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**INFORMATION BROCHURE 20th February 2012**

FEBRUARY 2012

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# NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2012

## PROGRAMME RELEASE

Following our email of 16th January when we advised of the mid-April release of the Festival Programme, we can confirm that this is still “on track” and we will definitely be first in line to collect them. This will allow you 7—10 days to highlight the performances you want to see and allow all to meet and discuss our mutual preferences and again put us in the front of the queue when Computicket opens bookings during the first week of May.

For the un-initiated, performances are set out in 3 specific areas: (1) Main Programme (2) Arena & Student Theatre Festival (3) Fringe Programme. There are also specific “free offerings” which take place throughout the festival at specific times. Many of these are at the Monument Hub Auditorium, which is where the booking office is also located. This is the site of the 1820 Settlers Monument.

We would like to schedule a **group meeting** to take place on Saturday **21st April** with a tentative time of **2pm**, and the venue still to be confirmed. If our proposed date is a problem for you, please let us know and we can re-schedule.

## CONFIRMED DATES

**Thursday June 28th:** Depart Cape Town by road, destination Knysna (Overnight).

**Friday June 29th:** Knysna to Grahamstown.

**Saturday June 30th—Tuesday 3rd July:** Enjoy your time at the Festival and surrounds.

**Wednesday 4th July:** Depart Grahamstown by road to Plettenberg Bay (Overnight).

**Thursday 5th July:** Plettenberg Bay to Cape Town.

## ITINERARY

A comprehensive itinerary detailing daily activities and performances being attended will be issued during June, prior to our departure.

## BALANCE OF PAYMENT

**We are giving you 2 months notice that the balance of the tour price becomes due for payment on 26th April and are attaching our invoice accordingly.**

## PAYMENT OF PERFORMANCE TICKETS

Once our April meeting has been concluded and we have a list of performances to be booked, we will handle the bookings on line and pay any amounts due. Separate invoices will then be issued to each traveler for these amounts.

This information brochure is intended to keep you updated as we move towards our departure date of 28th June. If you have any questions or concerns please communicate with us immediately.

*Brian & Carol Coombes*

Experience a hassle-free Festival by keeping a few basic guidelines in mind when planning your programme. Here is a short list of tips for first-time adventurers.



#### FESTIVAL FIRST-TIMERS

Should plan carefully. Book some shows ahead. Allow enough time to view exhibitions, take a tour, to shop at the craft fairs and to fit in any hit shows that are creating a buzz.



#### THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Contains all information on both Main and Fringe events and everything else you need to know to make sure your stay is a happy one. In case you have left your copy at home, you can buy another copy on arrival in Grahamstown, at any of the Information Centers.



#### FREE OFFERINGS

Sundowner Concerts (17:00 daily Monument Foyer); Art Exhibitions; Street Theatre; and craft gazing at the Village Green Fair and Church Square.



#### A VENUE MAP

Is in the Festival Programme, and loose copies are available at Information Centres, hotels and residences. Detailed maps of Grahamstown may be purchased at the Makana Tourism Office at 63 High Street.



#### A CARRY-ALL

is useful for carrying your programme, souvenirs, umbrella, sunscreen etc.



#### FOOD

Apart from the restaurants and food stalls on the streets, most venues offer a steady supply of sustenance at all hours. Alcoholic beverages are on sale at many venues.



#### CUE

The daily Festival Newspaper contains reviews and articles by leading arts writers, daily schedules, updates and programme changes. Find out what's hot and what's not in the Cue Clips section.



#### DRESS CODE

Informal but do anticipate unpredictable weather. Comfortable shoes are essential. Dress in layers and keep coats and scarves at hand as it may become bitterly cold.



#### PROGRAMME CHANGES

These will be prominently displayed at the Booking Offices, as well as Cue, and will keep you updated on changes and cancellations. Starting times are adhered to as strictly as possible but please allow at least 50 minutes between performances. We regret that no refunds on tickets can be made for late arrivals.



#### TICKETS

If still available, tickets may also be bought at performance venues 30 minutes prior to starting times.