August 2022

Cultural activities are part of the fabric of the school

The return to the stage of a full school production was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year so far. While we are, slowly but thankfully, getting to the point where we are running out of 'first time since the pandemic' experiences, this was certainly one to take grateful note of having been able to see again.

The annual production, 'Ghost Writer', was a wonderfully adapted one act play that kept students and parents alike entertained from start to finish.

With more to come in this newsletter regarding the production, I would just like to share my congratulations and thanks to all the cast, the sound and lighting team, Mrs Kemp and Ms Dietrich - a brilliant job very well done by them all!

Drama is just one of the many impressive strings in the cultural bow at Jeppe at the moment. It is clear too that each year this sphere of the school continues to go from strength to strength.

There is no doubt sometimes a complete misconception that cultural activities are not the domain of traditional boys schools persists. It is wonderful to see this 'fake news' continually shouted down by the passionate and outstanding work being done in cultural departments around the country.

Pipe Bands, Chess, Public Speaking and Debating, Marimba Band, Choir and Drama - these are just some of the cultural experiences which boys at Jeppe get to enjoy and which you can find woven into the fabric of many great schools, similar and different to ours.

As with the myth that sports involvement inevitably hinders academic achievement, so false, too, is the idea that the growth of activities such as these in our school do anything other than add to the success of our boys and our other spheres.

The Wildlife Society on a recent outing.

It is true that busy boys require help from educators in managing their time and workloads, but these are easier done than thought - due to the huge amount of planning which goes into proactively arranging schedules and the understanding of educators who value the whole child and know, too, that a happy, busy and fulfilled young man performs better in whatever it is they are doing.

Cultural activities are something which we believe every boy at Jeppe should look to experience during their time with us - there is variety and opportunity a plenty. How many passions are left undiscovered while we sit playing on a console in the afternoon, rather than, for example, joining the Wildlife Society on one of their epic adventures? How many laughs are to be experienced with fellow Jeppe brothers while gaining the brilliant life-skills which come from doing your First-Aid Level 1, or playing Chess in a Chess club which features five nationally-recognised young masters?

Budding chess masters

Cultural activities, like all activities at Jeppe, aim to give all our boys the chance to excel to amazing levels - with support and opportunities always given - but also to develop creative expression, develop another part of who they are and to grow.

– Mr Peter Murison, Senior Deputy Headmaster

Ghost writer had the audience thoroughly entertained

You could see how much fun the boys were having

From left: Lavuma Ramncwana, Jeb Molteno and Daniel Goncalo. **Picture: Riley Pitman.**

After an extremely busy but highly successful competitive drama season at the Arts and Culture Festival, GRADS, FEDA and the Shakespeare Monologue Festival the Performing Arts society turned its focus to our annual production.

The decision was made to put on an adaptation of "Ghost Writer" by NJ Warburton. Although this play is only a one-act play, the society felt that due to the three-week turn around time, it was best to deliver quality, not quantity.

The play is a comedy about writers Jeffrey and Ben who are just about to type the last word of their new play when a full range of characters come to life and start to enact parts the authors can no longer control.

A ghost writer lends a hand. As the play draws to a close, the writers find themselves totally embroiled in the action...

"Ms Dietrich and I are huge fans of physical comedy and theatre of the absurd, so we seized the opportunity to create a physical comedy this year," explained Mrs Kemp. "In order to deliver effective comedy we invested a lot of time on the comic timing and the physicality of each character.

"At one point the whole cast was able to perform the whole play and then 'rewind' their way through the play physically all the way from end to the beginning."

Ms Dietrich explained that, "the script had so much potential for exploration and we really enjoyed spicing it up with some South African flavour. Our boys are very good at performing comedy and you could see how much fun they were having, so it felt good to deliver something that would life the spirits of our audience too."

The cast and crew are the cream of the crop in the Performing Arts sphere at the school. They played vital roles in the highly acclaimed recent productions "Jump!" and "Monty Boomslang and the Holy Vaccine". The level of excellence that they brought to the rehearsal process and the run of the production was tangible.

"Mrs Kemp read us an inspiring piece about discipline being a constant choice that you develop over time and that really resonated with us because we have grown so much in discipline and I think that is what has lead us to achieving such high performance results." said Muxe Mathebula."

Lethu Zulu mentioned that, "the greatest thing about working on this production has been enjoying the humour created by the cast members and honing our skills to prevent us from corpsing on the performance night."

Jeb Molteno said that "he enjoyed the atmosphere that our ensemble created, I just had so much fun."

It was exciting for us to have the element of set-building and design this year, and we are so proud that we all got involved in the creation of the world of the play.

A parent, Mr Dean Pitman refurbished and built additional sets for us and the exciting part is that we will be able to use it for many years to come.

The Performing Arts captain and exceptional Visual Arts student, Jason Bailie, leant his keen eye for detail to the final touches in painting our set.

He said, "it feels so good to be able to contribute to the creation of the world of the play on multiple levels. Not just in the learning and delivering of lines but also in the building and painting of the set". Jason has been the epitome of a servant-hearted leader in the Performing Arts space.

What inspires us the most about our Performing Arts society is that they have truly evolved into an ensemble and there is a deep-rooted reverence amongst staff and the boys for the work that they are doing and for the reputation they are building as aspiring artists.

The cream of Jeppe's acting crop

Pictures: Riley Pitman

First football team retains the St David's Marist Challenge Cup

The football season got under way with the annual St David's Marist Challenge Cup tournament at which our 1st and under-15 teams participated.

Jeppe's first team won the title when the event was last held in 2019 and, as it didn't happen in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid-19 restrictions, we were, in effect the defending champions.

Jeppe faced the same opponents in the final - Norkem Park - that they did in 2019 and beat them 1-0 in a very close encounter.

The team did not cruise into the final. They drew 1-1 with Marist Linmeyer and lost 2-0 to St Benedict's on day one, which meant they had to beat Hilton by two clear goals to go through to the top half of the playoff stages.

They managed to do that, winning 3-1, which meant they met Grey College in the quarterfinals. They won 1-0 and followed that up with a 2-0 win over Michaelhouse in the semifinal.

The under-15s were runners up in their section. They topped their pool, beat St David's 1-0 in the quarterfinal and defeated St Stithians in a penalty shootout in the semi. They lost 1-0 to Grey College in the final.

1st team captain, Nkateko Maluleke, said the St David's win has set them up for the season. "We worked hard in the pre-season and we wanted to show our ciaches that we could do it. I'm glad that it came together in the tournament," he said. "I'm excited about the games to come in the weeks ahead."

St David's Champions. Back: Jaydon Lincoln, Callum Hay, Lwandile Tembi,Troy Gordon, Blessing Dube, Eric Melaphi, Morena Ramashala, Neo Chimanyi, Luke Hugo, Eyosias Gebremariam, Muhammed Walljee, Owaka Manaka. Front: Rhys Jackson, Keanu Goncalves, Nkateko Maluleke, Khumo Modise, Miguel de Abreu, Dihan Alberts-Flynn.

In other news .....

Mr Ashley Maritz has been appointed MIC of the Jeppe Choir

Ms Alicia Hinckemann is the new MIC of the Marimba Band

Jeppe's women celebrated

Pipe Band season ended on a high

Winter colours awarded

Sable win the interhouse athletics