

Dear Pinelands Players members

As we make our way towards the end of the year, things are very much heating up at our clubhouse. Take a read below to see what the rest of the year holds for us. We're excited for you to join us!

Subway Sessions

Following on from the resounding success of our first Subway Sessions in June, we hosted the second instance of our popular musical showcase in October, and we were not disappointed! Subway Sessions brings together music lovers and performers both new and experienced to create a vibrant and enthusiastic environment that celebrates creativity and connection.

For the first time, we held the event on two evenings allowing for a wider array of performers and a more comfortable space. Despite some technical issues on the Friday night due to unruly alarms (which was handled with a sense of humour and a smile) we managed to have two evenings of great music.



The lineup featured an impressive array of talent, including some familiar faces as well as some new and interesting talent, all eager to share their music with an enthusiastic audience. A new discovery for us – but not new to the music scene of Cape Town! – Terry Lloyd-Roberts opened for us, followed by a stunning performance by Melissa Sanderson on piano and vocals (continuing without missing a beat when she lost her music stand!). We were introduced to Dead Man's Son and Innisfree, who each treated audiences to their unique musical stylings and performances. Rounding it all off was the ever popular, and highly sought after, Macaw.

Thanks must go to Joy Millar, who again coordinated the musicians and facilitated the performances. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Pinelands Players and the performers and making this event such a success!



Game of Names



After a successful round of auditions, our *Game of Names* rehearsals are well under way.

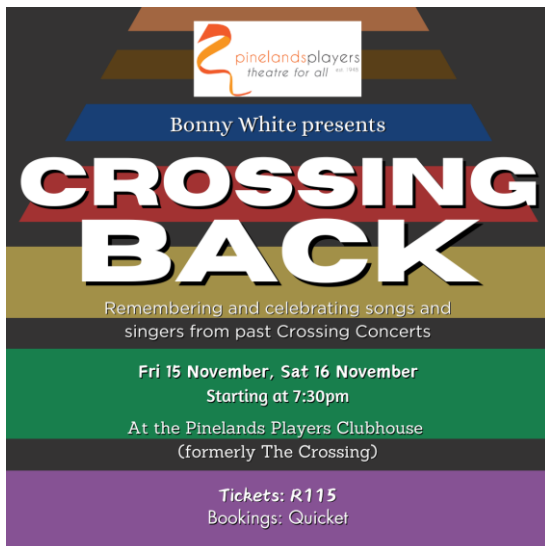
Long-term supporters of Pinelands may recall the very successful first run of *Game of Names* produced by Kyla Thorburn and Pinelands Players in 2017. For those who are newer to the scene, or those whose memories don't stretch that far back, *Game of Names* is a cross between a musical revue and a quiz show. In 2017, the theme of the show was any songs that had a person's name in the title, and the show was presented as one of the regular supper theatres that are such a proud tradition of Pinelands Players. Now, in 2024, we're bringing you *Game of Names: Season 2* with all new songs and a new theme ... any guesses what it might be?

The cast have been busy rehearsing approximately 40 songs in various categories: Female Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Group Numbers or "Pop Luck". All these songs are put into boxes for their respective categories. During the show, a large gameshow-style wheel is spun and an audience member will pull a song from the box corresponding to whichever category is chosen by the wheel. Only 22 songs get used per night, so which songs are performed each night is purely up to chance! The cast, who are divided into two teams, must think on their feet as they compete to score points and walk away the champions. The evening is guided and managed by an eloquent and dapper MC to ensure everything is fair and above board. The audience can also participate in a table quiz or bingo to win fun prizes throughout the evening.

So, what are you waiting for? Gather up your friends, colleagues, and family, and join us from 29 November to 8 December at the Novalis Ubuntu Centre in Wynberg. Book your spot now and enjoy an unforgettable night of fun and entertainment.

Tickets (R350 including a two-course meal, or R200 for show-only tickets) are available from Quicket via this link: [Game of Names Tickets](#)





Crossing Back

We are very excited to welcome Bonny White and her performers back to the Clubhouse. The shows on 15 and 16 November have been so well anticipated that we are already officially sold out for both nights.

For those lucky ones who grabbed their tickets in time, we are looking forward to sharing a wonderful stroll down memory lane with you. The bar will be stocked - no cash, Yoco (cards) only.

See you there!

Audition Notice

Just in case we did not have enough variety on offer, we are thrilled to announce a project that is completely different. Following our call for proposals at the beginning of the year, we are auditioning once again - see below for more details.

God of My Sorrows

a play by Gregory Joseph

We are looking for an actress to bring to life the character of Anna,
a woman from history,
a woman telling us the story of her mother

Director: Nigel Stevenson

We are looking for a female actress, 25 – 50 yrs, Asian/ Indian of appearance

Audition Date: Sunday 1st December at 10:00

@ the Pinelands Players Clubhouse

Please prepare one of the provided excerpts of the script (approx. 3min)

Performance Dates: 28-29th March 2025

Performance runtime: 55 minutes

To get a copy of the audition piece and to book your audition slot please email pinelandsplayers@gmail.com

In Remembrance

Sadly, since the last newsletter was published, we have lost two members of the society and the broader theatre community. Both David Millar and Teddy Davies were involved with Pinelands Players over the years and they will be remembered well by all of us.

Remembering David Millar: A tribute by June Wells

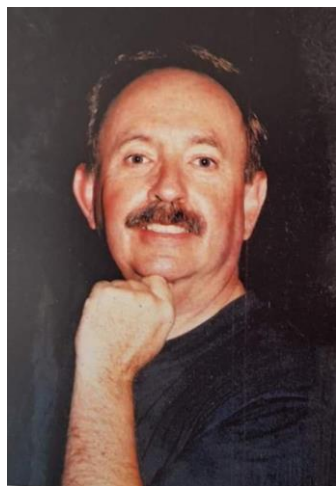
About 44 years ago, a much-loved committee member, Marilyn Mercer, introduced her fiancé to the Society. After a few years, he was more active than she was! Besides performing on stage, Dave catered at so many functions, and in those days, there were many. We'll never forget David



cooking breakfast on the balcony of the oval, starting many legendary cricket matches against G&S. He cooked up a storm at our annual "Brush Up" shows, inter-society quizzes, fundraisers and supper theatre. Dave was also a fine artist; at a Chinese Dinner, which we had at the Aquarium, he created a large papier mâché dragon that hung over the diners' heads next to the shark tank - a memorable combination of menacing creature, chopsticks and Chinese lanterns. But David will be remembered most for his ability to make friends and make us laugh with his elaborate stories. He leaves two wonderful children, Joy and Tim. After 13 years of being apart, he and Marilyn are together again. He will be sorely missed.



Remembering Teddy Davies: Comments from Kyla Thorburn



16 productions I 'did' with Teddy as Choreographer. He was wonderful to work with as he'd give you every piece of detail you needed before the first music call – from a tape cassette of the bits of music he wanted me to choreograph; the script; the piano score; how many cast members I'd have to choreograph and their level of dance competence; where he wanted them to start and finish (nearly always centre); and style of movement. Will any of us ever forget the final "Teddy" move: slap thighs, clap hands, and arms in a V above your head with a "Yeah" (if it was a musical)? I also remember an interaction from *Gondoliers*: Teddy: "Use your Spanish dancing background, Bob" (his nickname for me – aka Bob Fosse). Me: "But Joan (aka Joan Brickhill – my, and I think, many others' nickname for him ... he probably gave it to himself) It's set in Italy?" Teddy: "Nobody will know the difference except you and me".

Once I made the quantum leap to directing – he was my go-to, my shoulder to cry on, and often my saviour. He was my extra pair of eyes at final runs of my rehearsals, giving me a full crit (always appreciated). He was a loyal friend and had a terrific sense of humour (sometimes behind his hand at rehearsal, so I had to turn my back on the proceedings as not to guffaw openly in front of the whole cast). Another fond memory I have of him is his hand clenched in front of his mouth (either at auditions, or at rehearsals and sitting next to him in the various auditoriums). At

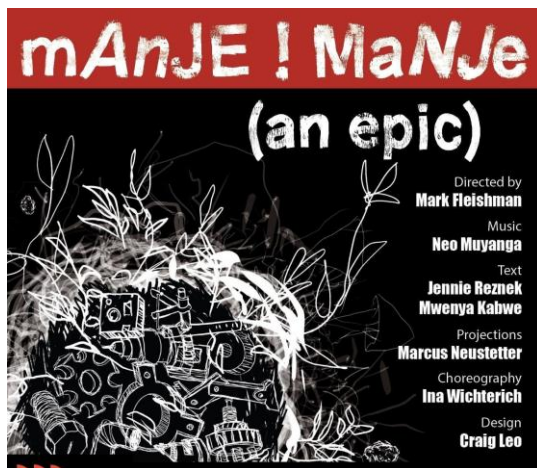
auditions, often he'd grip my knee with his other hand, digging his nails into my flesh when a bad note was hit or an auditionee asked if they could sing the audition piece *a cappella*.

I shall always miss him, but I know I will always "hear" his voice in my head and his advice whenever I hit a "troubled" moment while directing. The biggest advice he gave me – which is not only for theatre but for life – Always rely on your instincts. If that little voice is telling you something is not right, listen to it and change what you need to change.

What's on at other societies?

It's wonderful to see community theatre so alive and well! Check out the info below to see what's currently going on at theatres around Cape Town.

Magnet Theatre



Multiple award-winning Magnet Theatre presents a brand new show *mAnJE ! MaNJe (an epic)* this November.

"The production is built around a series of mythic stories of the so-called Minoan civilization on the island of Crete, between 3000 and 1100 BCE, and their relationship with the figure of Daedalus reimagined from a perspective in Africa," says director Mark Fleishman.

Dates: 6 - 16 November

The Masque Theatre



It's time for another fairytale romp! This year, The Masque is turning the beloved story of Red Riding Hood on its head. Would the wolf really eat grandma? Are the villagers really as shiny and happy as you think they are? And can the two ever become friends?

There's an exciting lineup of music - with hits like Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, *Colours of the Wind* from Pocahontas, Taylor Swift's *Bad Blood* and Pat Benatar's *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*. It's sure to make you and the whole family laugh, sing along and want to get up and dance!

Dates: 13 - 22 December 2024 and 8 - 12 January 2025



**Save the date for a
magical Christmas
gathering!**

**Join Pinelands Players on
Saturday, 14 December
for a holly jolly Christmas
event you won't want to
miss!**