

PAGEANTRY ARCHIVE

Pondering beauty sewn into a sleeve

SPRING QUEEN – The Staging of the Glittering Proletariat. Presented by The Centre for Curating the Archive. Curated by Dale Washkansky. At Iziko's Bertram House until August 24. **LUCINDA JOLLY** reviews

TWO WOMEN go into a clothing chain store, both to buy clothing. Their experiences in this instance will be vastly different.

For the one woman it will be simply the act of buying mass-produced clothing, that until worn by her, will remain impersonal.

For the other woman it will become a highly personal experience when she recognises with surprise, maybe even pleasure, that it was she who was responsible for stitching every single right sleeve on to the range of blouses that will be worn by hundreds of women. That she may not be able to afford the very piece she made is another story.

The work of the second woman is always invisible. There is no evidence or signature to indicate that it was her hands who made the right sleeve.

It's against this crushing anonymity that the *Spring Queen* pageant takes on its vital importance to both the women who populate the factory floors and the communities where they originate.

Hosted by the Southern African

Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU), the pageant started in the politically fraught 1970s, when young "non-white" workers were joining the factories and were keen to enter the pageant.

The pageant presented a chance to move from the stifling uniformity of the factory floor and for a short period inhabit the rarefied atmosphere of the princess where the invisible is made dazzlingly visible. It also provided a chance to unite and have fun after gruelling wage negotiations.

One of the largest of its kind in the world, the pageant begins as an in-house factory pageant from which 40 to 60 different queens are chosen to represent their factories and compete with each other in the *Spring Queen* competition. There can only be one SACTWU Queen and one first and one second princess, a Miss Personality and a Miss Best Dressed.

The exhibition *Spring Queen* provides a platform to unpack the pageant, which many are unaware of. It is the inspiration of Dr Siona O'Connell, who has a PhD on District Six and the issue of land claims. She is also curator at the Centre for Curating the Archive at UCT.

The ethos of the exhibition is a continuation of O'Connell's concern with what Professor Anthony Bogues, the



WINNERS: The *Spring Queen Pageant* is hosted by the SA Clothing and Textile Workers' Union. Picture: PETER ABRAHAMS

Harmon Family Professor of African Studies, terms the "archive of the ordinary". The success of the exhibition is precisely what happens, in O'Connell's words, "when the seemingly banal and mundane become extraordinary when pinpointed and focused upon".

The exhibition contextualises the pageant into "the larger historical narrative of South Africa". Rather than simply providing answers to questions, it also raises questions around the objectification of the woman participants, for example, and whether the goal of the

pageant is one of an illusory moment or something more sustainable.

The exhibition is a busy construction of photographs, moving testimonies by the various beauty queens – Bianca Jo-Ann Adams, Farieda Ebrahim, Mareldia April, Mariam Bird, Melissa Hendriks and Paegan Abrahams – and dresses worn by them, in particular the hand-painted white silk dress worn by Adams.

The panels of the women's testimonies are less about winning the title and more about personal growth – comments such as the pageant offers

"workers something to be proud of" or "I was a very shy person... it allowed me to step out of my shell" and "it brought some excitement into my normal day-to-day routine".

Perhaps we who wear the clothes could now take some time to celebrate one of the highpoints in the lives of those who made them.

● *Bertram House's Annex Gallery* is at Hiddingh Hall Campus, Orange Street. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. Call 021 4807153 or e-mail dalewashy@gmail.com

What's on

Celebrating women



INTIMATE: *Vagina Monoloë*

Die Vagina Monoloë will be staged as part of the Artscape Women's Arts Festival today at 6pm and on Friday and Saturday at 8.15pm. Don't miss jazz standards and poetry in *The Eve: A Celebration of the Curve of Humanity* on Friday and Saturday at 8.15pm. Episodes of *I Am Woman – Leap of Faith* will be screened. See www.artscape.co.za

Baroque concerto

Oboist Carin Bam and pianist Pieter van Zyl will perform at Hugo Lambrechts Auditorium in Parow on Sunday at 3pm. The programme will include *Baroque Concerto* by Albinoni and *Dances* by Schubert. As a tribute to local musician Neil Solomon, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, some of his music will also feature. Tickets are R50 at the door. Call 021 939 9105 between 10am and 6pm.

Don at La Scala

The opera *Don Giovanni*, filmed at La Scala, will be screened at the Fugard Theatre Bioscope on Sunday at 2pm and 6pm. Tickets are R100. Call 021 461 4554.

Blacksmith reunion

Blacksmith and Bob Denton will reunite at Barleycorn Music Club in Lansdowne Road on Monday at 8pm. Denton is a founding member of Barleycorn and is visiting from the US. They will play Irish and bluegrass music. See www.barleycorn.org.za

San stories

'Khwa Ttu in Yzerfontein will present a San storytelling event with Xhunu storyteller Mario Kapilolo Mahongo and Khwedam storyteller Carlos Munwango on August 19 from 11am to 12pm. This forms as part of the *Stories@Darling Weekend*. Tickets are R100, or R50 for children. Call 021 492 2998.

'Ladies Night'

The Grand Daffodil Hotel in Long Street will hold its first monthly *Ladies Night* on August 23 at 6.30pm. There will be a formal dinner, drinks, goodie bags, prizes, The Man International Show and a DJ. Call 021 424 7247.

'Schumann & Schumann'

The *Vineyard Artists Music Festival* will be held in the Liebrecht Gallery in Somerset West. Pieter Rooi will perform Debussy's *First Book of Preludes* on August 24. Pianist Nina Schumann will perform works by Robert Schumann in *Schumann & Schumann* on September 14. Tickets are R100, or R260 including a three-course dinner after the concert. Call 021 852 8030.

Magical dinner

Illusionist Larry Soffer will perform at The Caledon Casino, Hotel and Spa's Dinner Theatre evening on August 25 at 8.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are R200 and include a three-course meal. Call 028 214 5100.



CONVERSING: Sylvie Guillem and Akram Khan in *Sacred Monsters*.

Seventh dance film fest at Baxter gets to the point

BEST described as a danced conversation between two dancers, their musicians and the public, *Sacred Monsters* was performed by Akram Khan and Sylvie Guillem and filmed live at Sadler's Wells.

Dance enthusiasts can sit in on this conversation when it is screened today during this year's *Baxter Dance Film Festival*.

Sacred Monsters is the second in a trilogy of *pas de deux* created by Anglo-Indian dancer and choreographer Khan in which both dancers recount their experiences of the classical world in a solo of their own before joining in a duet. In between, they chat to each other and to the audience. In its seventh year, the *Baxter Dance Film Festival* runs at the Golden Arrow Studio until Saturday at 7.30pm.

with a 5pm screening on Saturday.

Presented in association with *Cinedans*, a dance film festival in the Netherlands, and the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (Gipca), the programme is designed to appeal to choreographers, directors, dancers, teachers, documentary and dance film lovers alike.

The fest began with *Point Taken 2*, which premiered at *Cinedans* last year. *The Point Taken* interdisciplinary dance film project brings together four eight-minute dance films comprising *Spiegelingen* by Marinus Groothof and Dunja Jovic, *One False Move* by Clara van Gool and Ria Marks, *Evoluție van Soorten* (Evolution of Species) by Esther Rots/Dan Geesin and Melissa Ellberger and *Hypnagogia: The Borderland State* by Frank Scheffer and Muhanad Rasheed. Also on the programme is Hans van

Manen's *Creating Without Words*.

The multi-award-winning *Of Heart and Courage*, directed by Arantxa Aguirre and produced by JL Lopez Linares, will be screened on Friday. It follows the Béjart Ballet Lausanne as they work to survive following the death of founder and principal choreographer Maurice Béjart. Béjart created works such as *Rite of Spring*, *9th Symphony*, *The Firebird* and *Bolero*.

The early performance on Saturday at 5pm is *Wayne McGregor: Across the Threshold*, directed by Nigel Wattis. The documentary profiles McGregor and includes discussions between him and English broadcaster Melvyn Bragg about how Covent Garden is embracing new directions in art and the relationship between traditional ballet and contemporary dance.

It sees McGregor create, rehearse and

present two new works on London's main dance stages within three weeks, with contributions from Royal Ballet director Dame Monica Mason and The Guardian dance critic Judith Mackrell.

The festival closes on Saturday at 7.30pm with a programme of short films produced during the *Gipca Film and Dance Symposium* held last month, presented by Jeannette Ginslov.

Here, a series of workshops brought together an interdisciplinary group of professionals and students under Ginslov's creative leadership. Several of her own dance works will also be screened, including *Sandstone*, *Karavano*, *Freedom*, *Sanctum*, *CoNcReTe*, *Clinton's Story*, *Autopsy* and *Eros "la petite mort"*, followed by a Q&A session. – Arts writer
● Tickets are R45. To book, call Computicket at 0861 915 8000. See www.baxter.co.za

'Murderer' comes to Intimate

IN KEEPING with their tradition of performing plays by established playwrights, The Mechanicals theatre collective will stage British playwright Anthony Shaffer's *Murderer* at the Intimate Theatre from August 22 to September 8.

Due to the involvement of many Mechanicals members in other projects, their customary repertory season falls away this year.

Directed and designed by Chris Weare, *Murderer* tells the story of Norman Bartholomew, a painter obsessed with famous murderers. It wittily explores the games people play, focusing on the often unappreciated relationship between murderer and victim.

Carel Nel, winner of the 2012 Fleur du Cap Best Actor Award for his role in *Die Rebelle van Lafras Verwey*, is set to impress yet again in the role of Bartholomew. He will be joined by his *Lafras Verwey* co-star Nandi Horak, (*Binneland, Lie of the Mind*) as Millie Sykes, Emily Child (*Decadence, King Lear*) as Elizabeth Bartholomew and Dorian Burstein (*Pictures of You*) as Sergeant Stening. – Arts writer
● See www.webtickets.co.za

SK THEATRES

SHOWTIMES

FRIDAY 3 AUGUST – THURSDAY 9 AUGUST

(*) NO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR NEW RELEASES FOR ONE WEEK FROM RELEASE DATE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

RYGVER VALLEY BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 WESTLIFE: THE FAREWELL CONCERT SHOWING ONLY ON 14 & 15 AUGUST Sun 15:30 GIRL IN PROGRESS Sun 15:30 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:15, 14:45, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	CAVENDISH CLAREMONT BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 WESTLIFE: THE FAREWELL CONCERT SHOWING ONLY ON 14 & 15 AUGUST Sun 15:30 HAYWIRE Sun 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	BLUE ROUTE BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 WESTLIFE: THE FAREWELL CONCERT SHOWING ONLY ON 14 & 15 AUGUST Sun 15:30 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	SK CINEMA NOUVEAU CAVENDISH NOUVEAU WHERE DO WE GO NOW? English Subtitles Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:10, 19:40 MARLEY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:10, 19:40 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 Sun 10:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 LUCKY Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 VINCENT WANTS TO SEA Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 GOETHE! Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 A MILLION COLOURS Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 SALMON FISHING Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 IN THE YEMEN Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 MARLEY Sun 10:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:45, 20:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 Sun 10:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 LUCKY Sun 10:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 VINCENT WANTS TO SEA Sun 10:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00 SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO Sun 10:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00
BAYSIDE - TABLEVIEW BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 GIRL IN PROGRESS Sun 15:30 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:15, 14:45, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	PAROY CENTRE BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 GIRL IN PROGRESS Sun 15:30 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:15, 14:45, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	LEIGH STAD HALL BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 GIRL IN PROGRESS Sun 15:30 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:15, 14:45, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30	LEON SCHUSTERS BRAVE 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D Mon-Sat 9:30, 12:15, 14:50, 17:15, 19:40, 22:15 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 THAT'S MY BOY Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 SAFE Sun 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45 GIRL IN PROGRESS Sun 15:30 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES Daily 10:30, 14:00, 17:30, 20:45 THE CABIN IN THE WOODS Mon-Sat 10:15, 12:30, 15:15, 17:45, 19:30, 22:15 DARLING COMPANION Mon-Sat 10:00, 12:15, 14:45, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 MAGIC MIKE Sun 10:30, 14:15, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Daily 17:30, 20:30

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