

Stars shine at theatre awards

The winners of the Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards were announced at the Artscape Opera House on Sunday March 15. The event, celebrating its 50th anniversary, is likened to the Tony's in New York.

The onstage ceremony was directed by Christopher Weare, himself a past recipient of four awards. Alan Committie was in fine form as the MC and the glamorous audience was made up of the Who's Who of the South African theatre scene, dignitaries, and the public.

Established in 1965 as the Three Leaf Award, the prize became known as the Fleur du Cap Theatre Award in 1978. David Bloomberg, one of the first Three Leaf Award judges and a former mayor of Cape Town, was at the awards ceremony.

The category winners each receive R15 000 and a silver medallion.

Awards were presented in 18 categories, 74 productions were eligible in 2014; with 57 student performances considered for the

most promising student award.

Marthinus Basson received the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to theatre.

The Handspring Puppet Company and the Handspring Trust for Puppetry Arts received the award for innovation in theatre; Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones also won the best puppetry design, fabrication and direction award for *War Horse*.

The best performance by a lead actor in a play went to Albert Pretorius, as Gideon le Roux in *Playland*.

The best performance by a lead actress in a play was won by Emily Child for the lead role in *The Pervert Laura*. Louis Viljoen walked off with two awards, the best new South African script for *The Kingmakers* and the Rosalie van der Gucht prize for new directors for this play and his other work, *The Pervert Laura*.

The award for a supporting actor in a play went to Richard September for various characters in *Rondomskrik*, while Lee-Ann van Rooi won the best supporting actress

award for her roles in the same play.

Khayaletu Anthony won the best performance in a review, cabaret or one-person show for *The Champion*.

Sne Dladla's portrayal of various characters in *Fergus of Galloway* was judged the best performance by an actor in a musical.

There were several nominations for *The Sound of Music* but it was Janelle Visagie who won the award for her role as Mother Abbess.

The award for the most promising student went to Sive Gubangxa from UCT.

Jaco Bouwer won the best director award for *Balbesit* and Wolf Britz won the best lighting design for the same play.

The best set design was awarded to Patrick Curtis for *Fishers of Hope* (Taweret) and this play also resulted in Nceba Gongxeka taking the award for his live music.

Leigh Bishop won the best costume design award for her work in *Slowly*.

The 51st Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards will be held at the Baxter Theatre in March 2016.



Actress and Hout Bay resident Bo Petersen with Baxter theatre publicist Fahiem Stellenboom, who lives in Green Point, at the 50th annual Fleur du Cap theatre awards, held at Artscape on Sunday.

Shakespeare festival for primary schools

Primary schools from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces are preparing to make their debut in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, to be held at the Artscape Theatre from Monday to Wednesday June 22 to 24; in the Playhouse, Somerset West, from Wednesday to Thursday August 5 to 6; in the Rhodes University Theatre on Friday and Saturday August 28 and 29; as well as at the Seabrook Theatre in Durban in May, and in the Joburg Theatre in September.

The Shakespeare Schools Festival South Africa was initiated and is co-ordinated by Educape, to provide an equal opportunity where there are no boundaries for participation; it is an opportunity for youth to explore their potential in a fun, developmental way.

The festival will be in its fifth consecutive season; so far it has reached more than 1 000 high

school pupils and educators in the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

"The dramatic increase in feedback compared to previous years shows more participants than before realise that access to the arts is a fundamental human right and theatre can contribute significantly to human development and motivation", says Kseniya Filinova-Brunton, festival director for the Shakespeare Schools Festival South Africa.

"We believe unless children are given the opportunity to fall in love with the theatre experience at an early age, we will have no theatre industry in the future."

Before the festivals, workshops will be held in various regions so participating pupils and their teachers can meet others, and take part in drama activities and some specific exercises, which they can use at their own spaces.

The Western Cape festival will be a basis for upcoming festivals to be held in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces. It will give pupils an opportunity to create and present an original drama on a professional stage, while also learning the discipline needed to being a performer.

The festival was established in the United Kingdom aimed at improving language and social skills through the performing arts.

Each year, the festival encourages schools to perform 30-minute versions of Shakespearean plays in their local professional theatre, giving them a platform to voice their creativity and broaden their horizons by experiencing the magic of live theatre, with professional lighting and with an audience.

For more information on the festival, email themba@sceproductions.co.za or call Themba Mzondi on 078 113 5216.

Easter fun



There will be lots of activities at the V&A Waterfront's Amphitheatre this Easter. The petting zoo will be at The Watershed, opposite the Two Oceans Aquarium, from 10am to 5pm from Saturday April 4 to Sunday April 12. It is open to children of all ages and entry is R20. Fashion lovers will be given a preview of autumn and winter's hottest trends at the free WearSA Fashion Show on Saturday April 4, from 3pm. At V&A Waterfront Amphitheatre on Friday and Sunday, April 3 and April 5, kids can meet the Easter Bunny. Beginning at midday each day, the festive Easter celebrations include interactive dancing, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny and Easter egg decorating crafts, all free-of-charge.

The Bats celebrating 50 years

The Bats, All Rocked Out, will be at Theatre on the Bay in Camps Bay from Monday April 13 to Saturday April 18, at 8pm. This rocking mix of music and laughs celebrates the band's 50 years in the entertainment business.

Yes, the guys who began in the 60s and played through the decades, here and internationally, are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year – 50 years as The Bats, and they are not behind Zimmer frames yet. Eddie, Paul, Pete and Derek can't wait to meet you so join them to laugh, sing, and reminisce.

With new material, new gags and the energy of teenagers, what makes this show different is that these guys are not trying to be The Bats in the 1960s, they are now in their 60s, and 70s, and enjoy being The Bats now.

Drums and vocals (and stand-up comedy) are by Eddie Eckstein, lead guitar, bass guitar and vocals by Pete Clifford; keyboard, bass guitar and vocals by Paul Ditchfield and bass guitar, rhythm guitar, keyboard and vocals by Derek Gordon.

Book at Computicket or call the box office at 021 438 3301 or visit www.thebats.co.za for details.

Read of the Week

Market Day
Issue #1
Russel Wasserfall
(RWF) Jacana Media

Most people have visited the Neighbourgoods Market in Woodstock at least once. Now Russel Wasserfall takes you behind the scenes and into the lives of the vendors who operate there. And as Wasserfall points out, they and the goods they produce, are constantly changing.

In this edition, which is the first of four, he looks at some of the vendors: Rosetta Roastery; Breakfast Porn; Woodstock Bakery; Onderstepoort Handelaars; Funky Funghi; Wilde At Heart; The Charcuterie and The Creamery.

Karen Dudley, famous for her eatery, The Kitchen in Woodstock, and her "Love Sandwich" who is a veteran of the market, gives her tips on how and what to buy and her favourites from the Neighbourgoods Market.

There is also a selection of recipes from The

Kitchen including Baba Ganouch; Beetroot Fennel Fig Salad and Slaphakskeentjies, to name a few.

And if you want to know about bees and honey then the go-to-guy is Mark Farah of Honeyguide, often called the Honey Guy, and who has a passion for bees, and there is a black and white photographic essay by Sarah Schafer, who also wrote the words, on his daily activities with the bees.

You can also read about how artisan ice cream maker, Kate Shirer's creamery grew from a kitchen project into a thriving ice cream business.

She has also provided a few recipes from The Creamery and you could try making the plum or the mango and chilli ice creams.

Market Day is an entertaining look at the Neighbourgoods Market and the characters that bring it to life. The images, some in black and white, some taken by "citizen journalists" are mouth-watering.



What's On

Rhodes debate

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, will hold a public dialogue on "Debating the Legacy of Cecil Rhodes". The meeting will be held at the Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Gardens, on

Thursday March 26, from 5.30pm to 7pm. It will be chaired by Professor Chris Landsberg, South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI), Chair of African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, University of Johannesburg. The event will be

addressed by Emeritus Professor Paul Maylam, Department of History, Rhodes University, and Professor Adekeye Adebajo, executive director of the CCR. Email Fritz Brand at fbrand@ccr.org.za for more information.