

# CAP's talents sparkle

**THE GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN CIRCUS.** Written and presented by the Community Arts Project Company and directed by Mavis Taylor. At the Arena, Orange Street.

THIS re-workshopped show (it was first presented at the People's Space two years ago) points out with more emphasis and vigour than any political rhetoric or social treatise ever could, just how crazy our South African society truly is.

CAP's Acting Company is a group of young performers of individual talents and energies. Mavis Taylor's own art has contained and directed these talents and energies, giving them form, sparkle and unity.

There has clearly been a self-generating inspiration between director and players that had Saturday night's first nighters buzzing with appreciation as the players presented their non-stop "circus" acts starting with the arrival in South Africa of the first European colonists, speaking a wonderful invented language and pressing worthless gifts upon the baffled "natives", (speaking an equally wonderful invented language of clicks).

There was an hilarious bridge game where madams' lack of skills at calling a hand were compensated for by the power of their clichéd complaints against their maids.

Our Fat Circle, a chilling Establishment trio (Law, Government and Money), in vaudeville song and dance, proposed giving "them" some small rights like shared railway carriages, but warning "beat us if you can, oppression is my game".

The uncaring corruption of flunkies, the dehumanising effects of migrant labour, the excesses of pleasure-seekers to "Star City", the madness of a system which now allows people to marry across the colour line but doesn't allow them to live in the same suburb — all these are satirized, not unmercifully but with the kind of young hope and vibrancy that characterizes this whole invigorating show.

**MOLLY GREEN**