



CAP instructor Lionel Davies with some of the posters produced at Cap.

This is art for the people's sake

IN AN insignificant church building down Chapel Street in Cape Town's Woodstock area, one of the country's most innovative art programmes is hard at work — teaching trade unions, youth and community organisations to produce their own publicity posters.

It is here that the poster blitz that has hit the country initially found its roots with the formation of the Community Arts Project (Cap), which has transformed ideas and speeches into strong visual images since its formation in 1977.

And today, if you walk through any township or city, you can't fail to notice the impact left by the posters.

Founded to help people develop an interest in the arts, Cap now teaches more than 600 people a week.

After the initial training period, students are expected to produce their own posters — and teach other members of their organisations how to do their own.

In this way, organisations have become less dependent on the mass media to get their messages across.

Cap director Derek Joubert is confident that their programmes will expand.

"Already, training is being conducted at community centres in places like Langa and Gugulethu and we hope we will be able to reach a wider audience."

Apart from poster design, Cap offers classes in theatre, painting, pottery, sculpture, photography and dance. According to Joubert, they would like to start full-time courses soon.

"Last year we had a full-time course for amateur theatre, and a group of people are presently undergoing a two-year training programme. Hopefully we can do the same with the other categories."

categories.

Vibrant dance delights

GRAHAMSTOWN — A vibrant and varied dance programme by the Dancemakers Company of the Community Arts Project is one of the highlights of the Fringe events at the National Festival of the Arts.

The contemporary dance programme, called Exhibition, makes use of a wealth of varied talent.

Choreography is by Sonje Mayo, Alfred Hinkel — who also performs — Marlene Blom, Gillian Mitchell and Sharon Friedman. Performers from other disciplines also feature in Exhibition.

Mark Hoeben from the Capab Drama Department, and talented musician Debbi Lan, have devised a piece with Sharon Friedman.

Exhibition follows the trend towards shorter dance programmes. The choreography is varied in style ranging from the pure dance quality of Gillian Mitchell's Energy Mode and Alfred Hinkel's Raymi, to the electronic fantasy of Debbi Lan's and Sharon Friedman's Software Fallout.

The Community Arts project is a people's community organisation which provides tuition and facilities for a broad spectrum of cultural activities.