THE YEAR OF CONSOLIDATION

1996 started as a year which promised a new start in the arts for South Africa, on the cards have been the establishment of an arts council to distribute arts funding, the transformation of the performing arts councils and the provincial department of the arts, the development of an arts policy for the city and the production of a white paper on the arts. The National Arts and Culture Task Group (ACTAG) and its provincial counterpart WESTAG reports were completed with many hours having been sacrificed to ensure that the process was inclusive and that the documents met the needs of the many interest groups in the country.

There has, to a large extent, been a general disappointment from the arts sector that issues have not moved very quickly by mid 1996. Organisations who have been on the sidelines for many years have been forced to sit tight a little bit longer unsure if or when regular support from government would be forthcoming. While CAP and a few other organisations received some national government funds in 1995/6, support in the new year is uncertain and we have been informed that this should come from the provincial government coffers. Though we have come to realise that transformation is a very slow process and patience is required, we have been angered by the delays (particularly) within the provincial government of the Western Cape who have used every excuse to stall supporting progressive arts organisations. In the meantime the arts ministry in Gauteng, has been proactive in setting up mechanisms to assist previously marginalised groups.

It would certainly be a sad matter if any NGO dealing in arts education closes during this period, as years of foreign funding would have been wasted and expertise would be lost. It seems a contradiction to hear the government asking for more foreign investments in the country while disregarding the years of foreign investment that have been and continue to be made in NGOs or providing incentives such as matching funds. The Sarama 2 debacle has not created any confidence in the government and its use of foreign investment generally, and the sad matter to all involved in the arts that more decisive disciplinary actions were not taken.

Notwithstanding these issues, CAP has continued to grow from strength to strength. Much of this has been due in no small part to CAP having conceptualised its vision and begun to sharpen its strategies towards delivering this vision. CAP is one of the few arts education organisations working within the "Learning Outcomes model" which will form the basis of the new educational framework (NQF) structures that are in place.

1996 has been declared the year to consolidate for CAP. Our strategy to become a professional arts education institution has meant that we have had to focus our energy on our educational programme with all the resources and people we have available. Our funding has been fairly stable for an organisation which is usually under pressure and we have been able to capitalise on this stability by ensuring that we become more efficient and effective at what we do. CAP's dedicated staff have been working hard at delivering a full year for the benefit of our students and we have produced a number of exciting courses for 1996. The first semester has been successful so far and we look forward to an exciting second semester.

One of the most stimulating new initiatives happening in the Cape presently is moves by 4 long standing progressive arts education NGOs (CAP, New Africa Theatre Project, Action Workshop and Young People's Theatre Education Trust) in developing a joint programme for 1997. This initiative, an attempt to provide a more effective and directed service for our constituency, has been underway since early 1994 and looks certain to have a major positive impact in the region for many years to come.
Zayd Minty is the Co-ordinator - he does the general management, direction and fundraising. He is also involved in lobbying work and sits on the CAPAB board. Zayd grew up and studied in Durban before coming to Cape Town to work. He has a BA (Honours) in Contemporary Cultural Studies from the University of Natal (Dbn). He has an interest in all forms of art and popular culture and has been involved in many projects relating to music, video, performance and visual arts. He believes everyone has the potential in making the world a better place for all. Arts and culture is to him the key in bringing people together.

Mario Pisarska is the Education Convenor - he manages the Education Department. Mario Pisarska is the Education Convenor - he manages the Education Department. Mario grew up in Natal and has also lived in Johannesburg, New York and Lisbon. Mario is a UCT Fine Arts and History of Art (Honours) graduate. He has worked as a D.J. part-time art history lecturer and cultural activist before being employed at CAP in 1983. Mario was a founder member of Scratch, Garden Youth Congress, Cultural Workers Congress and the Visual Arts Group. His "mission" is to link arts to development and to ensure that CAP's courses become officially accredited. He is a roots reggae fanatic who can be heard on Bush Radio on Saturday afternoons. Next year he wants to write for publications.

Liz Broukaert is the Child Art Educator - she teaches and manages part time teachers in child arts. Liz grew up in Natal near Durban. She studies Nursing at the University of Natal (Dbn) and Music Therapy at UCT. She has worked as a music therapist in various community based organisations. Her interests include local live music, West African music and dancing. She plays various musical instruments and sings. She is currently the National Chairperson of the Association of Professional Music Therapists.

Lungile Bam is the Visual Arts Educator - he teaches and manages part time teachers in visual arts. He was born and bred in East London. Lungile is a graduate of CAP's full-time art course and is a practising artist as well as an educator. He enjoys developing underprivileged people with skills in art to help those without to earn a living from it. Building his own experience by sharing knowledge with others is important and enjoyable to him, as is making friends with others involved in human development. He watches videos in his spare time, visits friends and spends time with his family.

Theo Nkohla is the Fieldworker - he follows up and assists the students. He was born in Cape Town, but lived and schooled in the Ciskei. He lives in Guguletu NY20. Theo has a strong trade union background which has put him in touch with the grassroots. He worked in the Education Committee and was involved in helping people overcome their fears of dealing with bosses and developing their self esteem. He has always been interested in helping those who find it difficult to speak for themselves. He studied drama at CAP before joining full-time in 1990, and has currently worked the longest at CAP. His driving forces are his patriotism in South Africa, and his love for his family, music and South African sport - especially Orlando Pirates.

Nigel Mentor is the Centre Manager - he manages the Chapel Street building and the community service programme and handles reception. He studied in Cape Town and is presently completing a law degree part-time. He has enjoyed working with people and helping in community development. Nigel has a love for gadgets and high tech stuff and ways these can make peoples lives better. He is interested in lots of hiking, science fiction and sport (especially swimming and soccer). He loves challenges and innovations and started the first swimming club in Heideveld - where there wasn't even a swimming pool!

Lynette Davids is the Administrator - she does the finances and general admin work. She grew up and was educated in Cape Town. Lynette has worked in this field for many years full-time in the business world while helping out in community based organisations. She is a qualified educator whose main interest is helping the community. Her main concern at present is assisting the handicapped. Her family is very important to her and she always makes time for them.

Simba Pembeni is the Performing Arts Educator - he teaches and manages part time teachers in performing arts. Simba grew up and was educated in Harare Zimbabwe. He has had a long career in theatre, including starting and directing his own theatre company, Batsirianaiyi, which has today grown into a professional theatre outfit. He served as national chairperson of the nationwide movement of community theatre groups within the Zimbabwe Association of Community Theatre (ZACT). He presently sits on the Action Workshop Steering committee. Simba has developed a theory called "Open doors interactive community theatre technology".

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DRAMA FOR JOB CREATION, COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND BUILDING COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND PERSONAL CONFIDENCE...

Most drama students want to be actors or actresses and earn a living doing drama. However an increasing number of them see drama as a way of developing community awareness about issues affecting their lives. Some students are aware that drama improves their communication skills which they can use for teaching or public relations. Let us listen to what some of the students registered for Acting 1, Community Theatre for Development and Community Theatre History had to say about why they came to study drama at CAP...

"I want to be an actress or a broadcaster. Maybe I can read news on TV or have a programme. This course makes me proud of myself because I didn't know how to communicate with people. Now I'm not shy" - Nokulunga Badula

"I want to bridge the gap between actors and the audience. I want the community to see that they are important... after the course I can involve myself in a group or company and make a product and sell it" - Phikiswa Ngqeshemba

"I would like to be an actor and to develop the community" - Nicky Peter

"I can use drama in my community to help the unemployed. I can help them organise a group so that we can create employment and bring awareness in the community" - Themba Lonzi

"I've always wanted to be involved in a community based level" - Heidi Williams

"I want to be an actress and teach children" - Nontuluzo Jobela

"I want to help the community, especially children to do plays... Even now I am doing gumboot dancing and plays with children in my community" - Ntombodidi Nondumo

"Community theatre for development will make my dream to be an actor and to be helpful to the community come true" - Mqolozeli

"One day I want to work with street kids. I want to do more CAP courses until I am ready to stand in the field" - Mava Sotenjwa

"I want to be an actor to earn a living. CAP is the only project which can provide me with acting skills without paying (doing community service instead)" - Michael Dinile
Meet the Staff at CAP...
Continued

He is convinced that ones emotional completeness is possible only when the group of people you are part of is de-colonised and liberated. “The power and understanding of culture gives me endless commitment and will to be part of my continent’s development”

Lawrence Makinana is the Caretaker - He maintains the building. He was born and bred in Cape Town. He has an interest in carpentry and plumbing.

TRAINING FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY AND JOB CREATION: ARTS ADMINISTRATION/ MICRO-ENTERPRISE TRAINING AT CAP

For many years arts organisations and cultural activists have argued that most arts training programmes do not equip students to face the challenges of the “real” world once they leave the shelter of arts institutions. Although CAP has attempted to provide such training in the past this has been limited to a few of the full-time courses, the last of which was completed in 1991. For most CAP students who attend part-time courses the organisation has failed to provide such training up until last year when Arts Administration 1 (AA 1) was run for the first time.

12 students attended a course which covered financial management, group management, and marketing. The course was run by Mike Abrams of the National Literacy Coop using education with production methods. This means that students did not simply get lectured to but actually took on real projects. For example a concert was organised as a way of raising funds for the students who constituted themselves as the “Artistic Developers”.

Planning for the course was made possible by Klare Stock. A Dutch arts management student who was seconded to CAP as a part of her training. Klare compiled material which could be used for the course.

Due to the organisations limited capacity a follow up course has still to be planned - we are hoping that we can be ready to provide this in 1997. The original idea was that AA 1 should be a basic introductory course that second level courses would provide more specialised training for visual and performing artists.

Desiree Knk, one of the students who successfully completed the AA 1 course last year is presently setting up a Teacher placement programme. The aims of the programme are to create work for part-time visual and performing arts facilitators by finding clients who want workshops run for them. If you have experience teaching arts and want to be drawn into this programme Desiree can be contacted at CAP for an interview.

A revised version of AA 1, now called Arts Administration/ Micro-Enterprise Training 1 (AAMET 1) will be running at CAP in the second semester. The facilitator is Mike Abrams (now of the New Africa Theatre Project). The only requirement of applicants is that their arts skills should be at a high enough level that they have something to “sell”. In other words if an applicant is felt by CAP to still be a “beginner” then it would be better for that person to be attending drawing, painting and/or acting courses until they are ready for AAMET 1.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR MUSICIANS/ GROUPS

Please note that although CAP does not train musicians to play instruments, solo musicians or groups are also welcome to apply for AAMET 1 as the skills needed to market yourself or manage your group are the same as those needed for theatre and visual arts groups.
DRAWING AND PAINTING AS THE FOUNDATION FOR TRAINING AS AN ARTIST AND/OR TO BECOME A DESIGNER OR TEACHER...

"I came here because I had no money for further education. I want to do fashion design at the Technikon" - Nombulelo Ntsali

"I'm not working. I'm tired of being a housewife. I want to build a new me who has skills to help my kid and other kids in the community so that they can have something to do" - Yvonne Twalo

"I want to make a living doing art. I want to be my own boss" - Sizwe Marrengane

"I want to be a teacher one day, or maybe an interior designer" - Xola Kleinbooi

"I have the talent to draw but no money to study so my talent can't go anywhere. Here at CAP I can develop my talent until I can draw exactly what I want" - Ernest Ntebi

"CAP's fees are affordable. I want to make a living doing illustrations or cartoons and work for a magazine if they can employ me" - Nkululeko Mazwayi

"I will go to the Technikon next year to learn copywriting and I came to CAP to learn drawing and painting skills" - Nomawethu Mkwane

Drawing 1, Drawing 2 and Painting 1 students were asked why they chose to come and study art at CAP. While many come to CAP because it is one of the few affordable options for unemployed students, and many want to become artists, an increasing number of students are becoming aware that visual art skills can help them to do other things. Let us see what they had to say...

"I want to go and study further at the Cape College. I want to be a graphic designer but I need art skills first" - Avron Garrett

"I would like to earn a living and to influence others" - Noble Zweinjani Mzimkulu

The gesture drawings used in this Recap edition were done by Michael Mhakaza, a Drawing 2 student in 1996.