

Librarians tackle teen pregnancy

THEMBA KHUMALO

ETHEKWINI librarians, fed up with seeing scores of young girls falling pregnant and their boyfriends abandoning them, have held an education day.

Teenagers from schools in and around Tongaat attended the recent event, organised by the Hambanathi library, and held at the township's resource centre.

They were treated to an educational drama and songs.

Senior Hambanathi librarian Scoovy Manala said: "I have seen many ignorant, immature and irresponsible young girls falling pregnant."

"We also witness the emotional pain, anger and frustrations from the young mothers, siblings and grannies," she said.

Manala, who describes herself as a mother, a community developer, and an information provider, said an increase in teen pregnancy had prompted the initiative.

"We want to try to reduce, and with luck, eliminate the

high rate of pregnancy in schools.

"You see girls coming to the library young and happy, full of life and respect for elders and suddenly they change to arrogant people with no respect. Within no time they are shy, lonely, sad and pregnant."

Boyfriends

"Their boyfriends usually leave them immediately after the girls fall pregnant."

"It is important to let them know that they should look after themselves and protect their future by not falling pregnant," said Manala.

She stressed that boys should also be taught to be responsible. When the librarians were preparing for the event, they asked boys to contribute. But they refused, saying the girls willing had sex, and so "should suffer the consequences".

Five schools took part in the day, namely Mbonisweni C P School, Nkosibomvu High, Hambanathi H P, Tongaat High, and Fairbreeze High.



ATTENTIVE: Waterloo Secondary School Teacher Dudu Makhanye, Dr Taki Dube of the eThekweni Community Centre, and Parks and Recreation Head Thembinkosi Ngcobo watch an educational drama

Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

Mbonisweni staged a drama which dealt with issues that affect young people, such as HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, and nutrition.

Pupils from the school regularly perform for communities to create awareness of drugs, crime and other social ills.

Nonhlanhla Langa, 15, a Grade 9 pupil at Nkosibomvu High, praised the initiative.

"This will go a long way. It reminds us to put ourselves first and think of our future before we enter into sexual activities. Girls should abstain from such activities until they are mature enough and boys should be taught not to ask for sex," said Langa.

The city's Head of Parks and Recreation, Thembinkosi Ngcobo, who spoke at the event, urged pupils to take

advantage of the opportunities available to them.

Ngcobo said pupils should use the information given to them to get ahead in life. "You cannot turn around and blame your parents for the mistakes you make, it is up to you to make the right decisions about your life," he said.

Manala said they planned to hold the event every year.

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Get fresh produce today

DERRICK DLAMINI

HAVE you been struggling to access markets, sell produce and foster partnerships as a farmer? Well, help is at hand.

The Agribusiness Forum will be hosting a market day today (9 March) to help emerging farmers get better access to markets.

Emerging farmers will show their produce and sell fresh goods to the public.

Project Manager Akhona Ngcobo said: "Poor access to markets was a major obstacle in reducing poverty in rural areas, where inadequate infrastructure, high transport costs, limited market information, and the use of subsidies by wealthy nations make it hard for farmers to compete in local, national and international markets."

"This market day serves to address some of these issues."

Catering companies and tuck shop owners and managers have been invited to the market day. This will give farmers an opportunity to strike deals to supply produce.

The public are encouraged to attend and lend their support by purchasing some of the fresh produce.

For more information, call Akhona Ngcobo on 031 336 2545 or e-mail akhona.ngcobo@dipa.co.za.

DlaminiSD@durban.gov.za

DURBAN DIARY:

Your guide to entertainment in the city

MUSIC

Michael Bolton – Live in Concert

Westridge Tennis Stadium
11 March
Tickets: From R180 to R320.
Available at Computicket.
Call: 083 915 8000

Live Jazz

Centre for Jazz
UKZN Durban Campus
Every Wednesday
Call: 031 261 8507

Tree63

Northwood Crusaders Club
9 March
Call: 031 564 9074

Jazz Club

Ernie Smith and Madala
Kunene
iZulu Theatre, Sibaya
9 March
Call: 031 580 5555

KZN Philharmonic Orchestra

World Symphony Series
Summer Season Concerts
City Hall
15, 22, 29 March
Call: 031 369 9453

Freshly Ground

Botanic Gardens
1 April
Tickets: R100; children under 12: R50
Call: 031 309 1170

DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

Rock Me Amadeus
Barnyard Theatre
Until 10 March



ALL SHOOK UP: Shaky Russell does Elvis in *Walking in Memphis*

Call: 031 566 3045

Hoot

Starring Matthew Ribnick
Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre
Until 18 March
Call: 031 260 2296

Jamaican Jam

Catalina Theatre
Until 11 March
Tickets: R65; students and pensioners: R50
Call: 031 305 6889

Brain Finch and friends

Catalina Theatre
27 March – 1 April
Tickets: R65; students and pensioners: R50
Call: 031 305 6889

Mark Banks in 'It's the Banks Fault'
Heritage Theatre

Until 15 April
Call: 031 765 4197

One for the Road

The Playhouse Loft
9 – 11 March
Call: 031 369 9555

Songs Lost in Translation

Catalina Theatre
13 – 25 March
Call: 031 305 6889

Walking in Memphis

Barnyard Theatre
13 March – 1 April
Call: 031 566 3045

VISUAL ART

Art Exhibitions

Village Green, Umhlanga
Every Sunday
Call: 031 337 0208

Jurgen Schadeberg

A Retrospective
Durban Art Gallery
Until 24 March
Call: 031 311 2265

Solo Exhibition

By Anton Benzon
Crouse Art Gallery
Call: 031 312 2315

Vicki Ross

KZNSA Gallery
Until 25 March
Call: 031 202 3686

Irvin Nkwayana

Oil Paintings
Art Centre
From 7 March
Call: 031 309 7915

Memory & Magic

Contemporary San Artists
Working in Smitsdrift
Workshops
Durban Art Gallery
14 March – 13 May
Call: 031 311 2265

Michelle Silk Paintings

artSPACE
Until 10 March



COLOURFUL: Resonance by Michelle Silk

Call: 031 312 0793

Retrospective of Jim Hall

Durban Art Gallery
20 March – 29 April
Call: 031 311 2265

Absa Látelier Competition

KZN Region
artSPACE
12 – 29 March
Call: 031 312 0793

OTHERS

Durban Motor Show

Durban Exhibition Centre
Until 21 – 25 March
Call: 011 661 4003

10th Time of the Writer

International writers festival
19 – 24 March
Centre for Creative Arts
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Tickets: R25 for evening sessions; R10 for students
Call: 031 260 2506

Inchanga Choo-Choo

Steam train experience
Departs from Kloof
March 4 and 25
April 1, 8, 9 and 29
Tickets: R80 for adults and R50 for children
Call: 031 303 3003

ON THE BIG SCREEN

The Last Kiss is a Hollywood remake of the 2001 Italian film *L'ultimo Baccio*. It stars Zach Braff as Michael, a 29-year-old living the American dream. He has the perfect job, devoted friends and a loving girlfriend, Jenna



TOUCHING: Zach Braff and Jacinda Barrett star in *The Last Kiss*

(Jacinda Barrett). One would expect Michael to be happy with his life, but this is not the case. He is barely coping with the transition from his 20s to his 30s. Then he learns that his girlfriend is pregnant. Michael's buddies, Chris (Casey Affleck) and Izzy (Michael Weston), are of no help to him as they seem to be struggling with life even more than him. *The Last Kiss* poses questions about the nature of happiness, and how you know you are with the right person. You will be able to relate to this story in some way or other.

Compiled by Premilla Hariganesh. To have your show or event included in the *Durban Diary*, e-mail hariganeshp@durban.gov.za or fax 306 4603.