

A real hot topic for museum talk

FINOLA QUARSINGH

THIS year marks the 120th anniversary of Durban's Natural Science Museum – and to commemorate the event a series of seminars will be held.

The first seminar was held by the museum's Research Centre and focussed on climate change.

Museum Director Guy Redman said global warming and climate change were two of the most pertinent issues at present, both for the city and internationally.

"Climate change provides a link between 120 years of history at the museum and our present and the future.

We need to debate the questions: What was the climate then? What is it now? And what will it be like in 120 years time?" he said.

Seminar

The opening seminar featured presentations by Dr Debra Roberts, Head of the municipality's Environmental Management Department and a force in imposing environmental management legislation and predicting the city's climatic future, and Dr Peter Goodman, co-ordinator of Biodiversity Research at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Goodman's talk, titled "Biodiversity Conservation Plan-

ning in a Changing Environment", highlighted the role of conservation planning and implementation in KwaZulu-Natal.

The seminars, aimed at creating awareness of the important contributions that research collections, such as those housed at the Research Centre make towards science in the monitoring of environmental change, are set to continue in June, September and November.

The seminars are free to the public.

To attend, or for more information, call Allison Ruiters on 031 311 2248 or 031 305 4165.

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CHANCEY COMEDY

EXPECT humour aplenty in *Ta Ta Ma Chance*, now on at Sibaya's iZulu Theatre. The play, which has been described as an honest and amusing take on South Africa today, was written and directed by Kevin Pillay. The main backdrop is Jug's Pub 'n Grub where three friends get together for one drink, then another and then another. The increasingly spirited friends discuss some of the burning issues of the day, bringing plenty of (drunken) hindsight, not to mention cracking humour, to the table. For ticket bookings, call 031 580 5555



WORDSMITHS: Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo (fourth from left) joins writers Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Kenya), Fred Khumalo, Mary Watson, Zukiswa Wanner, and Lebo Mashile at a function to mark the launch the Time of the Writer festival

Picture: KEN MCHUNU

Festival packs a punch

ZAMASWAZI NDLOVU

THE 10th annual Time of the Writer festival in Durban draws to a close tomorrow after a week-long programme which has included talks and debate from some of South Africa and the continent's literary heavyweights.

The international festival, hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Creative Arts, featured 18

writers from 10 countries.

With its extensive programme of activities and a culturally diverse line-up of writers, it offered a valuable insight into the motivations and processes that inform the complex art of writing.

A special Human Rights Day slot was included in the programme. It was set to feature a reading of work by assassinated Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

Also on the bill was a rare interview with one of the first black women to publish an English novel, Miriam Tlali; and a presentation by African literary giant Ngugi wa Thiong'o, who was due to speak on the role of writers in spreading and strengthening human rights. Book launches and readings took place nightly at the university's Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre.

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DURBAN DIARY:

Your guide to entertainment in the city

MUSIC

Guy Buttery

The Ballito Cinema
24 March
Call: 032 946 2951

Arno Carstens

The Barnyard Theatre
18 and 19 April
Call: 031 561 4151

Live Jazz

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

KZN Philharmonic Orchestra

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

Freshly Ground

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

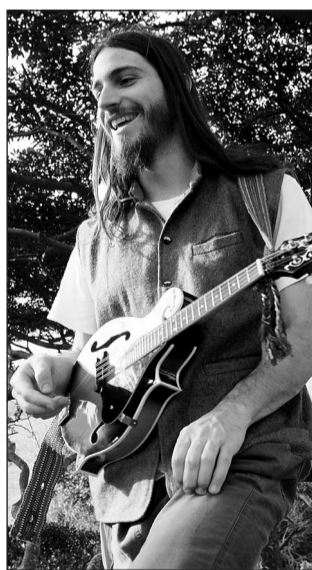
Country & Western Extravaganza

Hillcrest's Le Domaine
Amphitheatre
22 April
Call: 031 208 6110

DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

Brain Finch and friends

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



GUY BUTTERY: The guitarist will be on stage in Ballito tomorrow

Mark Banks in 'It's the Banks Fault'
Heritage Theatre
Until 15 April
Call: 031 765 4197

Songs Lost in Translation
Catalina Theatre
Until 25 March
Call: 031 305 6889

Walking in Memphis
Barnyard Theatre
Until 1 April
Call: 031 566 3045

VISUAL ART

Art Amongst the Roses



ARNO CARSTENS: The singer performs at the Barnyard next month

Off the Wall Gallery, Heritage Market
Every Sunday
Call: 031 765 7606

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

Solo Exhibition

By Grace Kotze
artSPACE Durban
Until 31 March
Call: 031 312 0793

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
Until 13 May
Call: 031 311 2265

Retrospective of Jim Hall

Durban Art Gallery
Until 29 April
Call: 031 311 2265

Absa Látelier Competition

KZN Region
artSPACE
Until 29 March
Call: 031 312 0793

OTHERS

Artists and Poets Unite for Humanity
Point Yacht Club
27 March
Call: 031 266 4762

Durban Motor Show
Durban Exhibition Centre
Until 25 March



CRIME CAPER: Peter Berg as 'Pistol' Pete Deeks, Ben Affleck as Jack Dupree, and Jason Bateman as Rupert Rip Reed in a scene from *Smoking Aces*

Call: 011 661 4003
10th Time of the Writer
International writers festival
Until 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
April 1, 8, 9 and 29
Tickets: R80 for adults and R50 for children
Call: 031 303 3003

ON THE BIG SCREEN

Smoking Aces
Smoking Aces stars Ben Affleck, Andy Garcia, Ray Liotta, Jeremy Piven, Ryan Reynolds, Peter Berg, Martin

Henderson, Taraji Henson and, in her motion picture debut, Alicia Keys. Buddy Ace has agreed to turn state witness to take down mob boss Primo Sparazza. The FBI places Ace into protective custody-under the supervision of two agents (Reynolds and Liotta). Primo has taken out a hit on Ace and word of the price on Ace's head spreads to the community of ex-cons and cons-to-be, it entices bounty hunters, thugs-for-hire, smoking hot vixens and double-crossing mobsters to join in the hunt.

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.