

MARIS STELLA PROUDLY PRESENTS



An Evening of Absurdity

were there open school auditions?

DD: For school productions auditions are open to the whole school but I do study Drama.

NK: Mwelo and I don't do Drama but it's a passion of ours.

SAY: What are your thoughts on Drama as a subject?

DD: I find it very interesting. I wasn't originally set on it because I was very shy but I thought it was mainly going to be a practical subject but it wasn't. It's incredibly interesting and it has given me knowledge so I can watch a movie and realise where it comes from. Drama actually links a lot with History and so it gives you a great background.

NK: I agree with Dominique. Drama should actually be a compulsory subject because it teaches you so many basic confidence lessons and when you watch something you don't just watch it, you actually think about it.

SAY: And being on stage? How is that whole experience?

MN: It's exhilarating! I only came to Maris Stella in Grade 8 so I remember in Primary school feeling like the stage was daunting. Then I came here and they give you the base and tell you that you can basically do whatever you want with your role. Even in inter-house plays you have the freedom to express your role.

It's amazing, especially when you go on stage and you know what you're going

your costume and you think aah! But once you're in it, you're in it.

SAY: What would you say are some of the practical life skills you've gained from Drama?

MN: I've definitely learnt not to take myself too seriously. When other people think what I'm doing is silly I correct them that right now I'm not Mwelo, I'm this character. I concentrate on that and try my best to be the character and not worry about what other people think.

DD: Is definitely gives you a huge air of confidence. Coming into it I had none but you eventually learn how to portray yourself to other people and generally how to talk.

NK: For me it's exactly like Mwelo said because I've had crazy roles and all you have to think about is that at the end of the day it's about the audience and you're entertaining them. By doing that you get to entertain yourself at the same time and get to explore so many different personas from around the world. You can be someone else for a few nights.

SAY: How do you juggle the play, sports and academics?

NK: Sacrifice

DD: Yes there's definitely a lot of sacrifice but you have to prioritise and remember that you've willingly gone into this and have chosen to be a part of something you love.

just have to weigh up the options.

NK: You also have to talk to your teachers and coaches to work around your schedule. The teachers have been very helpful.

SAY: Do any of you have dreams of pursuing acting as a career?

NK: For sure!

MN: Definitely! This is ironic because don't study the subject but we're luck enough to get this opportunity twice a year.

NK: We have dreams. We're definite going to look back at this and be like "Mwelo, remember our first plays?"

[laughs]
MN: When we're holding our Oscars thanking our high school Drama teachers [laughs].

NK: We made a pact that if we don't study Drama then we need to make sure we are in every play.

SAY: Do you think the confidence gained from Drama can help in the business world?

DD: Definitely. Now I can approach someone I've never met and talk to them.

SAY: How important is it for youth there to understand Drama?

NK: It's important in that they must know that not everything is black and white and they mustn't feel restricted but rather broaden their horizons. It's important to realise that Drama actually gives you

Maris Stella proudly presents "An Evening of Absurdity", a performance of 3 comedies. All three plays offer comedy with a bizarre or unusual twist. Tom Stoppard's Hamlet in Fifteen Minutes summarizes and overdoes this classic Shakespeare to such an extent that it becomes hilarious, with actors playing many roles and even some rap thrown in! The Actor's Nightmare, by Christopher Durang, takes place inside the mind of Georgie, an accountant, who finds herself stuck onstage, having to perform a play she can't remember rehearsing or agreeing to! Finally, Ben Elton (of Black Adder fame) offers the biting, satirical comedy Gasping! which tells the story of three powerful hungry executives who find a way to start storing and selling "designer air". For a while things are looking up, until a global air-shortage occurs and drastic measures need to be taken.

SA Youth had a chance to talk with the lead actress of The Actor's Nightmare, Nandipa Khubone and the two leads of Gasping! Dominique Daruly and Mwelo Nzimande.

SAY: What is the message of your respective plays?

NK: Our play is basically about exploitation of consumers and normal everyday people by industries but at the end it shows how that can go terribly wrong.