



Arianni Martin and Josué Justiz of the National Ballet School of Cuba in *Don Quixote*. Image: Susanne Holbaek



Annelisa Weiland and Vanessa Cooke appear at the Witness Hilton Arts Festival in *The Slap* Koejawel, directed by Robert Whitehead.

Jonas Alber and Arjan Tien. The concert on 29 September takes the form of the National Youth Concerto Festival, featuring the cream of young South African musicians.

Friends of Music will host two recitals at the Durban Jewish Centre: South African pianist Jan Hugo on 13 September and *Opera Passion* presented by the students of the University of KZN's Opera School and Choral Academy on 27 September.

Moving to the supper theatre circuit, Heritage Theatre in Hillcrest has *Unplugged* from 6 to 25 September when Durban's finest musos and performers collaborate to produce pure, honest, unplugged sounds. Following this, there is *Mischievous Divas*, described as a 'raunchy, edgy, mud-slinging musical duel to find out who is (and/or was) the most mischievous of all the musical divas'!

If it's a touch of the Irish you're after, then Stirling Theatre in Durban North will provide the goods from 2 to 4 September with Dave Monks in an evening of mirth, merriment and sing-a-long Irish music.

Running throughout September at the Barnyard Theatre, there is *The Final Countdown*, a musical journey taking audiences on a wild ride through six decades of fashion, music and rock 'n roll.

Moving to visual arts and craft, September also offers an interesting range of exhibitions.

You will find a varied flock of carved, painted or beaded birds or those made out of telephone wire at the African Art Centre in *Birds of a Feather*. Participating artists include Xolile Ndlovu, Themba Khumalo, Widus Mtshali, Sibusiso Gumede, Caesar Mkhize and the Mchunu family.

Staying with craft, *Meeting the Makers: Contemporary Craft in KwaZulu-Natal* is running until 18 September at the Tatham Art Gallery in Pietermaritzburg. The exhibition offers a cross-section of high quality, sustainable objects that bridge the divide between traditional craft and so-called 'high art'.

At artSPACE durban until 10 September, there is *Further*, which comprises bronze sculptures supported by oil paintings, by Sarah Richards who has been creating bronze sculpture for

the past ten years – mostly classical representational sculpture of birds, animals and the human form. For this exhibition, she has chosen the male body because it represents an aspect of herself to her which is intrinsically masculine in nature: organised, achieving, linear, strong, physical, athletic, yearning to be free and desperate to control her environment and her life.

Running alongside *Further*, is *extra-ordinary* featuring photographs by Sally Giles who has turned her lens, at home and abroad, to a wry, sometimes humorous look at other ordinary people going about their daily lives.

Following these exhibitions will be *Means of Passage*, a group exhibition of Grace Kotze's art students as well as *Into the Light*, an exhibition of photography by Peter Bendheim done in collaboration with the Community Chest. Both exhibitions run from 12 to 24 September.

The KZNSA will host Peter Rich's *Learnt in Translation*. Dedicated to the creation of contemporary African architecture, he creates places and spaces that are meaningful, moving and uplifting for all who occupy them. The exhibition traces the development of Rich's work to date and was made possible by the generous support of the KwaZulu-Natal Institute for Architecture.

At the Artisan Contemporary Gallery *Kimonos Unlimited* is a dramatically colourful and beautifully executed exhibition of the traditional Japanese garment featuring selected work by the 50-member Fibreworks art group – running throughout September, the exhibition challenges the definition of the centuries-old Kimono.

The Green Gallery in Mount Edgecombe will present *Out of Africa* from 29 September to 4 October featuring Barbara Siedle, Shirley Brandon, Makiwa Mutomba and Owen Llewellyn Davies.

More information and booking details can be found by visiting my artSMart website at [www.artsmart.co.za](http://www.artsmart.co.za) and searching for the production/exhibition involved or checking the Events Diary at <http://news.artsmart.co.za>. **CF**



# Caroline Smart's Durban Smarts



Sarah Richards with her *Inside and Out* bronze sculpture

Once again, it's a month of festivals, as well as being Heritage Month, so there's much to see. The main event is the upmarket Witness Hilton Arts Festival running from the 16th to the 18th at Hilton College, catering to arts lovers eager to enjoy a wide variety of top class programmes, exhibitions and craft stalls.

Not to be missed is the highly successful *London Road* directed by Lara Bye, which has played to sell-out audiences over two National Arts Festivals in Grahamstown. Then there's KickstArt's wickedly funny, *The God of Carnage*. Fiona Ramsay performs in *Sailing Somewhere*, a world premiere directed by Vanessa Cooke – who also performs with Annelisa Weiland in the touching comedy, *The Slap Koejawel*, directed by Robert Whitehead. Christopher Duigan will present the Music Revival Concert Series.

The 16th Absa Kollig Festival runs at Port Natal School from 1 to 4 September, offering the best of the *Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees* (KKNK) productions. This is another jam-packed few days with productions such as *Howzit my Bra!*, *Rooi Kaart*, *My Name is Ellen Pakkies*, and *Liewe Heksie en die Wals*. Music personalities include Bobby van Jaarsveld, Emo Adams, Karen K, MoniQue, Arri Opperman, Mari Minnaar, Touch of Class and the Blarney Brothers.

The annual JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience presented by the UKZN Centre for Creative Arts runs until 11 September – one of the highlights will be the appearance of celebrated South African choreographer and dancer Gregory Maqoma.

After all the activity of Heritage Month, take to the hills for the White Mountain Festival – KwaZulu-Natal's only acoustic music festival, taking place near Giant's Castle in the lower foothills of the Drakensberg from 29 September to 2 October.

Now in its 20th year, the ever-popular *Shall We Dance* ballroom and Latin American showcase offers a visual dance extravaganza featuring 100 of KZN's most exciting dancers as well as top award-winning industry professionals. *Shall We Dance* runs in the Playhouse Opera from 9 to 17 September.

Mzansi Productions returns to Durban with the traditional full-length version of the Russian ballet classic, *Don Quixote*. Based on the original version by Marius Petipa, it will be staged with the assistance of the National Ballet School of Cuba and Mzansi's ballet mistress, Angela Mala. It runs from 29 September until 2 October in the Playhouse Opera.

The KZN Philharmonic Orchestra launches its World Symphony Series Spring Season on 15 September with concerts on Thursdays in the Durban City Hall. Conductors include Victor Yampolsky, Lykele Temmingh,