

# etceteras

FAIR LADY JUNE 20, 79



## Living arts

There are black children and white children and children of every hue between: members of the children's workshop at Cape Town's Community Arts Project (CAP), they are making costumes for a feminist

fairy tale about a princess who prefers dragons to princes.

An 18-month-old venture, CAP is housed in a converted Mowbray warehouse decorated with exuberant murals and graphics and filled

with the sound of music and animated chatter. It provides facilities where aspirant artists, writers, musicians and actors of all races can do their own thing.

It has 800 members, 200 of whom are involved in the various workshop courses which range from weaving to photography, from ballet to poetry.

At the request of Rape Crisis, an organisation which counsels rape victims, there is even a self defence workshop for women. The centre has a jazz band, a mime group and a people's theatre group.

The R1 membership fee covers use of all CAP facilities, including enrolment in the 21 workshops and use of the theatre. Many mem-

bers come from the overcrowded poverty stricken black townships of the Cape Flats where facilities for creative activity are virtually non-existent. Others come from the affluent white suburbs.

One unemployed black member comes in regularly to play the piano, another is writing a play he hopes will be produced in CAP's theatre.

Hospital photographer Derek Young heard CAP needed a photography lecturer so he volunteered to start a beginners' workshop in the converted toilet which now serves as a darkroom.

CAP organiser Christine Walters, a slim, vital woman who holds a diploma in social studies from Oxford, says the

centre was started after discussions between the South African Institute of Race Relations, the South African Council for Higher Education (Sached) and other bodies about the desperate shortage of facilities for artists on the Cape Flats.

Up to now CAP has been funded by donations, the bulk of which come from overseas and local churches, while the Urban Foundation pays the rent.

Anyone wanting to join CAP, contribute art material or aid, can visit the centre at 17 Main Road, Mowbray (opposite the police station) or write to Box 168, Rondebosch 7700, tel 66-3815.

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