



The GUIDE

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Vandenschrik once again delivers the goods with this swinging tribute to swing

SHOW: SWING ON A STAR
DIRECTOR: CEDRIC VANDENSCHRIK
CAST: CEDRIC VANDENSCHRIK, AMANDA TIFFIN, SANDILE GONTSANA, CLAUDIA MOHR AND LIVE BAND.
VENUE: ROXY REVUE BAR AT GRANDWEST CASINO UNTIL MAY 30.
REVIEW: PETER TROMP



Amanda Tiffin and Cedric Vandenschrik

Cedric Vandenschrik and Amanda Tiffin have covered so many musical genres and acts in the couple of years that they have been producing tribute shows, certainly too many to recount, that it is slightly surprising that they have only now done a production that focuses on swing music.

Their 'Swing On A Star' is fitting, if workmanlike at times, tribute to the musical style. It doesn't push too many boundaries, but what it does, it does well, even offering up a few delightful surprises along the way. ('Wizard Of Oz' fans take note.)

At times relaxing, at others pulsating, the audience seemed to have a great time, and responded in kind at the end, virtually threatening to burn the place down if they didn't get more. (I might be exaggerating slightly, but not by much.)

On the evening I attended, none other than this paper's very own Claudia Mohr filled in for the absent Amanda Tiffin. Great performer and infinitely likeable presence though the latter is, she was hardly

missed because Mohr filled her very big shoes (metaphorically speaking, of course) with consummate ease and panache.

Mohr, who was also on some or other popular searching-for-young-music-talent type show a few years back, has a truly beautiful, rare-sounding voice, and her stage presence too speaks of a confidence in her abilities.

I'm sure that show, whatever it was called, helped in the rounded

performer the young artist has become. If you can't have Tiffin, Mohr is as good a replacement as you are likely to find.

Vandenschrik seems to be among the tribute show elite at this point, and for good reason. His name as director is now synonymous with good production values, a cheeky sense of humour, and great showmanship, usually from the good man himself.

I can't quite put my finger on why he is such a wonderful performer to watch. It is perhaps due to the simple fact that he always seems to be having such a great time up there on the stage that he has become such a pleasure to watch.

His range is also quite superb, as he can camp it up with the best of them, as well as pull the more earnest stuff off like he really means it. He is also quite a good looking dude, which helps, and that coupled with his almost boyish sense of wonder just makes him "pop".

It is no secret that tribute shows usually bring in the bacon for many local musicians, and that is why it isn't even a surprise to see shows where it is obvious that many of them are just going through the motions. That has never been the case with a Vandenschrik/Tiffin show, and that is saying something.

* Book at Computicket.

Xhosa prescribed play 'Amaza' comes to Artscape

This year's prescribed work for Grade 12 learners of isiXhosa as a Home Language is 'Amaza' by ZS Qangule, and will be staged by Artscape in the Artscape Theatre at 10am every morning from May 4 to 16.

'Amaza', directed by well-known director, Itumeleng Wa-Lehulere is a thriller, set in a rural village in the Transkei. A police detective stationed in Port Elizabeth is investigating a private and personal matter. This case takes him back to the village where he and the woman he married came from. His visit there coincides with the double funeral of a couple that was mysteriously murdered in Johannesburg.

Adultery, deceit and lies are just some of the ingredients of this intriguing tale. His investigation takes him to Johannesburg, then to Swaziland and back to Port Elizabeth. As he is trying to solve the mystery, he stumbles across the evidence he was looking for in the first place.

The production features Thando Baliso, Lukhanyo Bele, Zoleka Helisi (who was nominated for a Naledi Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in 'Karoo Moose'), Alicia Nosidima Hloyi, Nandipha Jama, Lindelwa Kali, Zoliswa Kawe, Nobuhle Kethelo, Lulama Mame, Bongile



Lukhanyo Bele and Sylvia Bulelwa Ntlantlu in a scene from 'Amaza'

Mantsai (who was nominated for a Naledi Award for Best Musical Director for the production, 'Karoo Moose'), Masizole Marafana, Anele Matoti, Nandipha Mnyuka, Pepeswi Phumzile Ngxukuma, Portia Njozela, Sylvia Bulelwa Ntlantlu, Saxola Nyamza, Pumeza Rashe and Monde Xakwe.

Designs for the production are by award-winning designer, Patrick Curtis, music direction is by Bongani Magatyana and Shiba Sopotela is the costume co-ordinator.

* Book at Computicket or at Artscape Dial-a-Seat on 021 421 7695.

THEATRE

●uNik

Nik Rabinowitz is back with a new comedy show. Co-written with Tom Eaton and directed by Brent Palmer. 5 May - 6 June @ 8:30pm R85 On Broadway, 88 Shortmarket Street, Cape Town, Tel: (021) 424 1194/5

●Sister Breyani

What happens when five sisters get together over a weekend for the first time in three years lugging with them all the baggage which siblings carry? Performance poet and author Malika Ndlovu's new play is directed by Lara Bye and stars Denise Newman, Mary Daniels, Lee-Ann van Rooi, Euodia Samson and Roxanne Blaise. 6 - 30 May R85 - R120 Baxter Theatre, Tel: (021) 6857880

●Under The Fig Tree

A sumptuous romantic saga starring Stars Diaan Lawrenson and Jody Abrahams. 5 - 30 May R50 - R120 Baxter Theatre, Tel: (021) 685 7880

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●Amaza

The 2009 iziXhosa grade 12 network is a thriller set in rural Transkei. Adultery, deceit and lies add to this intriguing tale. 12 performances. 4 - 16 May R40 Artscape, Tel: (021) 410 9800

●All You Need Is Love

A fun-filled musical journey through the life and times of The Beatles. Until 2 May (Excluding Monday - Wednesday) Masque Theatre, Tel: (021) 788 1898

●Ours Was The Dawn

Two characters who received a house after staying for a long time in a shack tell their story through acting and singing. Until 2 May R20 - R40 Artscape Theatre, Tel: Computicket

●The Abba Show

Showtime Australia presents the best of ABBA live - all the musical memories, costumes, flares, boots and disco balls. Relive the magic that was the

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1970s and 1980s with best loved renditions of Dancing Queen, Waterloo, Fernando, Mama Mia, I Do I Do I Do and many more. Until - 3 May R180 - 250 Artscape Theatre, Tel: Computicket

●Private Lives

Private Lives is considered a prime example of the sophisticated comedies of Noel Coward, one of the most prominent dramatists of his era. This elegant revival is directed by Fred Abrahamse and features stars Fleur du Cap winner Erica Wessels as Amanda, Marcel Meyer as Elyot, Anelisa Phewa as Victor and Daren Araujo takes the role of Louis, with newcomer Namla Tshuka as Sybil. Until 10 May R145 NewSpace 1, 44 Long Street, Cape Town, Tel: (021) 426 1343

●007: A Tribute To James Bond

The team that brought you the acclaimed Footsteps is back with a show dedicated to James Bond and related spy themes in a show called 007: A

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Tribute to James Bond & Other Spies Who Nearly Shagged Me. It will take audiences on a musical journey of songs that made James Bond and other spy hits the hits they became. Until 2 May @ 8:30pm R85 On Broadway, 88 Shortmarket Street, Cape Town, Tel: (021) 424 1194

●Elections and Erections

Elections and Erections is a personal journey through the minefield of fear and fun on the eve of South Africa's most crucial general election. Pieter-Dirk Uys celebrates the two issues that were illegal for most of his life in South Africa: democracy and sex. Until 2 May R75 - R120 Baxter Theatre, Tel: (021) 685 7880

ART

●In Black and White

The group exhibition In Black And White will feature works by Pierre Fouché, Carol Ann Gainer, Nigel Mullins, Cameron Platter, Kevin Brand, Wayne Barker, Mxolisi Sithole, Stuart Bird, Dianne Victor, Cara vd Westhuizen, Justin Fiske, Donovan Ward, Minnette Vari, Jane Eppel, David Brown and Lynette Bester. Until 16 May

ART

Bell Roberts Gallery, 176 Sir Lowry Road, Woodstock, Tel: (021) 465 9108

●In No Particular Order

A group show featuring 6 young Cape Town Artists: Michaela Jansen, Dylan Jones, Bruce Mackay, Jess Olivier, Johan Truter and Michael Tymbios. Until 30 April Hello Again, 44 Bloem Street, Cape Town, Tel: (021) 426 0242

●SA Master Paintings

By Irma Stern, Maggie Laubser, JH Pierneef, Hugo Naudé, Ruth Prowse, Gerard Sekoto, George Pemba and Gregoire Boonzaier, as well as contemporary works by Walter Meyer, Jacobus Kloppers, Hussein Salim, Ben Coutouvidis, Hennie Niemann Jnr, Philip Barlow, Marlene von Dürckheim and others. Monday - Friday @ 10am - 6pm & Saturday @ 9am - 2pm Johans Borman Fine Art Gallery, In-Fin-Art Building, Upper Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, Tel: (021) 423 6075 / 082 5664631

MARKETS

●Hout Bay Organic Market

Fresh fruit and veg, bread, cheese, beauty products and more.