Welcome
to the first edition of CAN, the mouthpiece for community arts organisations in greater Cape Town area. Young Peoples Theatre Educational Trust, Montebello, Action Workshop, The Film and Allied Workers Organisation, and Thupelo Workshop all responded positively to CAP's invitation to submit material for this pilot newsletter, which CAP plans to produce quarterly if successful. The newsletter contains current information about activities of cultural organisations in Cape Town, a report on the process of establishing a provincial arts forum and a notice board of coming events. The establishment of CAN is part of the process of establishing CAP as a resource centre in Community Arts. CAP views the dissemination of information on the arts as a vital part in the building of a strong arts infrastructure.

Read on and if you are part of an organisation committed to the promotion of Community Arts contact us about your future participation in CAN at 453689/60.
IMPLEMENTING THE RDP IN THE PROVINCE:
TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVINCIAL ARTS FORUM

The success of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) hinges on the effective participation of civil society. The numerous Forums which have been set up across the country ensure that there are mechanisms for consultation between Government and various sectors of civil society. No such Forum exists for arts and culture.

The establishment of a representative structure for the arts has long been on the agenda of arts and cultural organisations. This objective was behind the formation of the Federation of South African Organisations (FOSACO) in 1990 and the National Arts Coalition (NAC) in 1993. However, while both FOSACO and the NAC can mobilise constituencies, neither can truly claim to be fully representative. The lack of cooperation, and even hostility that has characterised the relationship between the NAC and FOSACO has not helped a sector which is all too aware that it has a major battle to fight in order to impress upon Government and the public at large that arts and culture can play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the RDP.

The situation is made more complex by the fact that arts and culture are among the powers given by central Government to the Provinces. This means that in addition to the need for a legitimate voice at the national level, strong representative provincial structures need to be established.

This year has seen two major meetings organised by the Cultural Workers Congress (a FOSACO affiliate) which have been held at CAP. These meetings have discussed and endorsed the creation of a Provincial Arts Forum as the most feasible mechanism for ensuring inclusivity of all major stakeholders, and as a necessary mechanism to ensure consultation with the Provincial Government around all matters of significance pertaining to arts and culture (e.g., the budget, establishing a regional developmental framework which can ensure the implementation of the RDP, legislation, etc).

The second meeting elected a 15 person Interim Steering Committee (ISC) charged with the responsibility of laying the groundwork for the creation of a Provincial Arts Forum. The ISC will present a Statement of Intent for discussion and adoption at a follow up meeting on the 6th of August, as well as report on a range of matters (from lobbying to research) which it was mandated to do by the previous meeting. A name for the Forum will also be finalised at the meeting.

For more information about the Forum contact Mario Pissarra (ISC convener) at CAP 021-453689.
COMMUNITY ARTS RESOURCE CENTRE

CAP's Resource Centre, in existence since the mid 1980's, is not a library, but rather a dynamic space where information comes in and goes out - either in written form or through events that excite and challenge existing ideas. Within the last year, 3 successful debate and discussion forums on the relationship between Visual Arts, Education and Development (in which 29 visual arts interest groups participated) and meetings of a range of arts organisations were held at the Centre. While we have never had the funds to develop the centre into a fully functional unit, relying on part time help and volunteers, the centre has played a successful in-house service and is used by appointment as a reading room. Journals and periodicals are regularly donated by the Smithsonian Institute (USA) and our partner community arts project in New South Wales (Australia) - the Community Arts Network. Friends of CAP and the British Council have donated books and magazines. CAP has built up a considerable amount of educational material and research over its 17 years of existence and these are presently being bound and catalogued for public use by Dorothy Brislin (former director of the Newtown Film and Video School), who together with volunteers is setting up the systems at the centre. We are hoping to open its doors regularly before the end of the year as a Resource Centre specialising in the community arts field.

LINO CUT BY LUNGILE BAM PROMOTING THE CAP SHOP WHICH SPECIALISES IN AFFORDABLE PORTABLE ART
What do we stand for?
A country on the brink of a new era needs its people to be involved in their world. For several generating the South African system has instilled in children passivity and disempowerment, we aim to turn the tables on this kind of teaching:
* to revitalise classroom practice
* to facilitate understanding and self knowledge
* to foster critical analysis
* to develop teaching that is uniquely South African
What do we do?

**Living English**

This project provides teachers with the means of introducing children to the English language in a fashion that makes its adoption as easy and efficient as possible. As research has shown that language is learned more thoroughly at an early age - the Trust has chosen to work at primary rather than high school level. Our area of research is the primary schools in Khayelitsha and Gugulethu and rural schools in the Hek River Valley, Worcester and De Doorns.

**Living Literature**

Through active research we aim to provide teachers and pupils with teaching packs which examine the various setwork books prescribed for Stds 6-10. The teaching packs provide relevant background information on setworks and material for drama lessons that will enhance the pupils understanding of the character, plots, themes, settings and basic-story lines of the books.

**In Service Training / Workshops**

The Trust works closely with practising teachers. It holds regular workshops with teachers and wherever possible attempts to work alongside the teacher in daily classroom practice.

**Community Outreach Project**

The outreach programme has a child-centred, holistic approach incorporating visual art, music, dance and literature aimed at developing young people physically and intellectually. It is hoped that our participation will enrich the community as a whole. Work in the community is done in the vernacular.

**We work in / with:**

- Community libraries
- Old age groups
- Youth Groups
- Urban and Rural school

**Publications**

Our first book “At the Market. Ten lessons for second language learners”, we republished last year. Later this year “Ziggy the Robot”, lessons on grammar and “Readers Theatre”, ten stories to be read together in the classroom will be available.

**Contact YPTET at 6971881 (phone/fax). P.O Box 472, Athlone, Cape town, 7760.**
"Thupelo" is a Sotho word and means to “to teach by example". Thupelo exists to run annual and regional workshops. The present committee is Velile Soha, Garth Erasmus, Lionel Davis, Jill Trappler and Keith Nunn.

The annual workshops hope to provide -

1. An opportunity to strengthen links between artists from South Africa, the region and abroad, giving fresh input to local artistic activity.

2. An intensive creative environment in which artists develop and find new avenues of expression through ideas and techniques.

3. A chance for audiences to interact with artists and develop a
new awareness and enthusiasm with a greater concern for quality.

The 1994 regional workshop will be from 14th - 23rd October and the Annual Workshop in February 1995.

Contact Thupelo at 8
Albert Road, Tamboerskloof,
8001, Cape Town Tel No: (021) 234959, Fax No: (021) 4616552

Performance of "Adapt or Die" by New Cross Roads Drama Group

ACTION WORKSHOP'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1984 - 1994

Action Workshop was formed in 1984 after a group of activists and United Democratic Front (UDF) supporters workshopped a play "Time to Act" at the request of the UDF. The play was performed as part of the popularising campaign to collect a million signatures against the racist Tricameral elections. The success of the play led to the formation of a progressive community theatre organisation that could transfer skills to the community of the Western Cape region. This was the birth of AW. Since then we have facilitated workshops and performed for church, youth, union and children’s organisation all over as far afield as Nambia.

We are planning two festivals to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Action Workshop. In the second week of August we will hold an evening mini-festival with drinks and snacks, a photographic and video exhibition depicting the history and works of the organisation. Performances of dance and drama by our workshop groups will take place. At the end of the year we plan to hold a festival where all our groups will take the stage. We hope to record the ten years history of this active workshop in a book which will be launched at the end of the year.

Contact Action Workshop at 691970
Unemployed youths were taught the basics of drawing and painting at Khayamnandi Baptist Home for Boys in Langa between March and May. The courses culminated in a 9.2 x 1.8 m. mural in Washington Street, Langa, outside the walls of the Baptist Church and directly opposite Langa High School.

The mural is composed of three different panels, a result of students having worked in three groups. The content of the mural emerged out of discussions between students and facilitators about the meaning of democracy. Students have drawn on their experience of the past as well as their expectations for the future. As a result obvious role models (education graduates, a doctor, a priest) interface with "ordinary" people (lovers, fruit vendors, residents and commuters). Community needs (houses, sports and recreational facilities, electricity, transport) interface with shacks, huts, and a hand-pulled cart. Urban and rural elements interface so as to visually represent their interdependence. The panels are linked by the interim national flag which serves to reinforce the sense of social change which is represented in the mural.

The mural has been a resounding success in Langa. This can be seen by the number of people who stop, look at and discuss the mural. The mural's success is particularly notable given that most of the students have never had any art training before.
FOLLOW UP COURSES

Follow up courses run from 1 August to 21 October. “Drawing in colour” will be based at Khayamnandi (Tuesdays 9 AM - 1 PM) and is aimed at students who have not had much (or any) previous training. The “Mural art course” will be based at CAP (Mondays and Fridays 9 AM - 4PM). The course will be practically orientated but will also include mural art history and theory. This is to ensure that the potential of murals as an artform which can contribute to community development is properly understood, and that murals are not simply treated as “outdoor” paintings. Students who complete the course will not only understand the technical processes of producing a mural but will also be able to organise a community mural and produce murals for clients. The mural course will accommodate both beginner and advanced applicants.

Further course details and application forms are available from CAP.

Applications must be in by the 29th of July when registration will take place at CAP.

Courses start 1 August.

Job Creation. Lino Cut by Xolani Somane
**CAP's Theatre Project** has a very challenging programme of action for this year; The Women's Course in Theatre for Development, and the Theatre Skills Course for Grassroots Theatre Groups. Both courses start in August and run for four months ending with the CAP festival in December.

**The Project's focus is on the concept of Theatre for Development** (or Community Theatre as it is sometimes called). Community theatre is an important tool in helping to raise the country's consciousness on developmental issues. It enables collective participation in development and the very nature of the medium allows for people's experiences and knowledge to be tapped. Through Community Theatre, people who have not previously had the opportunity or channel to express their voice will have the chance to realise their potential and develop further organisational skills.

**Using the power of community theatre** CAP hopes to contribute to the creation of a strong Community Theatre Movement, primarily by facilitating the training of artists and development workers with skills in community development and communication. Our Women's Course will train women from NGOs, CBOs and Institutions how to use theatre as a tool for development.

**The Theatre Skills course**, in addition to training people in technical theatre skills, will also be bringing to peoples attention how theatre can be used in creating employment possibilities. As a result, the course will be putting a great deal of emphasis on theatre-
management, administration and marketing.

In order to run a course that delivers on the level of infrastructure building, the course needs to be linked to building a strong theatre network regionally and nationally. To this end CAP has been assisting in the organising of theatre groups and is working closely with the Township Organisation of Performers (TOPS), as well as other theatre NGOs in Cape Town. (Action Workshop, Young Peoples Theatre Education Trust [YPTET], and New Africa Theatre Project [NATPRO]). A national conference recently held in Bloemfontein resolved to build a national community theatre network. The Organising Committee included Akanani Rural Development Association, Performing Arts Workers Equity (PAWE) [Education - Committee], Handspring Trust for Puppetry in Education, Culture and Working Life Project, SA Workers Cultural Unit, Eastern Cape Cultural Union, Maluti Theatre, CAP Theatre Project, YPTET, Action Workshop and NATPRO and the Market Laboratory. An outcome of the conference was the formation of a Community Theatre for Development Trust. CAP’s Theatre Co-ordinator Simba Pemhenayi, the previous National Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Association of Community Theatre (ZACT) presented a paper on “What is Community Theatre”.

The Theatre Skills course runs every Saturday 9-1 (R20 a month) and membership to a theatre group is essential.

The Theatre for Development course runs every Tuesday and Friday from 4:30-6:00 (R50 a month) and participants must be women from NGO’s, CBO’s or institutions.

Application forms for the two courses running from August - December 1994, are available at CAP from Simba or Sicelo 453689/60
EDUCARE TRAINERS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CHILD WITHIN

For 4 days early in May CAP opened its doors to 17 trainers from Grassroots EducareTrust who had come to develop their creativity and to acquire skills in art education.

This formed part of a 48 hour course designed to provide the participants with an opportunity to explore their own creativity through art and to develop skills and insight into art education which will allow these adult educators to pass their learnings on to others.

The programme attempted to approach art from the child's point of view with an emphasis on spontaneity of expression, awareness of emotions and feelings, exploration through the senses and a freeing of the imagination. The participants' enthusiasm soon warmed CAP's cold and wintry workshop spaces as hands dipped into finger paint, bodies found a rhythm while
wedging clay and the laughter became truly childlike when a story about the freeing of a goldfish by armies of conscientised cockroaches was enacted.

**Drama** exercises were used as warm-ups and to enhance the visual art making. Thanks to the presence of both theatre and visual arts skilled people at CAP, it was possible to integrate both media in the training course.

In addition to the course conducted for Grassroots, CAP is planning another 3 similar courses in 1994. One of these will be specifically aimed at educare teachers, the other two will cater for people working with abused or neglected children and for those working with disabled children. The courses are scheduled to start in June, July and August. No previous experience in art is required. If you work with children falling into one of the categories mentioned above and would like to know more about the courses, please phone Barbara Voss at 45 3689/48.

**MEET THE FACILITATORS**

The facilitators of the “Art Skills for Child Educators” course have all been connected to CAP either as students or employees or both for many years. In this issue we introduce:

**LUNGILE BAM** was born and raised in East London in 1958. He showed an early interest in art and to the exasperation of his teachers would cover every possible surface with his drawings.

**LUNGILE,** however, has himself become an able and admired teacher of art. He trained as an artist and teacher at CAP (class of ’89) and has since taught many children and adults. He is a versatile artist and equally at home with painting, wood carving and lino printing. He is currently employed by CAP as an educator. Apart from helping to plan and facilitate the above mentioned courses, Lungile presently teaches drawing and mural painting to the unemployed in Langa. Lungile says, “My main concern is to share my skills with the community. It is important for art to spread among the people.”
OUT-REACH PROJECTS

At the moment Montebello is running five different job creation / skills development projects with the help of two of the SBDC’s Mentor Advisory Programme consultants (Brendhan Dickerson and Juliana Dijkstra).

The projects are designed around a common theme of working with waste. Apart from environmental concern the motivation behind working from waste has been to equip trainees with a network of supply and skills to work with materials which can be freely or inexpensively obtained. As the ultimate aim of these projects is to develop people’s skill and knowledge to the point where the could be self employed this means that trainees can set up a small business
with very little capital should they wish to move away from Montebello.

**THE PROJECTS:**

The Township Frames projects involves the fabrication of highly decorative photograph and mirror frames in various sizes. The materials used are textile of cuts, corrugated cardboard, off-cuts of glass and mirrors and roll-ends from knitting factories.

**Rubber Products** produces a variety of handbags, rucksacks, terry bags and glasses cases from old inner tubes of truck and car tires. These products are stylishly constructed with nickel plated rivets and studs and are very durable.

**Tin cans** are used to produce toy aeroplanes and other toys.

**Scrap wire** is used to fashion numerous products including baskets, wine bottle holders, magazine racks and toilet roll holders.

A blacksmith project is currently being implemented at Montebello. While this project involves longer training and higher overheads it still falls within the work from waste programme as all the goods made are wrought from scrap metal. This project also has the widest application in terms of products. These can range from candelabra to furniture and fittings to knives, chisels and other tools.

All the work from waste projects will take orders from the public (to be placed at the Montebello shop) as well as work with clients in designing products to suit their needs.

Montebello’s on-glaze ceramic decoration classes for the general public will begin again in the third term.
VOLUNTARISM WORKS!

Central to CAP’s success over its years of existence has been its volunteer element, CAP being initially started by a committed core of “volunteer members”. Voluntaryism in community projects is seen as an integral part in the growth of Civil Society. When CAP was restructured as an NGO in 1992, the volunteer element was retained and several people regularly volunteer as a community service. Presently volunteers are used in setting up the Resource Centre. Neil Beder, Mary Visser, Cindy Flowers, Kay Rajoo, Adele Beaunoir, Selina Williams, Graeme Germond and Pauline Harris get a massive thank you from staff for their committed assistance in the last year and a half. We will, later in 1995, be looking for volunteers to run one-off workshops at CAP and children’s arts classes in the townships and would be interested in hearing from enthusiastic and motivated people. Phone 453689 or 453660

COMMUNITY ARTS NOTICE BOARD.

Making Music Productions cc have moved into CAP’s premises at 106 Chapel Street. Phone: 4621855 for music production needs.

Music Action for Peoples Progress (MAPP) is operating its school out of the Music Workshop, Drake Street, Observatory. Phone: 4482516

New Africa Theatre Project (NATPRO) and Dance is operating from Lower Main Road, Observatory. Phone: 478792

Township Organisation of Performers (TOPS) is contactable at the Baxter Theater. Phone: 6857880

Watch out for Action Workshops 10th Anniversary celebrations!

CAP is running the following programmes between July and December: The Mural Course, Drawing in Colour, Basic Art Skills for Child Educators, Women’s Course in Community Theatre, Theatre Skills Course. Phone CAP at 453689/60/48 for more information or come to 106 Chapel Street, Woodstock for application forms. Fax: 4520008.

To be included in the next CAN phone CAP and speak to Zayd.