

A feast of classical and contemporary ballet

Cape Town City Ballet continues its 80th anniversary celebrations in July with a varied programme called *Ballet Beautiful*. From Friday July 4 to Saturday July 12, Cape Town audiences will be able to enjoy the classical beauty of Marius Petipa's *Paquita*, as well as the premieres of two new ballets by young South African choreographers, Kirsten Isenberg and Yarisha Singh. A new *pas de deux* by Robin van Wyk will also be presented.

CTCB commissioned Isenberg and Singh, both UCT School of Dance graduates, to create new works for the company.

Isenberg will present *Of Gods and Men*, a neo-classical work depicting the mythological struggle between gods and man, illustrating how their strengths and weaknesses ultimately result in their equality.

In Singh's contemporary style *Serendipity*, the dancers will portray an array of emotions, affording audiences the opportunity to make their own discoveries and associations.

The Fragile Balance, a newly-choreographed *pas de deux* will complete the first half of the pro-

gramme. Danced to the glorious music of Max Bruch's famous violin concerto, the piece was inspired by the poem of the same name by Arokuara.

Paquita, choreographed by Marius Petipa, was staged in Russia for the first time as a full-length ballet for the Imperial Ballet of St Petersburg. The Cape Town City Ballet performs the divertissements from the final act. With music by Ludwig Minkus, the ballet is considered one of the essential works in the classical ballet repertoire.

Ballet Beautiful tickets cost R175 or R150 each. Book at Computicket or call Artscape Dial-a-Seat at 021 421 7695.

● Readers' competition:

Two lucky Tabletalk readers will each win a pair of tickets to see *Ballet Beautiful* at Artscape on Saturday July 5, at 2pm. To enter, SMS TTballetBeaut and your name to 34445. Each SMS costs R1.50.

Lines close Sunday at 10pm. Winners will be notified by telephone. If you do not arrive in time for the performance, tickets cannot be exchanged for another date, time or for cash.



PICTURE: PAT BROMILOW-DOWNING

■ Kim Vieira and Daniel Szybkowski in *Paquita*.

Entries open for Baxter Dance Festival

Dance studios, schools, companies, groups, independent dance-makers and choreographers have until 5pm on Friday June 27 to apply to be part of the Baxter Dance Festival.

Despite limited funding, the festival has become an annual not-to-be-missed platform for studios, companies and choreographers to present their work. It will celebrate 10 years of existence in October.

Since its inception in 2004, more than 450 local choreographers have presented their work in the festival. It has featured in excess of 3 000 dancers from more than 400 studios, dance schools, projects and professional companies from all over the Western Cape. And the dance styles have included contemporary, classical, African, modern and Spanish.

"That we have managed to survive and thrive over the 10 years, thanks to our faithful and generous partners and sponsors, is nothing short of a miracle," says Nicolette Moses, the Baxter's associate producer and project manager of the dance festival.

"It is gratifying that we have so much support from the dance fraternity, which really pushes us to continue to offer this platform across the spectrum. Every year we try to invigorate the festival so that our audiences too are excited by the diverse, exciting line-up."

The main programme will feature works of various lengths by established professional and invited companies, while the off-main programme, which takes place on Saturday October 11, will showcase



PICTURE: OSCAR O' RYAN

■ Dancers from Dance for All at the 2013 Baxter Dance Festival.

work by up-and-coming choreographers, including student work.

The fringe programme on Saturday October 18 will include work by youth groups, dance studios, school groups, traditional dance groups and other choreographers who specifically request that their work be staged here for practical or other reasons.

The Baxter Theatre Centre will provide a comprehensive production package that includes lighting, sound, technical assistance, publicity, box office facilities, printed programmes and pre-show rehearsal arrangements, making it a hassle-free experience for participating dance groups and companies.

Applications to take part in this

year's Baxter Dance Festival may be emailed, faxed or hand-delivered, with the closing date for applications strictly no later than 5pm on June 27. No late entries will be considered. Choreographers need to supply a DVD of recent work.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.baxter.co.za or www.facebook.com/BaxterTheatre. They are also available from the Baxter's reception desk in the main foyer.

Completed forms should be sent to Nicolette Moses. They can be faxed to 021 650 5260 or emailed to baxterdancefestival@uct.ac.za, or they can be hand-delivered to the Baxter Theatre Centre, Main Road, Rondebosch, marked clearly for her attention.



■ A one-night performance of *Candid Confessions* at The Milnerton Playhouse on Wednesday June 25 at 8pm is being held to raise funds so that The Writing Studio will be able to stage *The Beauty of Incomplete Things*, at The Fringe, at The Joburg Theatre, in July. In *Candid Confessions* the characters of David (Wojtek Lipinski), Tommy (Rowan Malcolm Studti) and Steve (André Lombard) are trapped in limbo after a tragedy. Drifting in and out of a circle of light, they share their thoughts as they try to redeem themselves through a final confession. Tickets cost R120 each. Book online at www.milnertonplayers.com or call 072 474 1079.

●● Read of the Week

Incognito
Mark Verbaan
Macmillan
Review: Brian Joss

Ben Trovato's satirical columns have featured in many of the country's leading newspapers and magazines over the past 10 years and you either loved his writing or hated it.

But whichever, there was no cow too sacred. Trovato made a few brief appearances in the newsroom of Cape Community Newspapers when I was news editor there.

A select few knew who he was, although there were some rumours that he was the son of Harvey Tyson, a former editor of the Star newspaper in Johannesburg. But those who knew the truth kept quiet.

Now Ben Trovato has finally revealed himself to be Mark Verbaan in his book subtitled, *The Memoirs of Ben Trovato*.

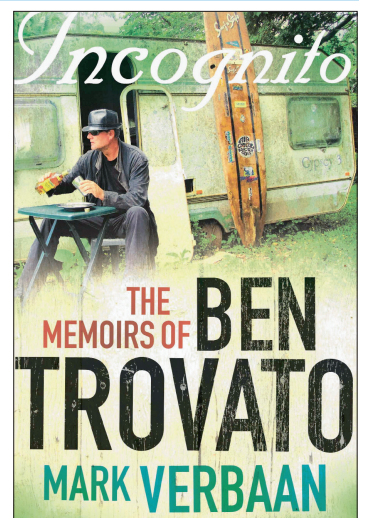
Verbaan has had a rollercoaster of a life starting when he was a young surfer in his home town of Durban, where he lived from the age of four. Verbaan has squatted in Rotherhite in London's East End; he's been arrested on drug charges; and drunk litres and litres of beer.

He was married to Gwen Lister, feisty editor and founder of the Namibian, when he lived in Windhoek, a place which he hated.

Verbaan was in at the birth of etv, a stint which nearly killed him, he says.

He was often on the bones of his ass, but fate always played a hand – and he landed with his bum in the butter. The bright spot in his life has always been his daughter Liberty.

In *Incognito* Verbaan tells why he decided to come clean about who he really is.



Despite his satirical bent, *Incognito* is a beautifully written memoir, which will keep you entertained for hours, much like his columns which are a must read.

Incognito also shows that beneath his hard-boiled exterior, Verbaan does have a gentler side, which clearly comes through when he writes about his mother's fight with cancer.

Verbaan has written 10 books and the volumes of his letters to the rich and powerful are "unique in the annals of South African literature", although they were inspired by American columnist Henry Root.

If you want to know more about the man who wears sunglasses and a black hat as a disguise, then *Incognito* is a must.

Performing Shakespeare lets schools experience the magic of live theatre

The Shakespeare Schools Festival will be held from Monday to Thursday July 28 to 31 at the Artscape Theatre, and from Tuesday to Thursday August 26 to 28; and Tuesday to Thursday September 2 to 4 at the Somerset Playhouse, Somerset West.

The festival is in its fourth consecutive season.

"We held cast workshops at Artscape Theatre where schools came in for a two-hour workshop aimed at allowing participants to meet each other, engage in drama activities and some specific exercises that are examples of rehearsal moments they can use at their own spaces", says festival director Kseniya Filinova-Bruton.

The festival will give pupils an opportunity to create and present an original drama on a professional stage while also learning the discipline of being a performer.

Each year, the festival encourages schools to perform 30-minute

versions of Shakespearean plays in professional theatres, giving them a platform to voice their creativity and to broaden their horizons by experiencing the magic of live theatre and professional lighting in front of an audience.

Schools taking part in this year's Cape Town programme are Claremont High School, Blouberg International School, Wynberg Boys' High School, Wynberg High School, Herschel Girls' School, Norman Henshilwood High School, Bergvliet High School, LEAP Science and Maths School, Vista Nova High Drama Club, Sans Souci Girls' High School, Constan-tiaberg Home Educators, Camps Bay High School, Springfield Convent Senior School, Shiloah Christian School, Chris Hani High, SACS and the Lalela project

For more information contact Themba Mzondi on 078 113 5216 or you can send an email to themba@sceproductions.co.za

What's On

Alice's wonderland

Lewis Carroll's classic, *Alice in Wonderland*, will be brought to life by Fred Abrahamse and Marcel Meyer at Canal Walk Shopping Centre this winter, from Saturday

June 28 to Sunday July 20. The shows run from Tuesday to Sunday, at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. Tickets cost R70 and are available through Computicket. Canal Walk will donate R5 from each ticket sold, as

well as the proceeds of programme sales to Stop Hunger Now. The centre will also play host to "Meals in Memory" packing events over two weekends prior to Mandela Day on Friday July 18.