

A STITCH IN TIME

THE organisers of an art exhibition showcasing the legendary Spring Queen pageant have had a "phenomenal" response to a picture recently published in the *Daily Voice*.

The black and white photograph featured four unidentified women at a Spring Queen final in the late 1980s.

Organisers have been trying to track them down to be part of the highly successful exhibition.

"I couldn't believe the response we got. We managed to track down three of the five ladies in the photographs," project manager Dr Siona O'Connell tells the *Daily Voice*.

"The ladies in the picture are all from Cape Town. They could barely recognise themselves... All their factories have closed down and that is very sad - only one of the ladies still works in a factory."

Best

That one is Alicia Luikes, 49, of Bonteheuwel, an all-rounder at a CMT factory in Vasco.

"Seeing my picture in the paper brought back so many good memories - that was the best time of my life," the mom of three says.

"My sister phoned me the morning to ask if I saw the picture in the *Daily Voice*."

"I immediately went to buy the paper and I felt so



MEMORIES: Alicia (second left) at the Spring Queen finals in 1988

Spring Queen pageant exhibition finds three beauties from 1980s

EXCLUSIVE BY
Warda Salvester



overwhelmed."

Alicia started working in the clothing industry when she was just 14. Like many others, she left school during the chaotic 1970s riots.

"This picture was taken in 1988 at the Spring Queen finals at the Good Hope Centre," she recalls.

"I was 26 and represented Cape Underwear. I was wearing a cerise dress, which I later gave away to another model. It was very exciting, the Spring Queen was the biggest event in the clothing industry."

"I was very sick that same year, I had TB and I thought I wasn't going to make it. But I had this boldness in me and at the pageant. That was my breakthrough as a woman -

when you believe in yourself it doesn't matter where you come from, if you set goals, they can come true."

Siona says the queens will be photographed and interviewed to become part of the exhibition which forms part of this year's Spring Queen pageant at the Good Hope Centre on November 17.

It opens at the District Six Museum a week later.



LOVELY LADY: Alicia Luikes, 49, was Spring Queen back in the day

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