

Info on Shows

TANNIE EVITA PRAAT KAKTUS
A very funny revisionist look at the history of white South Africa, from the arrival in 1652 of the Cactus of Separate Development on the Drommedaris, through the Great Trek and the Battle of Blood River, and eventually the 1948 Election and arrival of the National Party. Cheer the end of official apartheid and a new South Africa through the birth of our democracy and the reality of today. Tannie Evita, in English, takes you on her journey, a hilarious roller-coaster ride to being proudly South African.

DESPERATE FIRST LADIES

The Desperate First Ladies in question aren't just the many wives of President Jacob Zuma, but also the iconic women who have been part of Uys's chorus-line since 1976, ranging from the famous to the familiar, the farcical to the fantastic. Meet among others Grace Mugabe and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as well as Uys's much-loved alter-ego, Evita Bezuidenhout. The selection of hilarious satirical sketches will have Uys also portraying his much-appreciated Jewish African Princess Nowell Fine, Cape Malay firebrand Mrs Petersen, and Evita's outspoken sister Bambi Kellermann. The ghost of PW Botha, recently seen in his Wilderness house, will also make a spooky re-appearance, just to remind us of the darkness before the light.

ICONS & AIKONAS

Who's in; who's out! From Verwoerd to Mandela, from the A to the Z of our politics: Apartheid to Zuma, PDU presents his icons

of today and remembers the aikonas of the past to celebrate the future. The show is constantly updated as today's icon often becomes tomorrow's aikona!

A KOEKSISTER FOR ZUMA

Exclusive to Evita se Perron, to celebrate her new cookbook "Evita's Kossie Sikelela", Evita Bezuidenhout focuses on using food as the recipe for reconciliation. While her faithful Cookie sits and peels potatoes for Pk Botha's legendary potjiekos, Tannie Evita gives away the gastronomic secrets of the leaders of the civilized world and South Africa. Evita's recipe book will also be on sale, both in English and Afrikaans, while the food served will be genuine Bezuidenhout Cuisine!

TANNIE EVITA'S XMAS IN JULY

Take a break from the city and eat, drink and be merry with Tannie Evita this winter. She will celebrate an extra XMAS in the middle of the year. Enjoy a good laugh over a Xmas lunch in our cosy theatre. You'll find scandal, hope, hilarity and even a sing-along in Evita's stocking full of gifts and surprises!

TANNIE EVITA'S CHRISTMAS TREE

During the last few days of December the piano on the stage of Evita se Perron is full of presents for the friends, family and fans of the most famous white woman in South Africa. This is a chance for her to explain who gets what and why, and also look back on a year with all the good, the bad and the ugly things that happened, ending with a partridge in a pear tree! Ideal for Xmas

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL SHOWS
www.evita.co.za
Contact BERYL at 022 492 3930
or email bookings@evita.co.za

General Manager
Kotie Reid
Kotie@evita.co.za
022 492 2851

Pieter-Dirk Uys
On DVD
Available at
SPAR DARLING

Evita's Kossie Sikelela Cookbook

If the road to reconciliation runs through a country's belly, *Evita's Kossie Sikelela* cookbook provides it's recipe for peace. She invites the whole country, the whole world, to her table, where everybody can feast on dishes like green bean *bredie* and cumin chicken with sweet potatoes. Who'll be able to moan and groan between mouthfuls of walnut balls and *pampoenkoekies*, or baked apple clowns? Truly, there's nothing like a generous helping of rabbit in red wine or guinea fowl with sultanas and hanepoot to bring forth brotherly love.

And *lieve aarde*, you will definitely want to be best friends with the orange trifle and Tannie's *melkert*. Evita is always well prepared and includes recipes for diabetics and vegetarians, halaal and kosher dishes, and even recipes to keep as fit as she does. Whether she entertains her grandchildren, caters for a picnic or plans a Christmas menu, Evita cooks up a storm.

The book is richly illustrated by artist Linda Vicquery, the expert behind the dishes.

It also includes many photographs of Evita and a preface by none other than Sophia Loren. Unfolded, the dust jacket



is a full-colour poster. Also available in Afrikaans. On sale in the A en C and at Bookleague in Station Road.

Royalties from the sale of this cookbook go to The Darling Trust.

First weekend in September
To book email info@voorkamerfest-darling.co.za
www.voorkamerfest-darling.co.za
ph Tasha: 082 321 7542

Widely regarded as one of the most unique arts festivals in the world, the Voorkamerfest takes place annually during the first weekend of September.

The acts are performed in local Darling resident's living rooms. Local taxis escort visitors to their unique venues, which range from small RDP houses to beautiful Cape Dutch homes.

Bookings open 1 July 2011



Bapetikosweti Basuin

THIS WAS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INDEPENDENT BLACK HOMELAND OF BAPETIKOSWETI 1980-1990

Volume 6

EVITA SE PERRON

DARLING STATION

A stress-free zone where humour and enjoyment are the primary aims - hosted by Mrs Evita Bezuidenhout, the most famous white woman in SA.

Open
Tues to Sun
10H00 - 16H00



To book ph Beryl - Tel 022 492 3930 email: bookings@evita.co.za - website: www.evita.co.za

Pieter-Dirk Uys was on his way to McGregor one fine day in 1995 when he took a wrong turn. He arrived in Darling, ordered a schnitzel at Zum Schatzi and outside the restaurant met Dale Gremels, who was selling a house. She'd seen his show at the Baxter the week before.

"What are you doing in Darling?" she asked.

"Come to eat a schnitzel," he replied.

"The cow is still in the meadow. In the meantime, let me show you the town."

And so she took him around the village, pointing out the charming Victorian houses nestled in the cosy elbow of the hills.

"There's just one old house we're trying to sell. Difficult. Empty for years."

She turned a corner and there amid wild elephant grass, shutters askew, stood the most beautiful wreck of an old house that Uys had ever seen. He bought it while still in the car, even after being told that there were snakes under the floorboards! But instinct had never let him down.

Pieter-Dirk Uys left Darling some hours later, having had a wonderful schnitzel and now the owner of a derelict old house.

It took six months to renovate and as magic would have it, Darling had all the people to do the job: a young man who specialised in Victorian restoration, a Danish electrician, a wizard-carpenter and a community of artisans who scraped, oiled and gently put the old house together like plastic surgeons.

Once Pieter-Dirk Uys had moved from Cape Town, Jochi Gremels casually mentioned that the old station building in Arcadia Road was now empty. The station was closed in the 1970s. Since then, various people had used the building for a variety of things, but the gravel expanse next to the railway line stayed dusty and hard on the eyes and feet. It had been derelict for some years, and then became the workshop of that wizard-carpenter, who had decided to move on.

When Uys, already settled in his house up the road, was asked if he could use the building as a storeroom to hold off the demolishers, the dormant idea of having his own theatre was rekindled in his imagination. And so, in 1996, it stepped into the pages of the unique and became EVITA SE PERRON. Inspired by the legends of Argentina's Evita Peron and our own Evita Bezuidenhout, this was the ideal place for a theatre. Besides, the word perron is Afrikaans for station platform!

For the first year, activity was centred around the small blik building in its strange colours next to the railway line. We inherited the colour schemes. When the station was derelict and rusted, concerned townfolk looked in their garages and brought whatever paint they could find. So we proudly display pink, turquoise, blue and white as our international colours. The venue was hired (could it have been R80 a month?) restructured with a small stage and enough space for 12 tables with chairs. The kitchen was squeezed into the small area at the back where the carpenter kept his tools. To look at the buildings today, with the two theatres, restaurant and bar, The Darling Trust, Elsie Balt Art Gallery, Museum/Nauseum, Gravy Train Saloon, Station Gallery, Boerassic Park, and the community garden, Tannie se Tuin, one

finds it hard to remember that this was once just a rural railway station that served the best meat pies in the Swartland. And that in spite of Evita's use of the word skattie, the town has always been called Darling.

"I've opened a theatre in Darling, darling," Pieter-Dirk Uys said to his friends in Cape Town.

"Darling, you're mad," they replied.

Yes. Mad is good. It means that no one has thought of it yet, so Evita Bezuidenhout launched her new legendary monologue on Afrikaner history: Tannie Evita Praat Kaktus.

People from the town came forward to man this outpost of entertainment. Tony Bradshaw ran the booking; Naomi Matlokotsi oversaw the venue; Andrew Brown performed miracles in the closet-now-kitchen, producing the best curry in the Swartland. Daily goods trains rumble by and everything shivers on the walls and shakes on the tables. Guests think it's just a sound effect, but when they see the approaching diesel monster, which looks as

if it will plough into the building, they are thrilled and shocked. The cheek of it all!

As the train clatters by, the driver often waves a greeting to Evita, the most famous white woman in South Africa. After that year of experimentation in 1996, the remainder of the gravel land was purchased, and the building was extended to include a restaurant-cabaret venue. Architect Jakes de Villiers has kept the style of the original station in all of the additions, so people often think that they have all been here since the 19th century. By its tenth year, EVITA SE PERRON could entertain an audience of up to 130 people.

The focus is on weekends, when a variety of shows are presented at lunchtime and in the evening. The main attractions are the various Pieter-Dirk Uys shows and his famous chorus line of political characters, some of whom have been with him since 1980. Of course, Mrs Evita Bezuidenhout is the superstar on the stage.

On the far side of the car park, *Tannie Se Tuin* has become an integral part of daily life in Darling. Besides the trees and seasonal

flowers that flourish under the gift of an old windmill, there is a playground for kiddies centred round the old Land Rover donated by JC van der Westhuizen. Under the trees, no longer forgotten and dusty but lavish with leaves, the community rest on their way back to their homes from the banks, the shops and the bottle store. A faux Renaissance statue of a nude lady "Is dit onse Ma Evita?" has become a good luck touchstone for the many who pass her by: *Vryf aan haar tietie en maak 'n wens!*

On the other side of the compound, an eccentric art garden, called BOERASSIC PARK, reflects humour through the display of political icons and symbols (from apartheid signs to a gravy train, led by a smiling Nelson Mandela as the happy engine.) The garden also contains local crafts and artefacts specially made for inclusion in this wonderland of *Mama kyk daar!* The Perron garden was designed by Dr Richard King and is a monument to local plants, shrubs, *vet plante* and bird life. Petal against plastic, these flowers thrive and grow, some by being watered, whilst others are dusted.

The only real animals that stalk the terrain are the PERRON CATS. As all true theatres need a resident moggie, the first four furries (Marilyn, Moggie, Windgat and Die Koei) arrived within days of re-launching the new additions to the old station. Additions took place amid regular gasps of surprise. Ginger Rogers waddles in from nowhere, invited to be the rough trade and punch bag for the tough-boy cats. He turned out to be a bit of a kittophile and has brought two small kittens into the Perron. Later, Boesman and Two-Kay joined the cabaret. The most recent addition, Elsie, appeared out of the dirt bin aged six weeks. Daleen Kruger nurtured her in the cleft of her Rubenesque bosom and to this day, Elsie takes a flying leap onto any passing chest. She confronted a passing train some years back and lost her front leg, but is now obliviously chasing visiting dogs on her three legs as if it was the newest fashion.

For accommodation and other sights and happenings in Darling...
Phone Darling Tourism
022 492 3361
www.darlingtourism.co.za



The former South African Ambassador to the Independent Homeland Republic of Bapetikosweti holding her symbols of state - a rugby ball and a protea. (1981-1993)



Rally - 1994 - Retreat

To book for shows phone Beryl - Tel 022 492 3930 email: bookings@evita.co.za - website: www.evita.co.za

TICKETS 3RD CLASS
KAARTJIES 3^{DE} KLAS
AMATIKITHI IKLASI LESITHATHU



and here's Beryl...



and our friendly staff at Evita se Perron

THE DARLING TRUST

About The Darling Trust

The Darling Trust was established in August 2003 by founding member, former trustee and present patron, Pieter-Dirk Uys. He is a South African satirist best known for his on-stage persona, Evita Bezuidenhout, who has been part of the South African political and social scene since the late 1970s.

The Darling Trust was set up to assist the previously disadvantaged communities of Darling and the Swartland. We aim to empower individuals to help themselves, mainly through participation in the sectors of education, skills development and health. Our philosophy is strongly opposed to the handout culture that some organisations inadvertently create. We aim to create projects that genuinely help people to help themselves, to truly empower people by being proactive - motivating, educating, and providing people with the skills to survive despite the most challenging of circumstances.

The Darling Trust takes its accountability very seriously. We recognise there is a need for organisations to illustrate that they are fully accountable for the funding they receive. We invite individuals, organisations and governments to use the opportunity to partner with The Darling Trust should they wish to fund charitable causes and projects.

The Darling Trust implements projects that are meticulously planned, effective and fully accountable. Additionally we act as a channel for funding for our communities, by identifying areas of need and assisting those who endeavour to address those needs. Funding to these individuals and organisations is carefully considered and continuously managed to promote sustainability and accountability.

The Darling Trust Vision

To keep our people healthy and strong through education and care.
To empower people through developing talents and skills to assist our community with the challenges of HIV/AIDS.
To establish need and to address that need by creating feasible projects or by assisting existing projects through funding or managerial and logistical assistance
To act as a vehicle for funding for the community of Darling and in due course for its neighbouring communities, through informed, researched and managed distribution of funds, and by being transparent and accountable for the funds
To create a blueprint for other small communities
How you can help
The success of all non-profit organisations relies not only on the dedicated people directly associated with the projects but also the generous members of the public who wish to spread a little kindness to others. Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible.

One of the most important ways people can

IN DARLING DREAMS DO COME TRUE



Contact Details

P.O. Box 175
Darling
7345
Tel: 022 492 3384
Fax: 022 492 2851

Operations Manager

Tasha St John-Reid
E-mail: tasha@thedarlingtrust.org

Financial Administrator

Antoinette van Heerden
E-mail: accounts@evita.co.za

Projects Coordinator

Chris Adonis
E-mail: chris@thedarlingtrust.org

Trustees

Riaan Neethling (Chairman)
Kotie Reid
Anna Cleophas
Ivy Johnson
Cobus Slabber

Patron

Pieter-Dirk Uys

www.thedarlingtrust.org

Trust No: IT2598/2003
NPO No: 054-755-NPO

Standard Bank

Acc no: 083264825

Branch: Darling

Branch Code: 050111

Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ

All donations to The Darling Trust are tax deductible under section 18(A) of the Income Tax Act

help us is to spread the word about our work, the more people who know about us, the more people will support us and enable us to continue with and expand our work. So please do talk to your friends about The Darling Trust and ask them to spare a moment to visit our website.

Donations

All our projects require funding to keep them going and we also need further funding to put other plans in to action. If there is a particular project of ours that you would like to support please do let us know so that we can provide you with more information. However, please bear in mind that donations received without restriction to a certain project, helps us tremendously because they allow us the flexibility to react quickly, so that we can help those in need straight away.

Debit orders

Monthly debit orders are a vital form of



Tannie Evita and Archbishop Desmond Tutu on his visit to bless the Darling Community Pool and Education Centre.

support. Regular monthly donations allow us to plan ahead and manage our budget effectively. We are now able to process debit orders directly. You can download the Debit Order Authorisation Form on our website. You can either fax or email it to us and we will do the rest. As simple as that!

Outreach Projects - please visit the website www.thedarlingtrust.org for details on the following:

Art Classes

Music Classes

Early Childhood Development

Education

A highly experienced remedial teacher, with the assistance of 4 facilitators, runs three different projects at The Darling Trust.

Darling Early Learning Programme

This programme exposes children to the skills and concepts necessary to the full development of literacy later on in life.

Darling AHA-Read Programme

This programme provides remedial literacy lessons to 90 children in the Darling area.

Darling Parenting Project

This programme focuses on the parents, assisting them to develop skills, which will ensure that their children can grow to their full potential.

Darling Community Pool and Education Centre

Beneath a scorching hot sun, more than 400 people arrived to attend the official opening of the Darling Swimming pool and Education Centre. Close to 200 children waited patiently while the tension and temperature was rising. Evita Bezuidenhout welcomed everybody with the words *In Darling we don't wait for things to happen, we make things happen.* Finally the big moment arrived. Riaan Neethling, chairperson of The Darling Trust, started the countdown and Evita Bezuidenhout, Sabine Plattner and Maude Goliath approached the ribbon. The second they cut the ribbon, all the children jumped into the pool. What a beautiful moment. There was not a dry eye or child on the premises. Darling was very honoured to welcome Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to bless the Darling Community Pool and Education Centre in June 2010.



Music Lessons

Music can bring such joy! Judy, our accomplished music teacher, gives piano, recorder and percussion lessons to children from as young as 5 to adults of all ages.



Since 2002, Pieter-Dirk Uys has been travelling around South Africa, visiting schools and over one million school children, as well as prisons and reformatories, with a free AIDS-awareness entertainment called *For Facts Sake!*



Elsie Balt Art School

Such creativity! The art school is a haven for creativity and expression. With the inimitable Adri as our art teacher and the enthusiasm of the children, their art is a wonder of colour and life.



2

Pieter-Dirk Uys

Quotes

Pieter-Dirk Uys is not interested in accolades. His famous alter-ego, Evita Bezuidenhout, may have just had a boulevard named after her in his home town of Darling, but Uys is hard-pressed to recall all the awards he has received over the years. "I don't really need accolades. My accolade is that the audience had a good time. Or that kids are staying alive ..."

But he does admit that the nicest thing anyone has ever said to him came from the Great Man himself, Nelson Mandela, who told him: "I like very much what you are doing."

Bring on the coming decade – and more plays and books and laughs and wise words.

Pieter-Dirk Uys was born in Cape Town in 1945 and has been in the theatre since the mid-1960s. Closely associated with both the Space Theatre in Cape Town and Johannesburg's Market Theatre during the 1970s and 1980s, he has written and performed 20 plays and over 30 revues and one-man shows throughout South Africa and abroad.

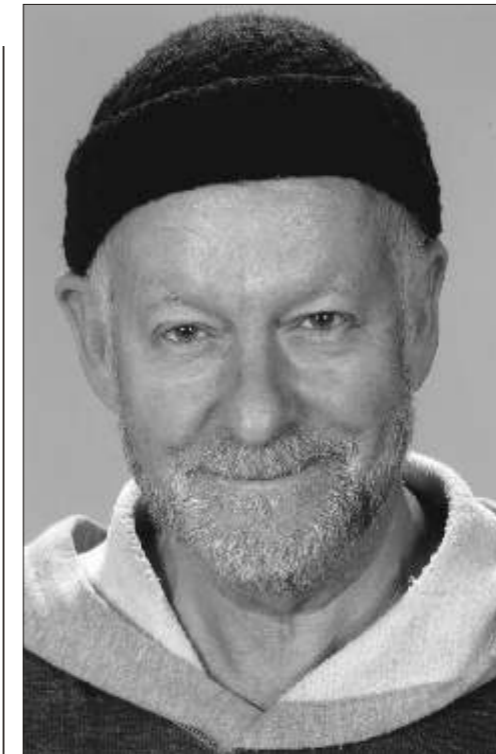
His plays *Paradise is Closing Down*, *Panorama*, *God's Forgotten*, *Faces in the Wall* and *Just Like Home* have been performed internationally, and his one-man shows *Adapt or Dye*, *One Man One Volt*, *You ANC Nothing Yet*, *Truth Omissions*, *Live from Boerassic Park*, *Dekaffinated*, and *Foreign Aids* have been presented in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Holland, the USA and Canada. His performance of *Foreign Aids* at La Mama received the Obie Award in New York in 2004.

Pieter-Dirk Uys has been doing this sort of thing for so long that people now refer to it as a career. Officially unemployed since the early 1970s, he writes, directs, acts, produces and does everything else, including the making of dresses and the wearing of them! Having survived the mediocrity of apartheid kultuur, it is his therapy and his joy to expose the bones of that dinosaur for the entertainment of democratic audiences worldwide. He is delighted to still have a government that on a daily basis write his best material!

Most of Uys' satirical work was available in South Africa on video (and still is, on DVD) and so, in spite of government censorship during apartheid, he built up a very large multiracial audience.

Members of the present democratic parliament remember seeing his videos while in exile and in prison! He has been seen on SABC since the late 1970s in a variety of programmes, including *An Uys up my Sleeve*; *One Man One Volt*, which was to be screened prior to the 1994 election, but was held back for ten months; *You ANC Nothing Yet* in 1996; and *The Great Comedy Trek* in 2004. The series *Going Down Gorgeous*, featuring Nowell Fine in a saga from 1976 to 2004, was screened towards the end of the last century. *Foreign Aids* has been broadcast for Aids Day, 1 December, and in 2007 SABC2 presented *Dinner with the President*, a 13-part talk show hosted by Evita Bezuidenhout. Eight of Uys' shows are currently available on DVD.

A prolific writer in many genres, his novel, *Trekking to Teema*, was South Africa's first internet book in 2000, before being published in tree-format. He has also written Evita Bezuidenhout's biography, *A Part Hate A Part Love*, as well as a book based on his 12-part 1994 MNET television series, *Funigalore*, in which Evita Bezuidenhout, his most famous creation, interviewed the new democratic government's leaders, including Nelson Mandela. In 2003, Uys premiered a new play, *Auditioning Angels*, and published his first volume of memoirs, *Elections and Erections*. A second volume of memoirs, *Between the Devil and the Deep*, became a bestseller throughout South Africa in 2005.



Pieter-Dirk Uys in his most challenging role as "Pieter-Dirk Uys". Since 1980 he has assembled a chorus line of eighty people.

Pieter-Dirk Uys was awarded South Africa's prestigious Truth and Reconciliation Award in 2001. He has received honorary degrees from Rhodes University (D.Litt.Hon. 1997), the University of Cape Town (D.Litt.Hon. 2003), the University of the Western Cape (D.Edu.Hon. 2003) and the University of the Witwatersrand (D.Litt.Hon. 2004). As well, Pieter-Dirk Uys' celebrated alter-ego, Evita Bezuidenhout, proudly received the Living Legacy 2000 Award in San Diego, USA.

Since 2000 Pieter-Dirk Uys has been travelling around South Africa, visiting over 1.5 million school children, as well as prisons and reformatories, with a free AIDS-awareness entertainment called *For Facts Sake!*. He has also released a corporate AIDS-information video, *Having Sex with Pieter-Dirk Uys*, as well as the family-friendly video, *Survival Aids*, and *Just a Small Prick!*, a treatment of the fears surrounding testing for HIV.

Recent successes include *Evita for President*, which he has performed in London, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, and *Elections & Erections*, which he performed in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town in the run-up to the 2009 election, and toured to the USA in both 2008 and 2009. In September 2008, Evita Bezuidenhout launched her own political party, *EVITA'S PEOPLE'S PARTY*, to assist with voter education in preparation for the 2009 general election. Uys also directed his latest play, *Macbeki*, at the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, in April 2009. In 2010 Uys published a cookbook, *Evita's Kossie Sikelela*, and added *Desperate First Ladies* and *F.A.K. Songs and Other Struggle Anthems* to his repertoire.

Darling! The Pieter-Dirk Uys Story (www.darlingmovie.com.au), a documentary about Uys Aids-awareness presentations, directed by New Zealander Julian Shaw, is being shown worldwide. This DVD, as well as several of Pieter-Dirk Uys' books, plays



Pieter-Dirk Uys in the Little Theatre / Cinema which was the original station building

Photo: Philip de Vos



Pieter and Sophia backstage after his show in Hollywood in 1994. A Dream come true. A friend for life.

and other DVDs, is sold in Evita's A and C at the Perron. Pieter-Dirk Uys lives in Darling, where he has converted the old railway station into a cabaret venue called *EVITA SE PERRON*, famous for its satirical garden, Boerassic Park, and the domain of Evita Bezuidenhout, the 'most famous white woman in South

Africa'. The unique museum/nauseum of apartheid artefacts there, reflecting the madness of the past, is arguably the only satirical exhibition of South Africa's recent past.

www.pdu.co.za
www.evita.co.za



With Charlize Theron in Johannesburg to discuss their visit to KZN to entertain school children about social problems

7

Soon after its initial settlement at Cape Town, the Dutch administration was anxious to develop surrounding areas to further establish the colony and find land that was suitable for agriculture. Many expeditions were sent to the north and east of Cape Town and Van Riebeeck himself visited Saldanha Bay to assess the possibilities of creating a settlement there. Generally land to the north of the original settlement did not receive favourable reports because the soil was too sandy.

However, one area in particular was looked on favorably. In 1682 the area surrounding the present day Mamre was visited by Olaf Bergh who was impressed by its winter greenness and named the area Groene Kloof. The original inhabitants of this area and surrounding countryside were a Khoikhoi tribe called the Cochoquas.

Early European settlers reported on the amount of game to be found in this area including lions, zebra and, interestingly, a herd of some forty tuskless elephants. Mentzel reported that the creatures were not hunted or shot as they did little harm to anyone. These reports were received in the 1670s.

In 1700 Holland sought a farmer to supply meat to the Dutch East India Company. This contract was awarded to one Henning Huising. As Groene Kloof was recognised as being fertile and near Cape Town, it received much interest from the cattle farmers. On receiving the contract from the Company, Huising was granted permission to use the three springs on this side of Groene Kloof and to graze his cattle as far north as Saldanha Bay.

Although the land proved most suitable for cattle farming, Huising encountered the common problem of farmers of those early years - cattle theft. Willem Adriaan van der Stel was obliged to send a sergeant and 10 men to the area in November 1701 to establish a permanent military outpost. This was called De Kleine Post. As a result the area developed rapidly as a farming community and other Cape farmers applied for pasturage for their cattle.

Even with all the heavy grazing Groene Kloof was holding its own as a game resort. John Barron, private secretary to Governor Macartney, wrote in April 1798 *there are considerable numbers of steenbok, duikers, reebok and a few hartebeest among the hills, but frequent visits of sportsmen from the Cape have*



Lt-Governor Sir George Darling

FROM STATION TO PERRON



The original station building



Restaurant / Theatre



made them very shy.

De Kleine Post remained an outpost of the Company until 1791. When it was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Post was abolished and the cattle sold, but it remained government property and was leased out. It eventually was called Mamre. Many of the farms in the area also belonged to the Company and although a few were sold, most passed into the possession of the British when they took over the Cape.

Establishment of the Wool Industry Groene Kloof has played an important role in many South African events. For example, South Africa was the first country outside Europe to obtain Merino sheep, which was of far reaching importance to the sheep and

wool industry in this country. The Spanish Royal House jealously guarded the Merino and a few of these sheep were given on occasions only to royal persons or important people. Export was strictly prohibited with even the death penalty for smuggling them. King Charles IV of Spain made a gift of some of his Merinos to King William V of Orange, but they did not do well in the Dutch climate and two rams and four ewes were sent to the more suitable climate of the Cape. On the instructions of the Governor the Merinos were placed on the government farm Groene Kloof in 1789. They thrived but instructions came from Holland to return them as they had been sent in error. Wisely the Governor Colonel Gordon

returned only the six sheep and retained their offspring.

In 1797 twenty-six of these sheep were purchased by the captains of the British ships, *Reliance* and *Supply*, which were in Table Bay for onward shipment to Australia. These were the first Merino sheep in that country and laid the foundation for its thriving wool industry. What a successful venture that has proven to be!

In 1792 Sebastiaan Valentyn van Reenen and his brother who farmed in the Darling area purchased three Spanish rams from Col Gordon and crossed them with three hundred handpicked Cape ewes. They later purchased two ewes and were the first Merino farmers in the Cape to produce wool on a large scale for the export market. Many farmers purchased sheep from these two brothers and gradually these were dispersed over the Western Cape which eventually led to the establishment of one of the country's major agricultural industries.

The Founding of Darling

The inhabitants of Groene Kloof were part of the Swartland congregation which was established in 1745. Almost a hundred years later the Swartland Church Council received a letter in which 180 inhabitants and land owners asked to be given permission to build a church in the area. At the same time the inhabitants wished to establish their own village.

A government notice of 16 August 1853 stated "His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has consented to the name of Darling being assigned to the projected village upon the farm Langfontein situated in the Division of Malmesbury." Shortly afterwards Lt Governor Darling approved the founding of a new congregation. Lt Governor Charles Darling was born in Nova Scotia in 1804. He received military training and in 1847 became Lt Governor of St Lucia in the West Indies. Four years later he received the same high post in the Cape Colony and headed the Cape Government from May to December 1854. He later became Governor of Newfoundland, Jamaica and Victoria. He eventually died in England in 1870.

Some other things for which Darling is and has been renowned include the wonderful wild flowers that carpet the fields of the area every spring. Many travellers over the last three hundred years have commented on this amazing sight. The famous Darling Wild Flower Show started in 1917, and with the exception of a few years during the World Wars, has been held annually.

Salt pans were plentiful and were written about since 1719. Groene Kloof pans supplied salt for most of the country in the nineteenth century and a rough harbour was built at Yzerfontein solely for supplying salt to Cape Town.

Today, Darling is well known for its wine, dairy and the famous Evita se Perron!

By Mike Turner
A West Coast Odyssey Publication

EVITA BEZUIDENHOUT

SKATTIEGODMOTHER

Evita Bezuidenhout, regarded as the most famous white woman in South Africa, was born Evangelie Poggenpoel of humble Boer origins in the dusty Orange Free State town of Bethlehem on 28th September, 1935. Illegitimate, imaginative, pretty and ambitious, she dreamed of Hollywood fame and fortune, tasting stardom in such 1950s Afrikaner film classics as *Bogget en die Akkedis* (Hunchback and the Lizard), *Meisie van my Drome* (Girl of my Dreams) and *Duiwelsvallei* (Devil's Valley). She married into the political Bezuidenhout dynasty and became the demure wife of NP Member of Parliament Dr JJ De V Bezuidenhout and a proud mother of three: de Kock, Izan and Billie-Jeanne.

TANNIE VAN DIE VOLK

Power became her addiction. She wielded it in the boardroom, the kitchen and round the dinner table, becoming confidante to the flawed gods on the Boer Olympus and thus shaping the course of history with her close and often unbelievable relationships with the grim-faced leaders of the day: Dr HF Verwoerd, BJ Vorster, PW Botha and FW de Klerk. Hand in hand with the glamorous Evita of Pretoria was the Tallyrand of Africa, Pik Botha, her ageing Romeo and constant friend, while watching her from afar as she watched him, Nelson R Mandela, alive today thanks to her timely interventions.

From 1981, her ten years as the South African Ambassador in the independent Black Homeland Republic of Bapetikosweti left an indelible mark on the blueprint of change, and today her recipe for bobotie is internationally regarded as the basis for reconciliation. "Sit down, eat and talk" has been her slogan and trouble spots in the world owe their future to her kitchen skills.

As the former barefoot-meisie from Bethlehem majestically sailed into the stormy seas of her marriage and maturity, dazzling friend and foe alike with her Calvinist authority and dreaded lack of irony. Like any other educated brainwashed white South African, accepted the terrible aftermath of the apartheid system she helped to spawn and looked away at her smiling reflection in the family silver. When, in 1994, democracy swallowed her homeland and her job, and when Nelson Mandela stood at the Union Buildings in Pretoria and said those immortal words: "Never. Never. Never again whites only!", Evita sat next to him with a big smile and applauded.

She went into his kitchen and cooked for him and the hundreds of politicians who flocked to Pretoria. They wanted to meet the most famous man in the world and to have their picture taken with Madiba, so that everyone



Photo: Stefan Hurter



Photo: Morné van Zyl

would think they were also upholders of democracy and human rights. Democrats like Muamar Ghaddafi, Fidel Castro, Yassir Arafat, Robert Mugabe, Tony Blair, the Spice Girls - all came to Pretoria and sampled Evita's cooking.

She then went to Parliament to join the kitchen there and help the new ANC government come to terms with African cuisine after a lifetime in exile. She put putu-pap with everything: putu-pap with bread-and-butter-putting, putu-pap with sushi, putu-pap with the Atkins Diet.

In 2001 Evita Bezuidenhout was presented with the Living Legacy Award 2000 in San Diego. This same award had been given to legends that included Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bette Davis, Princess Diana and Margaret Thatcher. Today she divides her time between the family home in Laagerfontein where her husband Oom Hasie lives, and the West Coast Village of Darling, where her mother Ouma Ossewania Kakebenia resides.

FUTURE PRESIDENT

Now in her 70s, this glamorous eternal flame of *boere* chutzpah holds court at the former Darling Station, now famous as **Evita se Perron**. Here she entertains and dazzles a visiting world in awe, while also bravely



following in the slipstream of Jacob Zuma's harem to make sure that *kos* is on his *tafel*. As one of the few Afrikaner icons who did not lose their heads on the guillotines of democracy, Gogo Evita is grandmother to her three black treasures: Winnie-Jeanne, Nelson-Ignatius, and La Toya-Ossewania. She embraced the new democracy with an alarming passion, underlining her commitment to a nonracial future by her support that cuts across party lines. She may one day still stand for the Presidency of South Africa.

For more info: www.evita.co.za
bookings@evita.co.za
022 492 3930



Photo: Stefan Hurter



Photo: Marwele van der Merwe

THE MUSEUM / NAUSEUM



That's what people call it - the most extraordinary collection of Afrikaner political kitsch in the world. It started in the late 1970s when Pieter-Dirk Uys would come across familiar spine-chilling stomach-turning images. *The Battle of Blood River*, the death of Piet Retief at Ungungunglulu at the hands of the Zulus, pictures that had been on the walls of his school classroom during his childhood. The heritage of Afrikanerdom: The Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.

Maybe it was the snow-shaker in the shape of that erection on the hill that did it: shake it and the snow falls on the panorama! And so Pieter-Dirk Uys started collecting these things that no one wanted, few cared for and everyone laughed at.

Occasionally there would be prints of the Karoo or Drakensberg in heavy black frames which he collected cheaply, mainly for the frames. When the Perron cabaret venue was ready for colonization, there were enough of these framed prints to line the walls. By now it was obvious that most of them harkened back to the days of the Afrikaner Renaissance and the discovery of his culture and his roots. The fact that most of them were fabrications didn't detract from their appeal.

Today they can be seen on the walls of EVITA SE PERRON, not just as decoration but as a statement of existence. They attract great attention and gasps of recognition from the visitors..

During his former life as an Afrikaner *seun*, related to Dr DF Malan, the first Afrikaner Prime Minister, Uys had corresponded with many of the politicians of the time. In those days as an innocent choirboy, he had sung to them in the NG Kerk in Rondebosch where his father was organist. He then discovered Sophia Loren and the fact that her legs were better than Dr Hendrik Verwoerd's. When, in the 1980's, Uys started his one-man satirical onslaught against the regime in Pretoria, basically throwing back at them what they had written for him through the structures of the laws of apartheid, more letters arrived.

Today these letters make up the core of the collection. There are the letters from the first State President, CR Swart, during his reign and much later in the last year of his life:



faxes from Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Evita's boss, undisguised in his passion for this glamorous member of his diplomatic corps; notes from Winnie Mandela when she was the Virgin Mary of the Struggle, passing on regards from the faceless man in a cell on the Island. "Dear Mr Uys, the day you do me, please look like this, Winnie Mandela"

As the collection grew, people donated items: busts of Hendrik Verwoerd that became lamps "Let he who gave us darkness now give us light" and official portraits of all the *führers* of the Boer Empire. Many images from the various Afrikaner parliaments, all ruled by a National Party that stayed dour and unsmiling, dominate. Then the familiar mantras of patriotism: images of the Voortrekker Monument lovingly painted on glass and backed with crinkled silver paper, quite eastern in their gaudiness, western in their simplicity and just ghastly in their gorgeous bad taste.

Older Afrikaners walk through the museum in tears. Their lives pass before them. They remember these symbols of a time when no one dared question their seriousness and importance. They are followed by their children, laughing at the recognition of these awful things they were subjected to as kids. And then a black family come through who want to be photographed under a familiar WHITES ONLY sign. "Eish! Let's be photographed in front of apartheid!"

Everyone takes it as they see it. Some with humour, some with memories, most with a sense of relief that these things that frightened a nation into silence for over forty years are now meaningless and without threat, but still there to see and recall.

"Let us remember the past, so we can celebrate the future", says Evita Bezuidenhout. "One does not need a crystal ball to see what will happen to South Africa tomorrow. The future of our country is certain. It's just the past that is unpredictable."

Boerassic Park

On Heritage Day 24th September 2003, Evita Bezuidenhout opened BOERASSIC PARK. Since then it has delighted many thousands of visitors with artworks reflecting a hysterical tongue in South Africa's historical cheek. The many flowers from Taiwan have basked in both sun and rain, open 24 hours a day.

Inspired by the legendary concrete garden of Nieu Bathesda, BOERASSIC PARK focuses on more than just plastic blooms and Voortrekker Monument birdbaths. There are various original artworks to enjoy. Students from the UCT Michaelis School of Art have created the ultimate gravy train, a concrete chook-chook with Madiba as the smiling engine, chugging along the rail to freedom.

Behind him he drags the baggage of our young and controversial democracy: Comrade Thabo flying overseas on his plane, former Leader of the Opposition Tony Leon in his pram throwing his toys, Reverend Alan Boesak (rehabilitated jailbird and fraudster) pious and free with a ball and chain attached to his ankle, Winnie the Mugger of the Nation in her bath, like Medusa with rubber tyre straps for her hair and small soccer-booted foot just visible above murky waters. While Evita Bezuidenhout in her flag dress waves them goodbye surrounded by the cats, AWB leader Eugene Terre'blanche falls off his horse as he did in real life and lies on the tracks, *poepdrunk* and irrelevant.

Opposite this remarkable joyride is a *Groot Trek* Monument created by students from Stellenbosch University. The concrete ox wagon is bogged down in the mud of the past with four great stone oxen struggling to get out of the quicksands of history, buried to their heads while trying to wedge themselves and their heavy load through the golden arches of the MacDonald sign to the future.



The Gravy Train sculpture in Boerassic Park - Madiba is the engine



There are also rough rusted figures of African people reflecting the hard slog of survival: from the mines, on the roads, on the fields, on their way with buckets on their heads, picks and shovels in their hands. Made from pieces of tin and iron, they each tell a human tale.

Scattered around are apartheid signs from the days when they were regarded as normal. The trouble is, they're still so familiar that some visitors hesitate to enter an area where a sign states "Whites Only". So small yellow notices have been attached to each sign: "This was an apartheid sign pre-1994". Mixed-race couples love posing with their truly South African offspring in front of one of these signs that once declared them illegal and immoral.

A 1959 cream and green Ford Fairlane takes pride of place. This car belonged to Evita's husband, Oom Hasie, while he was minister of Water Affairs and Minister of Black Housing in Verwoerd's government. He then combined his portfolio by building a black township in a dam! It was in this ministerial limo that Dr JJ de V Bezuidenhout was shot at. The bullet holes are still in the front windscreen even though the bullets missed the minister.

However, some months later he was found on the back seat of his car in the parking area of the Laagerfontein Hotel having sex with a black waitress. His breaking of the Immorality Act caused no end of upset for his wife, who managed to hush it all up with bribes and threats. The black woman disappeared.

From the passionate reactions and saucy tales coming from visitors, it seems that in the lives of all white South Africans over a certain age, something remarkable and memorable happened on the back seat of a Ford Fairlane!

The Elsie Balt Art Gallery

Nina van der Westhuizen

When Nina v/d Westhuizen presented Pieter-Dirk Uys with a painting of Evita as Mona Lisa, it started a journey with the giants of art, paintings in the style of the masters featuring Tannie. They are displayed in our gallery and were recently exhibited and hailed in Stellenbosch at the Wordfees 2010.

Nina was born and grew up in Robertson in the Little Karoo, South Africa. After school, she obtained a BA Degree in Art from the University of Stellenbosch.

She taught art for five years before starting to paint full time in 1983. In 1986, she had her first solo exhibition at the Dorp Street Gallery in Stellenbosch.

In 1991, she moved to Darling. Since 1986, she has had several exhibitions, but most of her work comes from commissions. Her paintings can be found in private collections all over the world.

She was invited to exhibit at the Florence Biennale in Italy at the end of 2005.

Nina works in oil on canvas and paints the frames onto the canvas. Her subject matter varies from still life to wild animals, landscape and people. She is influenced by the vibrancy, adventure and magic of Africa!

Nina can be contacted on 022 492 3369 or email: jc.nina3@gmail.com



Evita's Great Master Collection by Nina van der Westhuizen

Sandy Esau

Sandy Esau sells so quickly that Pieter-Dirk insists on new work to prepare for an exhibition. This is now a reality in the Elsie Balt gallery, a selection of Sandy's art from the last decade. It includes the famous triptych that was commissioned by the Perron for the opening of Evita's A en C.

Sandy was born in Darling and comes from a creative family. He studied at Ruth Prowse school of art, under Eric Loubser and Ryno Swartz. A few years later he received a bursary to study at Daljosafat, where he was guided by Judith Mason. In 2001 he began to work as a full-time artist, after which he had many group exhibitions as well as five solo exhibitions.

In 2007, one of his works was auctioned for R55 000 at the Greef Road of Hope Gallery, where Mr. Trevor Manual was the host.

Esau's work can be seen in various galleries in South Africa and abroad. He lives and works in his home town. His wife, Natasha, is a teacher and they have three girls and one boy.

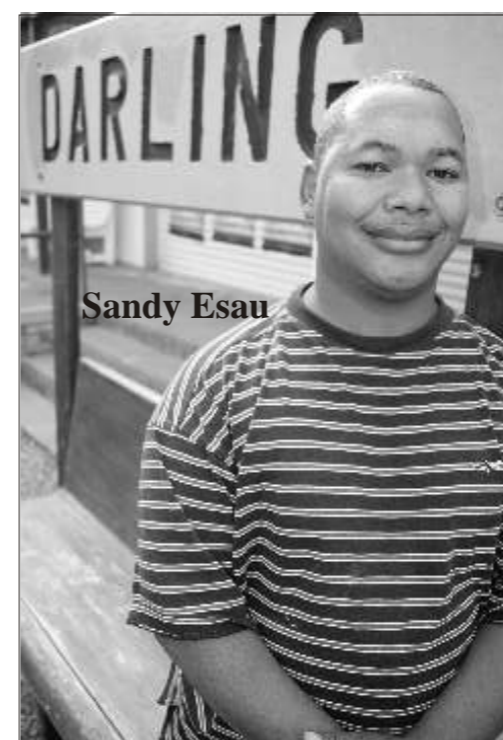
Sandy can be contacted on 076 918 5526

The Station Gallery
The Station Gallery is the original station building & is also a theatre/cinema. It displays the life journey of Evita Bezuidenhout in picture, cartoons and magazine covers.

Outside on the old station verandah is the Gravy Train Saloon which serves light meals and beverage as one would enjoy on any trans-Karoo train.



Evita and Nina van der Westhuizen



Sandy Esau



Sandy Esau