

**CITY GEARS UP FOR BIG BASH**

# All systems 'go' for Cape Festival 1991

The Gardens will be the hub of the Cape Festival 1991 as it makes its merry way from Thibault Square through St George's Street Mall and Greenmarket Square up Government Avenue to the Mount Nelson Hotel. Well, and will it be any merrier than those Cape Festivals that flopped in the past? GORRY BOWES TAYLOR popped the tricky question to involved people.

THE Cape Festival 1991, setting its sights high, is set to raise our spirits from Thursday, March 7 to Sunday, March 17. This year's uniting theme is music — the CTSO, marching bands, school choirs, jazz bands. There'll be street theatre, buskers, bunting, magicians, mime. Fast food, leisurely nosh, fish braais.

Festival Director, Adele Lucas, blonded boss of Adele Lucas Promotions, is sharp of mind, and short of skirt. She talks in a voice that's roubles rolling over gold, vanishes frequently behind a puff of (chain) smoke.

**Adele Lucas, Festival Director:**

"There have been moments of madness but I see Cape Festival 1991 as a big challenge. Every seven years I get itchy feet and look for another challenge. The Cape Festival 1991 has probably been my most formidable, but the most exciting. Formidable because you suddenly find your client is a city, and all the inhabitants of a province. And it grows, it doesn't get smaller as you work harder!

"The wonderful part is working and getting to know super people down here. As an old Vaalie I thought I'd find antagonism, but I've actually had wonderful co-operation on every level and in all communities — business, city council, Guguletu, Khayelitsha, Joseph Stone, musicians, cooks, hoteliers, politicians.

"It's like a spectrum of the whole world!"

**David Kramer, musician:**

"I was invited to join in other Cape Festivals but



**Adele Lucas: "There have been moments of madness."**

I didn't because politically the climate wasn't right. This time a lot of people were consulted, giving a broader point of view, and politically things are a lot brighter.

"Taliep Petersen and I have written a song for this Festival and recorded it with the Sexy Boys, *Take Me Home (the Cape Town song)*.

"Ja, we're quite pleased with it."

**Bob Wood, GM of First National Bank and chairman of the Festival.**

"Cape Town needs a festival. What I like is this festival's strong and appealing theme of music. The programme is fantastic, there's lots of free entertainment with buskers and street theatre, and cheaper concerts.

"As it's also mainly a centre city festival I think Cape Town is going to get very involved.

"Yes, as a corporation we've put up money, not necessarily to get a heck of a lot out of it, but for Cape Town's benefit. And any sponsor money for the next festival will be dictated by the success of this. I think it's our last go at a festival, so you give it a rev."

**Marie van der Westhuizen, Director of Oude-meester Foundation for the Performing Arts:**

"We decided to get involved with the full range of our Fleur du Cap wines because dealing with Adele Lucas is dealing with a professional lady. I like the fact that she's drawing talent from a grass root level. I know there's so much untapped talent on our doorstep, in the broad Western Cape community."

**Bo Petersen and Thetha Sithole, co-ordinators of the CAP theatre company.**

**Bo:** "CAP's project is around ecological matters, so we're kind of keeping the Cape in shape. We're performing in the Gardens as well St George's Street Mall ..."

**Thetha:** "... which is an excellent way of reaching the community. Ecological issues are an educational project and we'll get good exposure through the Cape Festival 1991."

**Temma Dean, convener for the Cape Festival 1991 at the Joseph Stone, Athlone.**

"We decided to join in because nobody knows what a lovely viable theatre the Joseph Stone could be, things should be happening here. Adele Lucas says it's a wonderful venue, especially with its history of Eoan Group opera and ballet. So we'd like to build up a traditional audience. Adele fell in love with it and she's going to make it one of her personal projects.

"Every night from March 7 to March 17 we'll have something different musically. There'll also be two nights of dance because the Eoan Group has long history of dance.

"I know a lot of people don't think Athlone is safe, but it is perfectly safe as we go into a new South Africa. It's only 10 minutes from town, very accessible to all people from all races, and there's secure parking.

"Old Eoan groupers of the opera section are doing an Eoan opera hit night with all the popular things they did 20 years ago — Joseph Gabriels, May Abrahamse etc. Directed by Gordon Jephthas, Joseph Manca's protégé, just back from the States. It'll be the highlight of the Joseph Stone involvement in the Cape Festival 1991."



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**Bob Wood: "The programme is fantastic."**