

Towards a people's culture

IN its most ambitious venture to date, the Community Arts Project is presenting a 10-day arts feast in an attempt to probe the way forward to a national progressive culture for South Africa.

The CAP Festival 1989 — "Building a National Culture", starting this Friday and running until December 10, is a comprehensive package of music, dance, theatre, and art exhibitions, and includes seminars on music, culture and art.

By KURT SWART

ers, banners, T-shirts, and other media.

Most of the action will take place at the project's Chapel Street headquarters in Woodstock, but included in the programme are "theatre road shows" which will take the festival to all parts of the community.

Forum

Part of this spread is a series of children's theatre programmes at various township venues culminating with a children's art ex-

hibition at St Gabriels in Guguletu on Saturday December 9.

The festival aims to contribute towards cultural theory, to provide a forum for the work of CAP students and staff, and to exchange ideas and skills with other cultural community organisations.

The intellectual meat of the festival is contained in five seminars at Chapel Street with distinguished and expert panellists contributing.

They will be "Building a National Culture" on Monday December 4, followed by "Focus on Visual Arts" on Tuesday, "Focus on Music" on Wednesday, "Focus on Theatre" on Thursday, and "Short, Medium and Long Term Cultural Priorities" on Friday.

Marking the end of the decade, the seminars focus on the state of the arts and the forces shaping it, and will debate the priorities, possibilities and limitations involved in contributing to a

national culture through the arts.

Included among the wide range of panellists are head of CAPAB drama Johan Esterhuizen, poet, critic and UCT English lecturer Kewyn Sole, National Language Advisory Board member Neville Alexander, Cape Times music critic Karen Rutter, and co-ordinator of Musical Action for People's Power Jonathan de Vries.

Climax

The festival begins on Friday with the opening of an exhibition showcasing three years of CAP entitled "Let it be done before dawn", and climaxes with an open air music event on Sunday December 1.

For more information on the festival contact Lorelle or Mike at ☎ 453689 or 453648.

Other aspects of this all-encompassing cultural mind-blast are live bands, puppet shows, "creative spaces" for busking, exhibitions of drawings, paintings, lino-cuts, pottery, sculpture, and photography, and an explosion of post-