EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of CAN. CAN is a joint production of four non-governmental organisations (ngo’s) working in the area of arts education, training and development, namely Action Workshop, Community Arts Project, New Africa Theatre Project and the Young Peoples Theatre Educational Trust.

As NGO’s we all share a common history in that we developed as part of the “culture of resistance”, that is the broad arts and cultural movement which was part and parcel of the liberation struggle. Together with other NGO’s in the country we have had to adapt ourselves to meeting the challenges of the “new” South Africa. We believe that we are well placed to do this as redressing apartheid’s legacy has long been an aim of ours, and we have for many years attempted to provide training that will make a difference for the quality of lives of constituencies which have been “marginalised” or “disadvantaged”.

This editorial aims to give the reader some sense of the great number of initiatives that we are part of, or which affect us as a network. Most of these are policy initiatives which are all necessary in order to create new frameworks and systems for education, training and development in and through the arts. The rest of this edition of CAN gives more information about what it is that we actually do (when we are not lobbying for reconstruction and development...).

INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL FUNDING...

...In terms of funding, the last few years have been difficult as our funders, who are mainly from the international community, have been expecting government to begin taking some responsibility for funding our programmes. At last this is beginning to happen: CAP, NATP and YPTET have all received some funding from central government and we eagerly await the establishment of the National Arts Council (NAC) which will become a major funding agency.

As part of the process of getting support from the Provincial government we took the Provincial Director of Culture Ms. Hannetjie du Preez on a one day tour of our projects so that she could see for herself what we do. Her response was very enthusiastic and we look forward to a positive working relationship with the Province.

At the level of local government we are all participating in the process of drawing up an arts and cultural policy for Cape Town and the City Council has provided some funding to NATP, CAP and YPTET. New Africa’s Mike Abrams chairs the City Council’s Occasional Committee on Arts and Culture which consists of 10 representatives of civil society and five councillors, and this is a welcome shift from the days that Council barely acknowledged our existence.

However it should be noted that none of these levels of government have yet indicated willingness to provide long term support and we still have to continue lobbying hard for these funds. To our international donors who have been a lifeline to our organisations, and more particularly for the constituencies we serve we can never say a big enough thank you. It is a fact that without this international funding there would be very few black visual and performing artists practicing in this province, and indeed nationally. We should also take this opportunity to thank those funders from the private sector who support our work.
ON THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL EDUCATION FRONT: NQF, SAQA, NSB’s, SGB’s, LAC’s, ABET, WCED, ABET, AETD, NACW...

On the education front, the development of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) has, for the first time, made it possible for our work to become part of an integrated education and training framework. This means that we can now move from providing "non-formal" education and training towards delivery of course which are accredited ("recognised" by other institutions). This means that our students will receive "credits" for training which can be then used to gain entry to training at other institutions.

In particular, we welcome the establishment of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) which will develop and manage the NQF and congratulate Sam Isaacs of the Centre for Continuing Education at Peninsula Technikon on his appointment as chair of SAQA. It does make a change to have "Pretoria" a little closer (Belville). We look forward to the establishment of National Standards Bodies (NSB’s) which will register "standards" and to being part of Standard Generating Bodies (SGB’s) which will generate standards.

On the Provincial level through CAP’s Mario Pissarra we are participating in the Learning Areas Committee for Arts and Culture established by the Western Cape Education Department. These LAC’s will link into the NSB’s and SGB’s. In addition, Mike Abrams and Mario Pissarra were elected by the newly established Adult Education Training and Development (AETD) Plenary to be on the advisory committee to the WCED Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Sub-directorate.

Indeed it is a welcome change that the WCED is beginning to actively seek input from NGO’s.

COMMUNITY ARTS COLLEGE

Still on the educational front CAN is presently working towards establishing a Community Arts College which will be made up of ourselves and other providers, and which may link into broader initiatives such as the National Access Consortium. We have managed to draw up a joint curriculum framework which aims to avoid duplication and make "learning pathways" clearer for our students. We have discussed our proposal with Kulturhuset (who fund us all individually), as well as with national, provincial and local government. Presently we are fundraising for a research/ change manager to ensure that this process succeeds.

This is a very exciting time for us, and also a very demanding time. We cannot be complacent. With a joint programme of action we are confident that we will meet the challenges facing us and contribute substantially to reconstruction and development through education and training in the arts.

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NEW AFRICA THEATRE PROJECT AND ITS COURSES

The New Africa Theatre Project (NATP) is an independent non-profit educational organisation established in 1987 under the auspices of the NEW AFRICA THEATRE ASSOCIATION. We base our work on the belief that the development and education of the people through culture can be a powerful healing force in our society, a society ravaged by apartheid.

The overall aim of the project is to train people to use the power of the performing arts as a means of communication and exploration for empowerment and capacity development for both the individual and the community, as well as a tool for the transfer of information.

NATP focus on the Development through Drama is in the disadvantaged sectors of the community.

Full Time Vocational Course:
In 1988 the project was funded by the Dutch Government to run a Vocational Training Course for 3 years. There were two criteria for selection of students. People chosen were those:

- who wanted to impart the skills learnt to other members of their communities
- who had talent.
- who were concerned with social issues.

The students were taught by specialists in the different theatre skills and other relevant courses e.g. political and social, were taught by the appropriate experts.

The fields covered were voice, speech, movement, story-telling, acting improvisation, administration, political history, history of theatre, African and Contemporary dance, script - writing, method of teaching, music & the building of instruments.

At the same time we also had a part time evening teacher training course. In this course we had people who were workers but were interested in learning Drama Skills with a view to teaching in their communities.

Achievements:
From the two courses above the following people went on to become teachers, Co ordinators of other projects and professional actors e.g.

- Thuso Cheka and Elphy Sibeko are Co-ordinators of Action Workshop
- Mzwandile Sangweni is currently teaching at the Novalis Centre, he was previously a teacher in the outreach of the New Africa Theatre Project
- Buyiswa Bala is Co-ordinator at YPTET
- Joe Juku and Sindiswa Makayi are outreach teachers at NATP etc.
- Sizwe Msuthu, Vukuli Handula & Noel Ostendorp are professional actors working at CAPAB and other places
- Theo Vilakazi is an actor for TV, film and stage

Weekly Outreach Township Programme:
These are for groups of children and adolescents. Through drama, dance and music participation we teach life skills and literacy. Currently we are teaching approx. 400 children in 13 classes twice or three times a week. The project has eight teachers doing this work. Children in the outreach get to show what they have learnt in the two festivals that the project holds during the year. This tends to be a most exciting event for the children. The Project also tries to expose its students to other festivals. In 1996 NATP took the children of Sinethemba High School to perform at the Grahamstown Arts Festival.
The play was ‘Confessions of a Mojo Man’ and it was written and directed by Lindile Diniso. The children were highly excited and had the experience of their lives. Two groups also took part in the Ikapa Festival and the BP Showcase at CAPAB.

Current Vocational Training Course:
Since the original funding from the Netherlands we have never had ongoing funding for a three year course but are working towards re-establishing this.

"Manthantisi" Women’s Play in performance

At present the project runs a first training period of 6 months and continues in the second half of the year with Theatre in Education (T.I.E) training as well as other productions. T.I.E. is a special teaching method. The students develop plays which tour extensively.

One example is the 1993/4/5/6 AIDS AWARENESS Touring Programmes. These have been highly successful. They have toured the Peninsula and the whole of the Western Cape as far as Beaufort West, Oudshoorn and Namaqualand. These plays have been acclaimed by the Aids Foundation, ATTIC, Health Workers, Clinics, School Teachers and Hospitals.

Other tours were three Theatre-in-Education Voter Education Programmes before the Election of April 27 1994. Three Voter Education Plays toured whole of the Western Cape and the Northern Cape. Metropolitan and Local Voter Education Tours have also been undertaken. All our Tours have reached about 45 000 people.

1995 NATP did a play on Woman’s Oppression.
1995 a play was developed on Women achievers in South Africa. The play was called ‘Mantantisi’ which won several Festival award. It was about a Queen of the Batlokwa.
1996 an Environmental play toured the Western Cape and as far afield as The Free State.

The year 1996 has been a year of development for NATP as follows:
- we employed a second Co-ordinator with the brief of expansion and development
- we ran an ABET programme for Youth at Risk with Learn to Live.
- we Produced a Drama in Education manual.
- we ran an administration course with CAP.
- we offered a consultancy service to IDASA, Centre for conflict Resolution and National Literacy Campaign.

Since the original group of students, we have trained many students who have gone into the world of drama in many ways, either as professional actors, teachers or other theatre workers in the townships where they have started groups of their own. There is much work to be done and we plan to continue the work and to grow as well as to work together with other NGO’s in our field in the future.

For further information please contact NATP at:
No 19 Lower Main Rd
OBSERVATORY
7925
Tel/Fax: (021) 47-8792
YOUNG PEOPLES THEATRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST: YPTET

An Overall View

The Young Peoples Theatre Educational Trust was established in 1985 as a pilot project then in 1990 opened its offices in Athlone.

We are a non governmental organisation relying solely on funding. The Trust has a dual purpose, that of education and community service.

Its aim is to empower teachers to teach English as a second language through the medium of educational drama, to educate and unite people of South Africa through creativity.

In order to fulfill this obligation we run Rural and Urban Living English Programmes in the broader Western Cape, Boland area and the Eastern Cape (Whittlesea).

We foster participation in the learning process through Educational Drama, which is inherently democratic, holistic and child centred. We do this by carefully creating a context which is relevant to the pupil’s life experience and they the children take on a “role” with which can identify.

We encourage a hands on involvement through storytelling, acting, music, movement and visual arts. This in turn empowers the pupils to have sufficient confidence to express their knowledge and develop further communication skills.

Our programmes are filled with energy and enthusiasm. The pupils and teachers alike gain self knowledge and social responsibility from which independence, confidence and self - esteem seem naturally to flow.

Rural Living English Programme

This programme started in 1991 in the Boland area i.e De Doorns. Due to demand it had to move to move to other area like Ashton, Robertson, Ceres, Worcester and Rawsonville. Most of these are all under resourced/under-developed farm schools owned by white Afrikaans farmers.

In De Doorns we work with four primary schools. Ceres is divided into two sections i.e, Warmbokkeveld and the Kouebokkeveld. Presently we are working with about 19 schools in the Warmbokke Veld area. This includes one high school Ingcina Zethu. In Worcester we work with ten primary schools and one high school.

We work with a learning centre in Robertson. In Ashton we work with one large school that starts with grade one and goes right to matric. We have started working with Umzingi Reformatory in Rawsonville.

We run a storytelling project in the libraries. We recently had a high schools drama festival. We aim to make this drama festival an annual event. Each year a theme will be selected on which the plays will be based.

If you want to contact YPTET for more information...

Nombulelo Zonke at
Tel: (021) 697-1881
Fax: (021) 696-9352

P O Box 472
ATHLONE
7760
Urban Living English Programme

It started in 1990 with 21 primary schools in Khayelitsha. We visited each school three times a year. In 1992 a decision was taken to concentrate only on the nine most interested schools in Khayelitsha.

This decision was motivated by experience of our teachers during the two year period that they had been working there. In all those years we were involved in action research programme where we were showing teachers how educational drama works in the classroom situation.

In 1994 we decided to change the focus and stop working with the pupils and concentrate on the teachers, we then held workshops with them whereby showed how to apply the new interim English syllabus since it was child-centred and based on drama methodology.

We also do community service programme where work we work with the libraries, senior citizens community organisations in the townships. This programme takes place in the afternoon after school hours. (See cover page)

We have the following manuals which we have produced. They are available from the Trust at R15.00 per copy.
* Three language lessons for senior primary manuals
* Wind at dawn
* Julius Caesar
* Joey
* Teenage Pregnancy manuals

The following books are also available from the Trust:
* At the Market
* Ziggy the Robot
* The Modern Fables for Africa
ACTION WORKSHOP

MISSION STATEMENT

Action Workshop is a youth development association, which believes in youth empowerment as a strategy for developing the broader community. We use drama as a method for imparting life skills to youth leaders, in the underdeveloped area of the Western Cape region.

OUR BACKGROUND

Action Workshop was formed in 1984 after a group of activists, actors, and United Democratic Front (UDF) supported workshops a play at the request of the UDF.

The play - Time to Act was performed as part of popularising campaign to collect million signatures against the racist Tricameral elections. Time to Act was so successful that the coordinators of the production saw the need of a progressive theatre organisation that could transfer skills to the township of the Western Cape. This was the birth of Action Workshop.

Since then we have facilitated workshops and performed for youth, student union and children's organisations all over Western Cape and even as far afield as Namibia.

In 1990 to 1992 we focused mainly on performing plays on community issues.

In 1993 to 1995 our focus was then changed to workshops only. We concentrate on developing the standard of performance of community based drama groups.

We worked with more than ten groups in six townships of the Western Cape. We worked in Manenberg, Langa, Khayelitsha, New Cross Roads, Gugulethu and Stellenbosch. From this year we have extended our services to ..... cultural groups other than drama. The focus now is focusing on empowering youth cultural groups from the underdeveloped communities. We will do this by training youth group leaders who work within culture.

As part of our activities this year, we have initiated an income generation pilot programme. This project is performing story telling in primary school. Action Workshop is training the company in both performance and administration skills. The company has managed to raised some income through performances. This project proved to be successful as many invitations for performances are still pouring in.

The group was invited to Zanendaba Story Telling Festival in Gauteng. It shared the stage with Gcina Mhlopo, a Story Telling Guru from Gauteng.

In this year we have managed to involved our group in many activities. Worked closely with Ikapa Trust and Cape Performing Arts Board (CAPAB).

We assisted Ikapa Trust by organising their festival in Manenberg and Khayelitsha. We ran workshops that prepared groups for performing in the festival. The festival provided platform for performance to our groups. Groups were very much enthusiastic about participating in the festival.

Most groups that we worked with in preparing for the festival requested us to continue working with them beyond the festival. We feel very proud to receive such requests, this proves that were are working very hard in enhancing the standard of community based cultural groups.

In September we also facilitated workshops for CAPAB BP Show Case. Action
Workshop organised facilitators to facilitate preparation workshops for dance, drama and music groups that were going too participate in BP Show Case. This provided opportunities for both our facilitators and groups. It also introduced Action Workshop to many cultural groups. Co-operation between us and CAPAB developed, although there is still a lot to be done in building a mutual relationship.

INTRODUCTION

The following programme is starting in February 1997.

The introduction of this programme has taken place in the context of enormous developmental challenges facing South Africa today.

Large numbers of well trained community group leaders will be of great need in the process of reconstruction and development of our budding nation.

There is an urgent need to build the capacity of youth groups and organisations which has historically been at the forefront of the liberation struggle.

In doing this we will be creating a new layer of creative and critical leadership that will be directly developing their communities.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We offer consultancy and train youth group leaders in:

- Administration and facilitation workshops.
- We hold debates and discussion on social issues for youth awareness purpose.
- We organise concerts and mini-festivals with cultural youth groups.
- We initiate income generating co-operatives with unemployed artists within our groups.
- We run basic drama skills workshops.
- We run carnival making workshops

WHO CAN APPLY?

Cultural groups and other youth organisation leadership that need our service can apply. First preference will given to youth leaders from youth cultural groups and general youth organisation that are involved in the development of their communities.

Applicants must be at least have been leading their group or organisation for six months. These courses will begin on 15 February 1997.

If you are interested you can contact us at the following address.

Physical address:
Action Workshop
2A Scheldt Road
Manenberg People’s Centre
MANENBERG

Postal address:
P O Box 15296
Vlaeberg
CAPE TOWN
8001

Tel: (021) 691 9709
Fax: (021) 691 9604
e-mail: actionw@sn.apc.org
Access Courses

CAP continues to be one of the few arts education and training institutions which is genuinely concerned with "access".

Many adults who want to study in the arts, especially adults from historically disadvantaged communities, find when they look for learning opportunities that they:

i) do not have enough previous arts experience to be considered suitable for selection;

ii) do not have sufficient educational qualifications to be accepted even if their arts skills are of a high level;

iii) are too old to go back to school (and anyway few schools offer arts subjects);

iv) do not have the money to attend. CAP becomes "home" for many who would be excluded from most education and training opportunities.

Courses like Acting 1, Drawing 1, Elements of Art and Painting 1 are all designed for adults who have not had the opportunities to develop their arts skills.

Although we do not accept all applicants we do not usually do so on the basis of arts skills or finances.

Rather we look at the reasons why applicants want to come to CAP, and try and find out how committed they are to their own development. However while access courses give students an opportunity they are really introductory courses for more advanced learning.

Courses at more advanced levels

Several of the courses like Acting and Drawing have follow up courses which can be done if you have met the learning outcomes of the access courses.

In addition some courses like:
Community Theatre for Development;
Community Theatre History;
Print-making 1; Mural Painting 1;
Arts Administration/Micro-enterprise training 1; all require that other courses have been successfully completed before your application can be considered.

In anticipation of increased funding and new partnerships with government (see editorial), as well as in response to the fact that we now have a reliable pool of full-time and part-time facilitators who understand the shifts towards outcomes based education, we are getting to the point where we can start to provide a greater number of advanced courses for our students.

In-service Training (INSET) Courses

CAP also provides training for pre-school teachers/educare workers in how to use visual arts, music and movement for early childhood development (ECD) especially for those working in under-resourced contexts.

These courses have had a major impact on participants who have found new "tools" to work with their children.
OTHER NEWS!

The District Six Mural
This mural is in full swing and will be on view at the CAP festival from the 7th December.

Staff Changes
CAP co-ordinator Zayd Minty left us at the end of August, and will be doing his Masters degree at UCT next year. We wish him all the best for the future. CAP Education Convenor Mario Pissarra was appointed Director in October. A new Education Convenor will be appointed in December to commence duties in February 1997.

Thank you Funders
We would like to thank all the following donors for their support in 1996:

For further info please contact CAP at 106 Chapel Street, WOODSTOCK 7925, telephone: (021) 45-3648, fax: (021) 45-2008, e-mail: cap@iafrica.com
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1996/1997

NEW AFRICA THEATRE PROJECT

End of November '96  Applications
Thurs 16 Jan  Auditions for Vocational Training
Fri 17 Jan  Auditions for Vocational Training
Mon 20 Jan  Auditions for Vocational Training
February '97:  Aids play touring schools in the Peninsula
June '97:  Outreach Festival at Ubuntu Centre

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

7-10 December '96:  End of year students exhibition and performances
20-24 January '97  Application for first semester courses for '97
14-21 July '97  Application for second semester courses for '97

YOUNG PEOPLE’S THEATRE AND EDUCATION TRUST

January '97:  Teacher Training Programme and Theatre in Education
April-June '97:  Certificate in Educational Drama Course (Urban Project)
July-September '97:  Certificate in Educational Drama Course
Sept School Holiday  Youth Programme (Reach Out and Touch)
October '97:  High Schools’ Drama Festival
November '97:  End of Year Production

ACTION WORKSHOP

16 Jan-18 Feb '97:  Storytelling Performances at Baxter Theatre
3 March-24 Oct '97:  Facilitation and Admin Workshop at:
Manenberg Peoples Centre (MPC) (Mon & Weds)
Emthini Primary, Khayelitsha (Tues & Thurs)
St Francis, Langa (Weds & Fridays)
New Crossroads Youth Centre (Mon & Wed)

31 March-3 April '97:  Storytelling School Festival at:
Nico Malan, MPC, Ubuntu, Joseph Stone, Site B
Community Hall

From 1 March '97:  Youth Awareness Programmes
and every first
Sat of the month (includes debates and discussions on social,
political and cultural issues) at Ubuntu

27 June-30 June  Winter Cultural Camp in Paarl
Sept school holiday  Storytelling Festival at Joseph Stone
5 December  End of year Festival at MPC

FOR DETAILS CALL  NATP:  (021) 47-8792  YPTET:  (021) 697-1881
CAP:  (021) 45-3689  AW:  (021) 691-9708