the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre in May.

If your school is celebrating a special anniversary, or has a news item or upcoming event that you would like to share, we would love to include it in our newsletter. We also welcome feedback on our issues of *The Platform*, as well as suggestions as to what you would like to see included in future issues.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to your comments.

The AGM was held on 13 March and the Minutes have been sent to all members, together with the Chairman's Annual Report for 2016.

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Issue 2

Second Term 2017

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FOUNDER
Professor Elizabeth Sneddon

**HONORARY LIFE
VICE-PRESIDENT**
Professor Pieter Scholtz

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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(Chairman)

Eleanor Stewart
(Vice-Chairman)

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Roslyn Glen
Rosanne Hurly-Coyne
Margie Marnewick
Helana Olivier
Loshani Puymann
David Spiteri
Jean van Elden

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
Vyvienne Ball

We welcome Margie Marnewick and Brett Beiles onto the Executive Committee. Margie and Brett have been co-opted onto the Committee to replace Ian Schoeman and Dean Unger who resigned at the end of last year.



Festival News

Eight festivals, held in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith, Bergville and Newcastle, were adjudicated last term, while final arrangements for the 43 Festivals booked for this term are also on track. 29 of these are being held in the first two weeks of May, leaving time slots available in June if you haven't yet booked your Festival dates.

As there are several new Convenors this year, I thought a brief guide to the admin process for booking and arranging a Festival might be helpful. A more detailed explanation is in the "Guidelines for Festival Convenors" letter that is sent with your entry forms.

1. If you haven't yet done so, please submit your updated 2017 Membership Form with the fees of R400.
2. Book your festival dates as soon as possible. We try and accommodate your chosen dates, but certain weeks are more popular than others and they quickly become fully booked.
3. Your entry forms will only be emailed to you **after you have booked your dates**. Make a note of the deadline for your entries to be in, and send out letters to parents in good time!
4. After your entries have been submitted, the reports and confirmation letter will be posted to you.
5. The reports should be prepared prior to the Festival, and a clerk appointed to assist the adjudicator.

N.B.

If your reports don't arrive within a reasonable time after you have submitted your entries, please follow up with me as we are still experiencing a lot of problems with postal deliveries.

FESTIVALS IN MAY & JUNE: Entry forms have been sent to all schools, and reports have been posted or delivered to all schools that have submitted their entries. If you have not received your entry forms or report pads, please contact me immediately.

FESTIVALS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER: Your entry forms have been emailed to you. Contact me if you have booked a date and have not yet received your entry forms.



DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED

3rd Term entries - Monday, 26 June

4th Term entries - Friday, 22 September



We welcome the return of Jonathan Orton to our panel of adjudicators after an absence of several years while working overseas. Jonathan will be adjudicating in Pietermaritzburg and outlying areas.

Wishing all schools happy and enjoyable festivals this term.

Vyviemme



*Congratulations to
Westville Senior Primary School
On their 60th birthday this year!*

*Westville
Senior Primary
School*



Learners today - Leaders tomorrow!

WSPS is proud to celebrate its 60th Birthday this year and to reflect on its humble beginnings as a country school, where many children arrived at school on a horse or donkey.

Eight of our current staff members are old learners of our school. Pictured below, standing, from left to right are Miss Alex Jakins, Mr Ryan Schuit and Miss Kirsten Jakins. Seated, from left to right are Mrs Peta Mumford, Mrs Leanne Romerill, Mrs Janse van Rensburg (who also celebrates her 60th birthday this year) and Mrs Moira Quicke. Absent from the picture is Mrs Alison Foxon who is on maternity leave.

Several parents in our parent body are old boys and girls too.

WSPS is a leading school known for its excellent standards and can boast of numerous academic and sporting achievements held by its learners.



This poem is suitable for students in Grades 10, 11 & 12

eALBERT-PARK

ngangi ngenandaba negama lomuthi
esasi hlezi ngaphansi kwawo epaki
ngingenandaba nom'bala wesibhakabhaka
mhlawumbe sasibomvu
mhawumbe sasiluhlaza!
ngingenandaba nomsindo we nyoni
ihlikiza utshani
noma ukugigitheka kwezingane
ezazedlula ngemuva kwethu
noma imota yabakwasidlodlo igijima
inyathela izimbali
empeleni, ngangingeke ngibe nandaba
ukube ilanga laliwela esicathulweni sami
ngeSonto, eThekwini
eAlbert-Park: siqabulana -

L.L.M. Mbatha



ALBERT PARK

I didn't care about the name of the tree
that we sat under at the park.
I didn't care about the colour of the sky -
maybe it was red
maybe blue!
I didn't care about the chirping birds
scraping at the grass
or the laughter of children
walking by behind us,
or the racing car
trampling on the flowers.
Actually I couldn't have cared
if the sun fell at my feet
on Sunday, in Durban
at Albert Park, when we kissed.



Mamba Republic

Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre: 16 May – 4 June

Ben Voss and John van de Ruit are pleased to present their third offering in the trilogy of Mambas with their brand new show **Mamba Republic** that comes to the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre this month.

Mamba Republic is a rapid-paced satirical sketch-comedy that takes a savagely funny look at all that is wrong and very wrong in the Rainbow Nation, and reunites the talents of John van de Ruit (Spud) and Ben Voss (Beauty Ramapelepele).

With their unique blend of sharp wit, hopeless optimism and clever characterisation, the duo sinks their fangs into the fiascos, farces and foibles of South African life. Whether it is their unique take on fees must fall, state capture, online dating, the economy, sport, technology, racism, an alternative national anthem, or even the most unusual football match in living memory, **Mamba Republic** will have you rolling in the aisles at the utter absurdity of life at the foot of Africa.

Internationally acclaimed author, van de Ruit said, "Fellow Saffas, you are in for a treat! It has been said before that we, as South Africans, are really good at laughing at the state of our nation. We will be reminding audiences how much there is to laugh at... and adding a bit of a mamba twist."

Adding to the duo on stage, the behind the scene team is spear-headed by Durban theatre leader and visionary, Mervyn McMurtry, as Director and Designer. In charge of lighting the set, is Lighting Designer extraordinaire, Michael Broderick.

Mamba Republic follows in the footsteps of **Green Mamba** (2002) and **Black Mamba** (2005) which together racked up over 800 performances in five years, winning numerous awards and developing a cult following all over Southern Africa.

Booking is now open through Computicket or by phoning 0861 915 8000 or visiting the Money Market counters at Shoprite / Checkers.



Photography: Jacki Bruniquel



BEN VOSS & JOHN VAN DE RUIT

SKETCH COMEDY SHOW!

MAMBA

≡ REPUBLIC ≡

ELIZABETH SNEDDON THEATRE

16 MAY - 4 JUNE

BOOKINGS OPEN!
www.computicket.co.za

