

The class and race stratifications of our society are also reflected in our cultural activity, and the Festival is an attempt to contribute towards an understanding and formulation of a national people's culture which transcends the divisions imposed on us. As such, a broad cross section of people will be encouraged to participate. While the Festival will be broadly based, there will be an emphasis on the participation of those who have been the historical victims of class, race and sex oppression.

Aims of the Festival

- i) to give momentum to a long term process in which the conscious and concerted building of a people's culture occurs. The Festival provides a short-term focus in this process.
- ii) to further the struggle for political liberation by actively engaging in the struggle for cultural liberation i.e. facilitating the creation and expression of indigenous cultural forms, content and creative method.
- iii) to identify and then to facilitate the expression of grassroots cultural activity by making resources and space available for this purpose.
- iv) to provide forums where theoretical issues related to a progressive people's culture can be debated.
- v) to promote the teaching of cultural skills to those who historically have not had access to these.
- vi) to be a springboard for organising cultural workers.
- vii) to prioritise the creation and expression of grassroots cultural activity but also to encourage progressive cultural activity among professional and semi-professional cultural workers.
- viii) to foster relationships across ideological differences through cooperation and working together in the cultural sphere. Participation in the festival will be limited though to those who agree with the basic non-profit, anti-apartheid (including non-collaboration with apartheid structures), anti-military and anti-sexist principles of the Festival.
- ix) to allow organisations to make organisational gains through participating in the festival in ways that such gains can be made and which are in accordance with the aims stated above.

A brief history of the Festival

At the beginning of the year, the national conference of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) decided to host a cultural festival towards the end of this year primarily

as a means of making gains within their constituency. Since the Festival was planned to happen in Cape Town, A Festival committee was set up here in Cape Town to plan and work towards the Festival.

However, with the declaration of the state of emergency and the clampdown on organisations generally, it became clear that ECC would not be able to host such a festival. It was felt though that a cultural festival should be held anyway and that a group independent of ECC should organise it.

Against this background, it was primarily ECC activists who formed this independent group at first. The group decided to broaden itself and so representatives from a range of community organisations and cultural organisations were invited to a meeting on Monday 18 August to discuss the proposed festival.

Given the history of the initiative it was obvious that there were going to be different ideas and opinions about the nature, priorities and aims of such a festival. For some involved from the days of its early conception, the festival would prioritise the cultural forms and activities which would appeal to an ECC type of constituency. Others, especially those from community organisations, felt strongly that the festival should not be hamstrung by its history but rather that its conception, structures, priorities and aims should be reformulated to advance progressive, grass-roots culture in general.

After much discussion, the meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of a proposal that the festival would first and foremost advance progressive culture in all its forms in the Western Cape. Since the festival would involve organisational participation anyway, all participating organisations would be able to make organisational gains and would in fact be encouraged to do so.

An interim contact committee representing a cross section of interests and constituencies was elected. They were mandated to broaden the process even further by contacting and inviting more organisations - including trade unions, church groups, + UDF and CAL affiliates - to another meeting on 1 September to discuss the reformulation of the Festival.

At this meeting attended by more than 80 people the nature of the festival was discussed yet again and it was overwhelmingly accepted that the festival should go ahead though recognising the following:

4/...following:

- i) that though a wide range of organisations was present at the meeting, representatives there still could not claim to represent a "people's culture" nor could they claim to be the ultimate designers or promoters of "a people's culture". Care then should be taken to avoid including arrogant notions of staging "a people's cultural festival" in the naming of the festival. However, it was unanimously accepted that the festival would certainly contribute "towards a people's culture" and that this theme should be incorporated into the publicity related to the festival.
- ii) that the festival not be a one-off spectacle but rather that it be part of an ongoing process of building and organising in the sphere of progressive culture.
- iii) that the Festival in fact contribute towards the building and growth of organisations rather than deplete their resources.
- iv) that the festival, in terms of its scale and nature, be sensitive to national political issues eg continued repression and death in the townships.
- v) that while facilitating organisational gains, the festival should prioritise the advancement and expression of grassroots cultural activity.

The meeting also generally accepted the following:

- i) that seminars and workshops dealing with issues such as "what is progressive culture?", "culture and ideology" etc be held as soon as possible to provide participants with at least a basic theoretical framework for their activities.
- ii) that the sub-committees initiated when the festival was first conceived continue to exist but that their direction and activities change in accordance with the new priorities given to the festival and with the participation of individuals from a broad range of organisations.

These sub-committees include drama, literature, art and music. Besides these there are sub-committees co-ordinating specific events i.e. a cultural rally, a multi-media evening, a tributes evening (paying tribute to important cultural workers in our history), a choral evening, a fair where organisations will be invited to have stalls and a symposium dealing with theoretical issues related to progressive culture. Sub-committees dealing with specific, practical festival functions are the Publicity, Finance and Catering subcommittees.

- iii) that the festival process continue to be broadened out ie. that more organisations be encouraged to participate in the Festival.

Finally the meeting elected a ten member executive who would decide among themselves on portfolios such as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Organising Secretary (full-time employee), Publicity Officer, Venues Officer, Secretary etc, The executive was given power to co-opt whoever they felt necessary to assist with executive responsibilities and/or to represent significant constituencies at executive level.

The executive was given the mandate to oversee the co-ordination and smooth functioning of all Festival activities. They would be responsible to the General Forum consisting of reps from all participating organisations.

In conclusion, we would strongly encourage your organisation to attend the next General Forum which takes place on **Monday 29 September at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Youth Centre in Athlone.** (Directions: coming down 7th Avenue Belgravia from Klipfontein Road, take the first road to the left - Adventist Road. The Lutheran Youth Centre is at the end of that road).

If you wish to have more information about the Festival or if members of your organisation want to be part of existent subcommittees or if you wish to make further suggestions, then please contact any of the following people:

| | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Debora Patta | 6381452(w) | 4171708(h) |
| Chippy Olver | 473758(h) | |
| Mike van Graan | (474801) | |

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

ECC'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

Our participation in the Arts Festival 86 is envisaged at this stage as being one or two specifically ECC events, and an ECC presence over a spread of Art's Festival events.

BAXTER BLAST

ECC will be hosting a concert under the overall banner of the Arts Festival. We have planned this concert to take place in the Baxter Theatre in Rondebosch. This is a venue that we have already used very successfully. We will probably get different bands to play than at other Festival events. We want to use the appropriate white jol bands that will have a broader appeal to our constituency.

The concert will take place in the foyer of the Baxter complex, an exciting space with much potential. It would be exciting to use the venue as creatively as possible, and there is space for displays, interesting media, cabarets, roadshows and so on. ECC people from other centres are welcome (indeed urged!) to pull in and help when they get to Cape Town, and to plan some sort of input to the concert.

Possible dates for the event are Friday 12 December, Mon 15, or the 19 or 20 December.



TOWARDS A PEOPLES CULTURE | ARTS | FESTIVAL 86

ECC CABARET.

There is potential for an ECC Cabaret consisting of a number of items from the different centres. This would depend on the response from the other centres, as the quality of the acts should be high. We have booked a number of slots at clubs in Cape Town, where we can have an ECC presence, and perform the cabaret. The dates are still being confirmed, but will run over the duration of the Festival, where appropriate. Venues we are exploring are Club T-Zers, Rita's, the Carousel, and a new nightclub with much potential, the Indaba Project.

If particular items are being brought down to Cape Town as part of ECC's input into the Festival, we should use them as much as possible. Many of these activities can slot into the events already taking place in the Arts Festival.



ECC PRESENCE AT FESTIVAL EVENTS.

Listed below are some of the Festival Events, with possible ideas of how the different centres could contribute towards constructing an exciting ECC presence. We are hoping that the other centres will also be able to supply people-power as well as cultural commodities.

Multi-Media Event:

Fri 19 December- 2.30 pm to very late.

The Multi-Media event offers much potential. It is being held at CAP in Woodstock, and the space in and around the centre is being redesigned to accommodate the event. There is space for ECC plays, cabarets, roadshows, stalls, displays, games and anything creative.

Art Exhibitions:

There is an art exhibition called "About Time", as well as a Children's Art Exhibition. Ideas were to bring out a pamphlet with artists explaining the use of militaristic images in art, and a children's anti-war colouring in book.

Poster Exhibition:

ECC posters, and our "Posters for Peace" Exhibition.

Other Concerts:

Stalls, banners, roadshow.

Fair:

Sat 13 December. Stalls from different centres, displays, children's corner with games, roadshows and so on.

Drama:

Slots for ECC plays, cabarets and roadshows can be arranged. We should, however, let the Drama Group know well in advance.

Cultural Rally:

Stalls, ECC speaker, creative input.

Literature:

ECC Short Story publication. Photo comix. Comic book.



Any new and creative media would also serve to give an ECC presence during the Festival. A general pamphlet explaining our participation in the Festival, and our use of cultural forms in an attempt to build an anti-militaristic culture would be an interesting task.

We hope that we will hear from you soon, and that exciting inputs will emerge from the rest of the country. Please contact

Alistair: 47 7181

Tracy : 45 5873

Yours towards a just peace,
Cape Town ECC.

The campaign continues

ARTS' FESTIVAL '86 : PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DECEMBER

- Friday, 12th Movies 9pm Nynga Arts
 Gigs at Guguletu Civic
 Bo Kaap
 Woodstock
- Saturday, 13th All day FAIR at Gatesville
 Gig in evening
- Sunday, 14th 2.30 - 7.00pm, Worker play festival, St. Francis Langa
 8pm Tributes evening, St. Francis, Langa
 Jazz evening, Luxurama
- Monday, 15th Art symposium
 Drama symposium
 Isikumbuzo, 8pm St. Francis, Langa
 Gig and drama at kensington
- Tuesday, 16th Films, Little theatre
- Wednesday, 17th Music seminar at 7pm followed by serious jam at CAP
 Tributes evening at Samaj, Athlone followed by gig
 8pm Movies St Francis
 Little theatre
 Lunchtime movies in Guguletu
- Thursday, 18th Art seminar
 Drama seminar
 8pm Movies and drama at Samaj
 8pm Movies in gugs
 8pm Jolly large gig at Athlone civic
- Friday, 19th Literature symposium (all day)
 ECC concert, Baxter
- Saturday, 20th Literature symposium & writers forum
 4pm gig and play at St Francis
 from 2.30pm Multimedia event at CAP

ARTS
FESTIVAL
86.

Sunday, 21st

Writers forum

8 pm Festival of films

2 pm Gig at Strandfontein Pavilion

Monday 22nd

8 pm Cultural Rally

Other events not advertised on the above programme include a series of workshops examining issues around a people's culture, an art exhibition, a child art exhibition, a poster exhibition and various videos.



NB For ECC

- * Numbers of people comming to the Festival ??
- * Do you need accomodation ??

LET US KNOW
A.S.P.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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