

provided that they agree to the principles and aims of the forum. Representatives of organisations are present at the forum and facilitate communication between the forum and their organisation. The forum initiates areas of activity and these operate as sub-committees, drawing on the relevant expertise in the community and activating their specific area.

Subcommittees have been formed to work on the following areas:

1. Drama group: Artists working in the field of performance and dance have been drawn into a planning group. A festival of plays will be presented during the festival, drawing on material from all over South Africa. Productions from the Grahamstown Festival, the Market Theatre and the Action Workshop are being considered.
2. Literature Festival: A series of seminars, delivered by African writers, talks by well-known writers and academics, panel discussions and debates are being organised to take place during the festival. An international speaker will be invited to contribute to the sessions and other activities will include the publication and launch of a festival book of short stories.
3. Art Exhibition: The committee has been formed from local community-based art workshops and institutions such as Michaelis and the Association of Arts. A presentation of some 200 to 300 works on the themes of conflict and change in South Africa is planned for December.
4. Children's Arts and Crafts Exhibition Subcommittee: Media skills workshops and the involvement of children in the processes of art production are the aim of this subcommittee. Part of their aim is to bring children from different communities together to share their experiences and to put on exhibition the different expressions of their experience during the emergency.
5. Choral Evening Subcommittee: An interdenominational initiative has taken up the planning for an evening of choral presentations and talks by such well-known figures as Rev Alan Boesak and Bishop Desmond Tutu. The participation of choirs from township organisations will be a prominent feature of the evening.
6. Fair Subcommittee: Using the last ECC fair as a precedent, a larger event is now planned. A diversity of cultural forms will be presented and organisations and individuals will put up a wide variety of stalls.
7. Cultural Rally Subcommittee: Expanding on the traditional political rally, music, singing, drama and displays will make up a large part of this event.
8. Tributes Evening Subcommittee: See above.

9. Seminars and Symposium Subcommittees: A symposium on the role of culture as a medium of progressive communication is planned to coincide with the festival. Debate between organisations on this issue will be a central feature of the festival and prominent artists, writers, dancers and performers will be asked to contribute.
10. Multi-Media Evening Subcommittee: A variety of productions, including bands, plays, one-act plays, township singing, displays, films, videos etc will be located in the Old Breweries building - such events have proved to be most successful in Cape Town.
11. Concert Subcommittee: Bands from all over South Africa will be brought down to perform at a number of venues in the Cape. A large concert will form the central feature of such a programme, but other items include an African jazz evening and an evening of classical music.
12. Finance Committee: Will raise local and international finance.
13. Co-ordinating Committee: Each subcommittee elects a representative to the Co-ordinating Committee, which meets on a regular basis to oversee the general bureaucracy and co-ordination of the festival. This committee is not a decision-making body and is subject to the decisions of full forum which meets every two weeks.

ECC 1986 CULTURAL FESTIVAL : ROUND 1

And here it is folks! Round 1 of the '86 Festival discussion!

You will remember that at Conference we felt that we should have another Festival, that it should be a cultural festival, that it should be in Cape Town, that it should be in January 1987, and that Cape Town ECC should draw up an initial proposal for national discussion.

An ad-hoc group in Cape Town has had two discussions on the Festival and would like some feedback from all the ECC's on the following areas and suggestions:

OBJECTIVES

The broad objectives of the Festival are the same as ECC's objectives generally: to build awareness of growing militarisation and the role of the SADF amongst all our constituencies; to build support for ECC and its demands; to build non-racialism.

The building of an anti-war culture is a secondary, and not the *prima* primary objective of the Festival.

DATE

The Festival should be in mid-December 1986 rather than mid-January 1987. December seems a better time than January in terms of the 'holiday atmosphere' in the Cape, and the availability and energy level of ECC activists.

There was some concern about our not having enough activists to work on a Festival in the festive season. Are other regions able to guarantee that they will be able to send people to CT to help with preparations?

VENUE

UCT is a good venue for the heart and nerve-centre of the Festival. Activities should also take place in other venues, like the Sea Point Civic, the Space, the Baxter Theatre, Hartlyvale Stadium and the Athlone Civic, so that we can literally take our events to different constituencies.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance at the Festival should be graded. ECC members will register for the Festival as a whole, and accommodation and meals will be provided for them. Members of the public can either register for the whole period or can attend individual events.

We should avoid one of the problems of the last Festival, where ECC members were not fully integrated into the running of the programme. We should look for opportunities before and during the Festival to build the national unity of ECC. Some ideas: to allocate ECC members to talk forces which meet regularly before and during the Festival; to have a few ECC-only slots during the Festival, which are task, discussion or socially oriented; to have parts of an ECC national conference running before and/or during the festival.

CONTENTS

Generally, the Festival could include: poetry, theatre, art, photographs, classical music, progressive music, folk, jazz, ballet, opera etc, In other words, it should include a variety of different cultural forms, appropriate to ECC's different constituencies. A special effort should be made to integrate African culture into the

programme.

There is debate around the question of whether all the cultural events should have an anti-military theme, or whether a few can be 'contentless' as long as they promote ECC and its position through accompanying media and publicity. For example, can we have a classical concert performed by the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra where there is a lot of ECC hype but where the music is not itself anti-military. What do you think?

SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR EVENTS:

- *concert on opening night, with simultaneous play at the Baxter Theatre
- *an all-day fair with crafts and culture.
- *symposium on SA anti-military art, literature, theatre etc.
- *cultural skills workshops.
- *creative actions e.g. painting murals.
- *anti-war opera.
- *anti-war film festival, art and photo exhibition.
- *ECC fashion show? use of local nightclubs.
- *poetry readings* produce a book.
- *multi-media evenings at the Space Theatre.
- *focus on nuclear power/weapons.
- *Namibia focus day with lectures, films, displays.
- *mass political rally in the City Hall.
- *series of talks on SA military issues - internal and external role, militarised economy, USA etc.
- *a MASSIVE concert in Hartleyvale stadium to end off.
- *a series of lectures/talks on culture, culture and resistance drawing on big names and other people who have contributed to debates around these issues.

DURATION

Suggested duration of Festival is 10 days, starting Friday evening and closing following Sunday. This would allow events to be fairly widely spaced. A criticism of the last festival was that it was too condensed, not enough time to assimilate and relax. How do you think it should be? How intense/packed?

OVERSEAS SPEAKER

Do we want a speaker from overseas? If so, should he/she be 'religious', political or cultural type? What about a speaker from Africa like Julius Nyrere??

PROCESS AND STRUCTURES

Cape Town ECC should formally constitute a Festival Comm, and appoint co-ordinators. Each centre must actively participate in drawing up the programme, finding events for the programme, and including culture from their area in the festival. This is going to be a national festival. This report and future reports should be discussed in all regions. A national discussion could happen in July. Laurie can co-ordinate nationally.

Can you discuss this report and send comments and ideas to the CT office. Let us know if there are cultural events in your centre that could be brought down to CT.

5 June 1986

ECC National Cultural Festival - December 86

The following programme has been drawn up by the Cape Town Festival committee, subject to approval by ECC national.

1. Timing: We have agreed to a festival of 5 days duration, from Sat 13th to Wed 17th December. However a number of events, for instance the art exhibition, plays and other performances, will be running for two weeks at least. We suggest a pre-run and after-run to the festival to allow both the generation of a hype and public interest prior to the festival as well as follow up for the crowds who couldn't make it.
2. Programme: 1st two weeks of December: staggered openings of the plays and art exhibition, to run on through the festival.
 - Fri 12: * Press conference in the afternoon
 - * ECC 'in house' session in evening: welcome, integration, delegation, followed by social jorl.
 - Sat 13: * 10am to 4pm. ECC Fair with stalls from organisations, individuals and ECC centres, music and speakers, shows, displays, etc. Approximate circulation 10 000.
 - * 8pm till late. Multi Media event. An all night festival of bands, cabaret, singing, plays and other interesting performance. Suggested venue is Space theatre or Woodstock Breweries, with a number of rooms in which simultaneous events could be happening.
 - Sun 14: * Cultural skills workshops (eg screen printing) during the day
 - * ECC in-house session in afternoon
 - * Choral evening: a presentation of freedom and religious songs in the City Hall or St. Georges Cathedral.
 - Mon 15: * a.m. and p.m. a series of talks on SA Military and political issues
 - * Lunchtime: Namibia focus with lectures, films, displays.
 - * Evening: Massive concert with bands from around the country.
 - Tues 16: * Symposium on SA culture. During the day the content will be more educational with lectures and presentations by well known people, accomplished in their fields. The evening will be orientated to a grander and more entertaining style with tribute to people who have made great contributions, both culturally and politically. Integrated into the programme would be the climax of a schools essay and drawing competition.
 - * Lunchtime: Lecture/presentation on topical political issue.
 - Wed 17: * a.m. and p.m. a series of talks on SA military and political issues
 - * Lunchtime: Lecture/presentation on topical political issue
 - * Afternoon 'in-house' session for ECC
 - * Evening: Mass rally in City Hall with cultural emphasis, international speakers etc.

Note: These ideas are only the beginning - a lot more will be fitted in to the programme. Ideas we are pursuing and which will be integrated are:

- *symphony concert
- *ballet
- *street art and theatre
- *other 'creative actions'

A further note: THINK BIG. We are going for a major spectacle that will dominate the holiday season.

3. A National Festival

It hardly needs to be emphasized. This is an ECC national festival - we hope to grow as a national organisation out of it. We feel it is essential to have regular ECC in-house sessions during the festival. It is further

vital that centres contribute to/criticize this programme. We suggest that each centre appoints a committee or group of people to work on the festival (from now), and help collecting events etc. from your area. We hope to have this in process by the time the National Conference in July comes round - this will greatly facilitate our ability to work together.

4. Structures

The following portfolios will be created on the committee:

- * chair
- * National liason
- * Fair Coordinator
- * Multi media event coordinator
- * Choral evening coordinator
- * Symposium coordinator
- * Art exhibition coordinator
- * Plays exhibition coordinator

Closer to the festival the ECC subcommittees will release people to the festival so as to set up further areas i.e.

- * media
- * schools
- * churches
- * contact
- * culture
- * creative action
- * parents

5. Please discuss this as soon as possible - we will be in touch, and look forward to working together

Yours in struggle
Cape Town Festival Committee

Appendix 4

after the decision was taken that the cultural festival should go ahead, but no longer as an ECC festival, a series of organizations were approached by Cape Town ECC and invited to participate. With the festival gaining a new momentum + different emphasis, a decision was taken by participating organizations to go as "broad" as possible + to involve as many different organizations representing different constituencies as possible.

During the broadening out process, the exact nature of the festival remained unclear for a period with ECC activists still doing most of the festival work but with the overall direction of the festival moving away from an ECC-type constituency.

It was decided that the theme of the festival should be "Towards a People's Culture," with the emphasis being to organize + unite cultural workers in the promotion of a people's culture as well as being to provide democratic organizations with a platform. (Please see attached "Festival Document" outlining the aims of the festival).

The broadening out process resulted in the activities of the different subcommittees changing their focus as new people became involved. A positive consequence is that the festival is genuinely no longer an ECC festival. However, from our

point of view, a slightly negative consequence is that many of the activities are now Township based. However there are still a number of gains that ECC can make through participation in the Festival, both locally + nationally.

1) LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Cape Town ECC after having given birth to the new festival, was unable to assert its participation in the festival, from an organizational point of view, until ~~at~~ the festival gained its own autonomy. It has only been comparatively recently that ECC, Cape Town, has been able to reassert itself in the festival.

This is being done in the context of the "War is No Solution" campaign (See Separate Report). The campaign is seen as running into the festival, with the form being cultural during ~~that~~ the festival period and the content being as outlined in the Campaign report.

ECC Cape Town envisages two levels of involvement in the Festival:

i) The first would be to target relevant existing festival activities to determine in what way we can provide content. For example, booths, banners, pamphlets, road shows, etc.

ii) The second is to organise ECC cultural events that would fall under the banner of the Cultural Festival eg, concerts, etc.

Contact

Tracy 455 873
or Alastair 477181 (H)
698531 x 808 (W)

ii) PROGRAM

- Fri 12th Concert (Isiguletu, Sea Point Civic)
Sat 13th Fair followed by music, drama, poetry etc in the evening
Sun 14th DWA concert in Sea Point
Tributes evening in Posler
Mon 15th Concert (Haut Bay)
Isikhumbuzo (We remember) (Zonga)
Tues 16th Tributes evening in Posler
Wed 17th Cultural Rally.
Thurs 18th Concert (Athlone)
Fri 19th Multi Media event (CAP), Concert (Atlantis)
Sat 20th Music + Drama (Zonga)
Sun 21st Large concert

Other events running concurrently over the festival period:

- x symposium
- x writing workshops
- x Child Art Exhibit
- x Poster Art Exhibit
- x Art Exhibit
- x Film/video Festival
- x Drama

TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND CULTURAL WORKERS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Introduction

Our struggle enjoys a rich cultural tradition, and history has shown that cultural activity has been most intense during times of heightened resistance against apartheid. Cultural activities have served to express the frustrations, ideals and aspirations of all sections of our community - from women and youth groups, through to worker, student, community and religious groupings.

Recently however, culture has been somewhat neglected as an area of struggle. Much cultural activity has occurred on an ad-hoc basis eg whenever it has been felt that a song or a poem or a play would be necessary to "liven up" a political or community gathering. But there has been little conscious effort to advance "a people's culture" beyond this utilitarian approach. In many ways, this neglect of culture may reflect the bourgeois notion that "politics" and "culture" should remain separate spheres of activity.

The growth of progressive culture has been further inhibited by repressive conditions as well as by the dominant culture of the ruling class as transmitted through magazines, newspapers, television and American movies.

With the present state of emergency severely restricting "normal" political activity numerous organisations have begun to use "culture" as a means of gathering and recruiting people. Organisations have been reawakened to the importance of culture within our struggle and to the need to assert people's culture. Progressive cultural workers have begun to organise themselves to this end.

It is in this context that we write to inform you of a festival focussing on progressive culture from 12-22 December 1986 here in Cape Town. Festival activities, including activities before and after the Festival itself, will centre around the theme "towards a people's culture".

We the recently elected festival executive, write to you for two reasons:

- i) to gain the broad support of your organisation for the Festival and
- ii) to invite your organisation to actively participate in the Festival.

There is room for individual members of your organisation to develop and employ their cultural skills as well as for your organisation to make organisational gains from the Festival eg. contact with other organisations and recruitment through hosting specific activities such as plays and music concerts.

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

15.2.2

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.

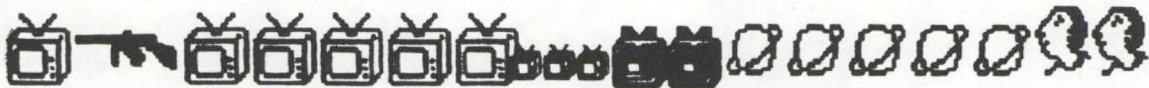


TOWARDS A PEOPLES CULTURE | ARTS | FESTIVAL 86

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:

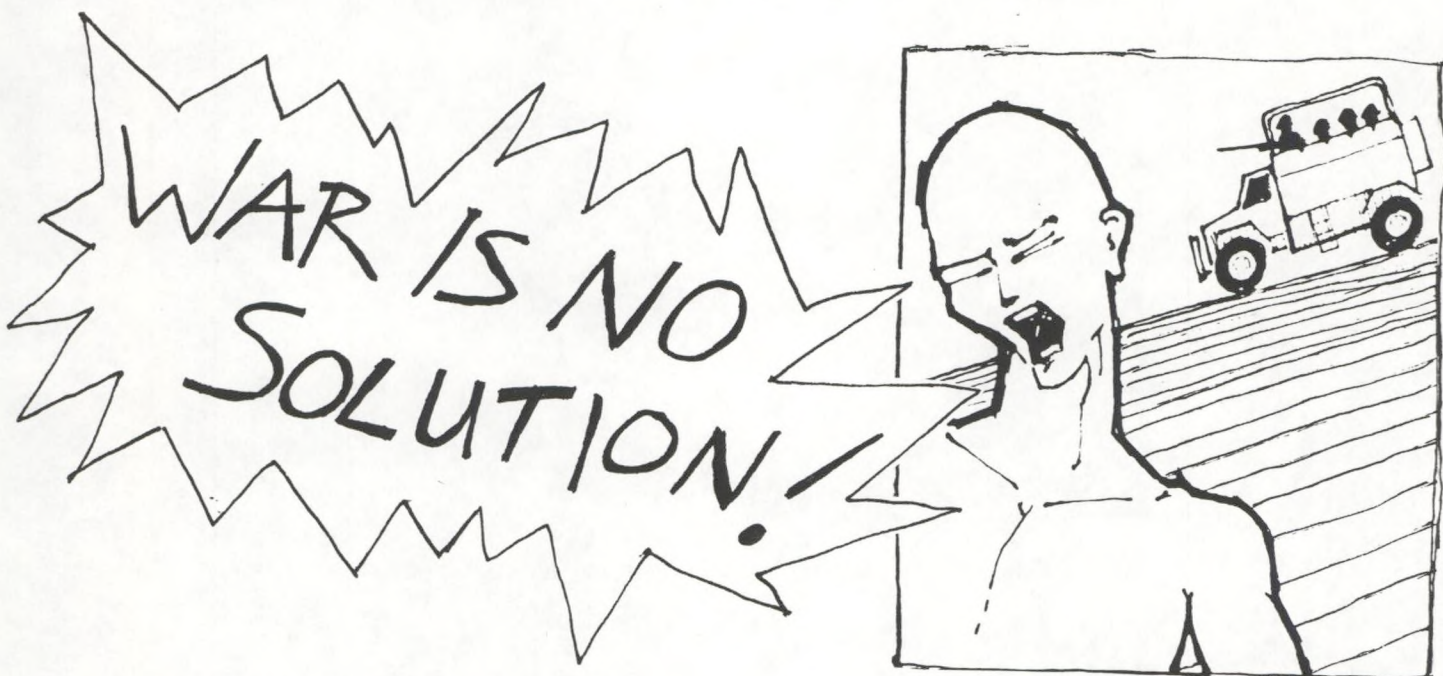
Slots for ECC plays, cabarets and roadshows can be arranged. We should, however, let the Drama Group know well in advance.

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.

ECC 1986 CULTURAL FESTIVAL : ROUND 1

And here it is folks! Round 1 of the '86 Festival discussion!

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The building of an anti-war culture is a secondary, and not the primary objective of the Festival.

DATE

The Festival should be in mid-December 1986 rather than mid-January 1987. December seems a better time than January in terms of the 'holiday atmosphere' in the Cape, and the availability and energy level of ECC activists.

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Generally, the Festival could include: poetry, theatre, art, photographs, classical music, progressive music, folk, jazz, ballet, opera etc, In other words, it should include a variety of different cultural forms, appropriate to ECC's different constituencies. A special effort should be made to integrate African culture into the

programme.

There is debate around the question of whether all the cultural events should have an anti-military theme, or whether a few can be 'contentless' as long as they promote ECC and its position through accompanying media and publicity. For example, can we have a classical concert performed by the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra where there is a lot of ECC hype but where the music is not itself anti-military. What do you think?

SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR EVENTS:

- *concert on opening night, with simultaneous play at the Baxter Theatre
- *an all-day fair with crafts and culture.
- *symposium on SA anti-military art, literature, theatre etc.
- *cultural skills workshops.
- *creative actions e.g. painting murals.
- *anti-war opera.
- *anti-war film festival, art and photo exhibition.
- *ECC fashion show? use of local nightclubs.
- *poetry readings* produce a book.
- *multi-media evenings at the Space Theatre.
- *focus on nuclear power/weapons.
- *Namibia focus day with lectures, films, displays.
- *mass political rally in the City Hall.
- *series of talks on SA military issues - internal and external role, militarised economy, USA etc.
- *a MASSIVE concert in Hartleyvale stadium to end off.
- *a series of lectures/talks on culture, culture and resistance drawing on big names and other people who have contributed to debates around these issues.

DURATION

Suggested duration of Festival is 10 days, starting Friday evening and closing following Sunday. This would allow events to be fairly widely spaced. A criticism of the last festival was that it was too condensed, not enough time to assimilate and relax. How do you think it should be? How intense/packed?

OVERSEAS SPEAKER

Do we want a speaker from overseas? If so, should he/she be 'religious', political or cultural type? What about a speaker from Africa like Julius Nyrere??

PROCESS AND STRUCTURES

Cape Town ECC should formally constitute a Festival Comm, and appoint co-ordinators. Each centre must actively participate in drawing up the programme, finding events for the programme, and including culture from their area in the festival. This is going to be a national festival. This report and future reports should be discussed in all regions. A national discussion could happen in July. Laurie can co-ordinate nationally.

Can you discuss this report and send comments and ideas to the CT office. Let us know if there are cultural events in your centre that could be brought down to CT.

5 June 1986

ECC National Cultural Festival - December 86

The following programme has been drawn up by the Cape Town Festival committee, subject to approval by ECC national.

1. Timing: We have agreed to a festival of 5 days duration, from Sat 13th to Wed 17th December. However a number of events, for instance the art exhibition, plays and other performances, will be running for two weeks at least. We suggest a pre-run and after-run to the festival to allow both the generation of a hype and public interest prior to the festival as well as follow up for the crowds who couldn't make it.

2. Programme: 1st two weeks of December: staggered openings of the plays and art exhibition, to run on through the festival.

Fri 12: * Press conference in the afternoon

* ECC 'in house' session in evening: welcome, integration, delegation, followed by social jorl.

Sat 13: * 10am to 4pm. ECC Fair with stalls from organistions, individuals and ECC centres, music and speakers, shows, displays, etc. Approximate circulation 10 000.

* 8pm till late. Multi Media event. An all night festival of bands, cabaret, singing, plays and other interesting performances. Suggested venue is Space theatre or Woodstock Breweries, with a number of rooms in which simultaneous events could be happening.

Sun 14: * Cultural skills workshops (eg screen printing) during the day

* ECC in-house session in afternoon

* Choral evening: a presentation of freedom and religious songs in the City Hall or St. Georges Cathedral.

Mon 15: * a.m. and p.m. a series of talks on SA Military and political issues

* Lunchtime: Namibia focus with lectures, films, displays.

* Evening: Massive concert with bands from around the country.

Tues 16: * Symposium on SA culture. During the day the content will be more educational with lectures and presentations by well known people, accomplished in their fields. The evening will be orientated to a grander and more entertaining style with tributes to people who have made great contributions, both culturally and politically. Integrated into the programme would be the climax of a schools essay and drawing competition.

* Lunchtime: Lecture/presentation on topical political issue.

Wed 17: * a.m. and p.m. a series of talks on SA military and political issues

* Lunchtime: Lecture/presentation on topical political issue

* Afternoon 'in-house' session for ECC

* Evening: Mass rally in City Hall with cultural emphasis, international speakers etc.

Note: These ideas are only the beginning - a lot more will be fitted in to the programme. Ideas we are pursuing and which will be integrated are:

*symphony concert

*ballet

*street art and theatre

*other 'creative actions'

A further note: THINK BIG. We are going for a major spectacle that will dominate the holiday season.

3. A National Festival

It hardly needs to be emphasized. This is an ECC national festival - we hope to grow as a national organisation out of it. We feel it is essential to have regular ECC in-house sessions during the festival. It is further

TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND CULTURAL WORKERS

Introduction

Our struggle enjoys a rich cultural tradition, and history has shown that cultural activity has been most intense during times of heightened resistance against apartheid. Cultural activities have served to express the frustrations, ideals and aspirations of all sections of our community - from women and youth groups, through to worker, student, community and religious groupings.

Recently however, culture has been somewhat neglected as an area of struggle. Much cultural activity has occurred on an ad-hoc basis eg whenever it has been felt that a song or a poem or a play would be necessary to "liven up" a political or community gathering. But there has been little conscious effort to advance "a people's culture" beyond this utilitarian approach. In many ways, this neglect of culture may reflect the bourgeois notion that "politics" and "culture" should remain separate spheres of activity.

The growth of progressive culture has been further inhibited by repressive conditions as well as by the dominant culture of the ruling class as transmitted through magazines, newspapers, television and American movies.

With the present state of emergency severely restricting "normal" political activity numerous organisations have begun to use "culture" as a means of gathering and recruiting people. Organisations have been reawakened to the importance of culture within our struggle and to the need to assert people's culture. Progressive cultural workers have begun to organise themselves to this end.

It is in this context that we write to inform you of a festival focussing on progressive culture from 12-22 December 1986 here in Cape Town. Festival activities, including activities before and after the Festival itself, will centre around the theme "towards a people's culture".

We the recently elected festival executive, write to you for two reasons:

- i) to gain the broad support of your organisation for the Festival and
- ii) to invite your organisation to actively participate in the Festival.

There is room for individual members of your organisation to develop and employ their cultural skills as well as for your organisation to make organisational gains from the Festival eg. contact with other organisations and recruitment through hosting specific activities such as plays and music concerts.

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 emergent 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 and discovery of cultural skills.
- 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 co-operation 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-militarist 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.
- x) to break down barriers between disciplines and to find new ways of working collectively in an inter-disciplinary manner.

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 at 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:

- 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 sub-committees.

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

Finally the meeting elected a ten person 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)	

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

after the decision was taken that the cultural festival should go ahead, but no longer as an ECC festival, a series of organizations were approached by Cape Town ECC and invited to participate. With the festival gaining a new momentum + different emphasis, a decision was taken by participating organizations to go as "broad" as possible + to involve as many different organizations representing different constituencies as possible.

During the broadening out process, the exact nature of the festival remained unclear for a period with ECC activists still doing most of the festival work but with the overall direction of the festival moving away from an ECC-type constituency.

It was decided that the theme of the festival should be "Towards a People's Culture," with the emphasis being to organize + unite cultural workers in the promotion of a people's culture as well as being to provide democratic organizations with a platform. (Please see attached "Festival Document" outlining the aims of the festival).

The broadening out process resulted in the activities of the different subcommittees changing their focus as new people became involved. A positive consequence is that the festival is genuinely no longer an ECC festival. However, from our

point of view, a slightly negative consequence is that many of the activities are now Township based. However there are still a number of gains that ECC can make through participation in the Festival, both locally + nationally.

1) LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Cape Town ECC after having given birth to the new festival, was unable to assert its participation in the festival, from an organizational point of view, until ~~at~~ the festival gained its own autonomy. It has only been comparatively recently that ECC, Cape Town, has been able to reassert itself in the festival.

This is being done in the context of the "War is No Solution" campaign (See Separate Report). The campaign is seen as running into the festival, with the form being cultural during ~~that~~ the festival period and the content being as outlined in the Campaign report.

ECC Cape Town envisages two levels of involvement in the Festival:

i) The first would be to target relevant existing festival activities to determine in what way we can provide content. For example, booths, banners, pamphlets, road shows, etc.

ii) The second is to organise ECC cultural events that would fall under the banner of the Cultural Festival eg, concerts, etc.

Due to the lengthy process of drawing other organizations into the festival, as well as the particular conditions facing democratic organizations around the country, it was decided that the Festival would be a Western Cape initiative. However, cultural workers have been invited from other centres to participate even though the festival is not envisaged as having a national character.

These implications should by no means effect the national character of ECC's participation in the festival. There are a number of different areas + ways in which ECC's from other centres can participate in the festival:

- ① ECC roadshows, cabarets, plays, songs, etc can all be included in both the ECC activities in the festival + the broad festival activities
- ② ECC's members in other centres could facilitate contact with bands + cultural workers who may be invited
- ③ ECC's can organize particular cultural activities which can be brought to Cape Town.
- ④ ECC members can participate in festival activities by coming down to the festival (Question for discussion: SHOULD we have a National ECC presence at the festival?)

Once different centres have decided upon the way in which they would like to participate you can

Contact

Tracy 455873
or Alastair 477181 (H)
698531 x 808 (W)

ii) PROGRAM

- Fri 12th Concert (Muguletta, Sea Point Civic)
Sat 13th Fair followed by music, drama, poetry etc in the evening
Sun 14th DWA concert in Sea Point
Tributes evening in Postler
Mon 15th Concert (Hout Bay)
Isikhumbuzo (We remember) (Zonga)
Tues 16th Tributes evening in Postler
Wed 17th Cultural Rally.
Thurs 18th Concert (Athlone)
Fri 19th Multi Media event (CAP), Concert (Atlantis)
Sat 20th Music + Drama (Zonga)
Sun 21st Large concert

Other events running concurrently over the festival period:

- x symposium
- x writing workshops
- x Child Art Exhibit
- x Poster Art Exhibit
- x Art Exhibit
- x Film/video Festival
- x Drama

TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND CULTURAL WORKERS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

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