

From District Six to fame in one-man show

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THEATRE stages at the Artscape will in May see District Six celebrated with the new production, *My Word! Redesigning Buckingham Palace*.

The much anticipated one-man show features the award-winning performer, Basil Appollis in reflecting on the contested wasteland at the foot of Table Mountain and to put District Six centre stage, where it belongs.

Appollis recently directed several award-winning productions including the hit shows *Brother Love and Plekkie In Die Son*.

Artscape's Thembu Mzondi yesterday said: "My Word! Redesigning Buckingham Palace has previously featured at the Baxter Theatre.

"It is a celebration of the life and work of legendary writer Richard Rive, at the same time it's a salute to District Six, the heart of Cape Town ripped out because it stood in the way of grand apartheid fantasies.

The one-man show borrows



RHYTHM OF THE CITY: Theatre is alive and thriving in Cape Town and nowhere more so than at the Artscape that presents Basil Appollis in *My Word! Redesigning Buckingham Palace* in April. PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES



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Appollis has woven into his show some highlights from Rive's life, following his journey from the run-down tenements of the District to the glare of international fame.

With Appollis's presence and unique performance skills, he evokes a ghostly feeling that we are watching a formidable author who is also gone but whose presence lives on.

The production's key performances kick off next week.

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from an earlier work co-written with Sylvia Vollenhoven and performed by Basil Appollis, called *A Writer's Last Word*," he said.

"The new play tells the story of Rive and the District using the writer's most memorable characters."

The play moves through the time before the bulldozers, which

sees Mary Bruinjtjes, the pastor's daughter and Madame of the Casbah, Zoot the lovable gangster and Mr Katzen, they are all there in colourful profusion.