

12 - January 18, 1990 NEW NATION

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funtafgolanys .

Pantsula jive groups will perform at a
al at Soweto' s Jabulani Stadium on Janu-
s the brain-child of Johanna Mthunzi of
16 aims to make a video of the event, in_
e this music in America.

onnation contact J ohanna Mthunzi at
John Mpotoane 909-4958 or Suzette le
09

pianist Hote Galeta. .who has reeorded ,
Hugh Masekela and Mirriarrt Makeba. re-
;6 the counu'y to record with a number of
as Khaya Mahlangu. Stompie Mariana,
nd Spencer Mbadu.

forming at the Jazz Denin Market Sueet.

. Sunday.

11 Your Koeksister", Pieter-Dirk Uys'
in show. will run at the Warehouse at 10-
larket Theatre for a season of five weeks
9. '

234-1641 for further details.

inssfestival will be held at the Windybrow
316w J ohannesburg. from April 17-28. 1t
lt thePretoria TheatrefmmMay 3-12.

fields of cabaret. dance,flne art. craft and
required'rhere .ls a said emphasis on in-
digenous wont,

ties can oontactPeter Terry orJill Anstey
01 beforeJanuaty 26.

p Tussle" is currently ninhingat: the Win-
e The musical adventure willa'un until -
n?" Mun- ,4- m m,-

l l)724-3301-f6r further information

guitarist Allen Duma Khwela is presently
-ippies Jazz Bar 1

by rn'usicians including Glen iMafoko
Gontsana (drums). .

161111 at Johannesburg 5 Kippiec imttlJan-
32-1641 formore details

11, who was awarded the Best Supporting
u Cap Award for her role in '"Blue. Re-
;","'has .retumed to Johannesburg's Laager
Apparently or. So 1 Hear The play

ry25and will run until Febtuary 10. , .,

iphe' 5 play "Sondaka" continues at- the

the cast features Glen Gabela and Con- -
Jvho won the Baltic Award last year. tea-
and Dye" -(below) at Market Theatre on

' is theauthor as well as one of the actors
e play explores the isolationand dreatns
omen.

134-1641 for funher details.

p 6f'Jerepigo", a one-inan's playibyPa- i
, willmn at the Market fmm January 17

' of the award-winning mSo'p hiatown"

/, is now involved 111 another0p play "Speed

:play stars Andrew Buckland, Megan

vid Minnaarand it is presently nmning at

,Evette Weyers, Tommy Motswai and

idla 111 a group exhibition at Sanderling
tesburg.

ln which features a range of seulptures

illmn until theendofthemonthb 1.

111111111 Forum is inviting all local cultural

1. writers. musicians and' painters to a

hung 'Arts Centre on Saturday at 1 pm.

Mzwakhe on

SA ___culture

SECURITY police know

him as "die langman", but most people call him the people's poet. Even Nelson Mandela has described him as a young poet he respects and admires.

We are talking about Mzwakhe Mbuli, whose spirit remains unbroken despite police harassment and the bombing of his home.

NEW NATION spoke to Mzwakhe about problems and trends in South African culture.

NEW NATION: Are you really impressed by what our artists are delivering these days?

MZWAKHE MBULI: Firstly, without mincing words, I need to praise our fellow artists. Amilcar Cabral puts it well, that it is a seed of opposition. At the same time, this development poses certain problems in terms of the conceptualisation of cultural liberation, but also has the promise of fundamental solutions to certain cultural dilemmas. Lots more is to be done in the area of education.

NN: What about the SABC?

MM: I cannot generalize - some of what is shown is good and some is bad. That is, most of the overseas material is good and also local stuff. I can mention a few for you - Miriam Makeba, Tracy Chapman, Chicco Twala's "Soldier" and Lucky Dube's videos.

This does not change the fact that the SABC is part of the government machinery in fact. A leopard does not change its colours when placed under the shade of reform.

I am also worried about who decides - in terms of putting on the latest videos. For example, William Mthethwa's video. I am strongly opposed to people who reduce what belongs to the people's calendar. The reign of terror conducted by system-backed Witdoek vigilantes in Crossroads to a more black brother killing another. Gallant fighters against forced removals were not only killed by their fellow brothers. Instead, white intruders were in-

, involved according to a Commission of Inquiry launched. Why don't people research first and bring in ' statistics about how many people have died in South Africa due to police action? Why is it so easy to sing about brother killing brother and tail to sing about apartheid death squads. Hitler or Nofomela and his Askari gangsters? David Webster, Noriega - poor, fabricated ematric results or the Uitenhage masssacre?

Lastly, compose songs and vidoes about police firing teargas at the Takalani

NN: What do you think about Lucky Dube who is deemed to be South Atrica's reggae king?

MM: Yes, indeed he is the best reggae singer in the country.

Some people are excellent when they sing, but utter disturbing remarks when they are being interviewed For example, in a recent "Tribute" magazine, Lucky Dube made the statement that he is not a politician when he sings about apartheid in this country. You do not have to become a politician in order to identify with the oppressed for a better society.

This is a blatant contradiction. Can people sing and acknowledge the existence of God in gospelsmusic and deny that he exists? .

I .am disturbed shat thts ' ' com ed:

king or reggae ls par 'start nowand prepare, with- , t to great musicians such as Bob Marley and Peter Tosh.

NN:We have learnt that this reggae king performed tor the SADF last year. What are your feelings about this?

MM: The issue was tackled at both Sama and Cultural Desk meetings. He was tricked, pardoned and promised to exercise greater caution in the future. That was ignorance and manipulation of 1989 and now we are in 1990 and we hope for the best.

NN:Would youagree that managers .are running the show .in the musieworld?

MM: Yes. the question is the answer in this case. Managers have led musicians from nothing to something and from something to nothing. From successes to downfalls. From manipulation to bribery. Others, of course, have struggled genuinely to the top together with musicians.

NN:.-What is your advice to musicians who 'might fall into traps like those who took part in the "Into Song"?

MM: Firstly, people should seek better advice when they approach problems or foresee problems.

In a factory floor situation. workers rally around a union to address their day to day issues. Musicians should do likewise. For example, I cannot go to a butcher to repair a pair of shoes. Another way of double-checking things, is to consult credible structures such as Sama or Music Action for People's Power, etcetera

People should seek legal advice before signing any document.

ample, when musicians are involved in controversial activities, the offended hit musicians as their targets and not their managers who always escape danger. The past victims in this category are musicians such as Steve Kekana and Abigail Kubheka. I am happy that I belong to a nation that reconciles and pardons.

NN:We have noticed that most musicians are exploited by recording companies. What is your view? '

MM: That has been a song for years and we have seen the victims of this.

What I would like to see happening in South Africa is record companies taking initiatives to improve conditions! for musicians to out pressure or confrontation, for a healthy post-apartheid society.

N-N : What sponsorship?

MM: So much has been ' said by companies to justify sponsorship. Let me say to

you that I have been exposed to a number of strategies - some genuine and others subtle.

Firstly, some companies talk of social responsibility programmes. Such companies are compelled to embark on such ventures due to the Sullivan Code.

Secondly, companies are involved in sponsorship in order to counter disinvestment and other campaigns to isolate apartheid South Africa

Thirdly, some companies perform charity acts in order to boost their products in the market place.

Fourthly, there are those who do it in order for talented cultural workers to wear their logos and emblems.

They do not go for an unknown youth. Instead they go for people who have (gone) through degrees of hardship in life to excellence - this is skimming the cream. This is cultural imperialism in its totality.

I do highly respect those people and companies who are involved purely in acts of benevolence, charity and genuine aid, including the upliftment of talent irrespective of art discipline colour or age.

Lastly, we must continue to fight collectively for the doors of learning and culture to be opened wide.

NN: What are your plans for the future?

MM: 1990 is like a title to me, for which I am prepared to fight to obtain. I am going to record a mind-blowing album about 'spist theatrical

Mzwakhe Mbuli.

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Liberation 1

TWO adventure films currently on circuit explore some of the possibilities that 'fantasy offers to the creative imagination. "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" and "The Abyss" play with experiences that fall beyond the limits of what is real and what is nonnal human ex-

perience.

"The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" is very inventive.

The Baron, ably portrayed by John Neville, says he deals only in truth and yet moves the ground from under you by challenging the basis on which you deem his world unreal.

In the beginning an escapement of the Baron's adventures is presented. Later, a man who identifies himself as the authentic baron attempts to redeem his adventures from being presented as ludicrous by setting ' the record straight

Then begins an incredible journey: the Baron flies to the moon, visits Vulcan at the centre of Mount Etna and , survives .being swallowed by a sea monster. These adventures bring together a formidable team which must fight for the liberation of a besieged city.

We cannot share the Baron's final flight but we can think about how much

"madness" is required for us to survive our own limited circumstances.

"The Abyss" is a fine study of a group of people penetrating ever deeper into the sea and, in the process, drawing on their humanity to help them maintain their sanity when all props of normality are cut off. 1

A group of divers search for and salvage a nuclear submarine which sank under inexplicable circumstance. The foreman of the civilian team is not so .

.Jezcl

team is

submitting Bud Bergman (Ed Hams) who doubts his

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'Thandi is mm

A LOCAL musical about a rural woman who comes to 06611 has opened in Durban. Entitled 'Thandi". it is the story of a senior wife sent to the big bad city to earn money for her poverty-stricken household. 1

Thandi moves to the big city, meets up with a men-

tor played by John Boyd.
1 who asssts her in her new
job as a singer in a smoky
Hillbrow cabaret.
all and she dumps her chau-
vinist beer-swilling husband
back in the sticks for the ten-
sions of a mixed marriage.
'Thandi is played on alter-
expe
void
Th
Visai
who
nate nights by two actress/ Thal
singers. Kiru Nambiar. a
writer/director with an im-
pressive list of ans degrees,
and Thokozani Mkhize,
formely of the Napac Opera
chorus.
Despite their training, both
women are upstaged by a
goor
Play
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the
prop
(will
1031
AS
Eventually love conquers btt-player wlth no theatrical makt
Benefit Concert To give you a simple ex- bum - the fustof its kind. 1 i ' i