

Woodstock body branches out into theatre

FLORENCE SHORT

THE recently formed CAP Theatre Company, based in Woodstock, is to stage its first play — a mime-movement piece titled *The Dogs Must be Crazy* — from May 1.

Devised and directed by CAP director Mike van Graan, it consists of seven sketches presented in cartoon style.

Says Van Graan: "We wanted a style of communication that is universally understandable. We are looking at social and political issues through the perspective of dogs — who are not only 'man's best friend' but who, of all domestic animals, are probably best understood by most people.

"Also, some dogs have experienced the pain of being mistreated and being caged or tied up, and so can symbolise the suffering of many of our people. But dogs also represent humour — giving our play lots of laughs."

The CAP Theatre Company is headed by established actress Bo Petersen and Thetha Sithole, who studied at the University of Zululand's drama department. They are also the company's coordinators and artistic directors.

The aim of the CAP Theatre Company is to take theatre as an educational and entertainment medium into communities — in the country as well as in town.

Street theatre, commissioned by the University of the Western Cape's community law centre, has already started with a play illustrating the effects of laws on the everyday lives of people — such as on spouse abuse, the rights of an arrested person and hire purchase.

He says: "In addition to the CAP Theatre Company putting on a variety of theatre productions, we want to stimulate communities into developing theatre as a means of communication — to help them dramatise the need for people themselves to take action on issues such as creating employment opportunities for themselves."

● Booking for *The Dogs Must Be Crazy*:

☎ 45 3689



MEMBERS of the Community Arts Project's theatre group recently performed "The Street Project", a play which deals with people's rights on being arrested, in the UWC Student Centre. They visited the campus at the request of the Law department to perform the play, directed by Sandra Temming. CAP's John Walter said the eight-person group was trying to promote popular theatre in Western Cape communities, at the same time as educating people about their legal rights.

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