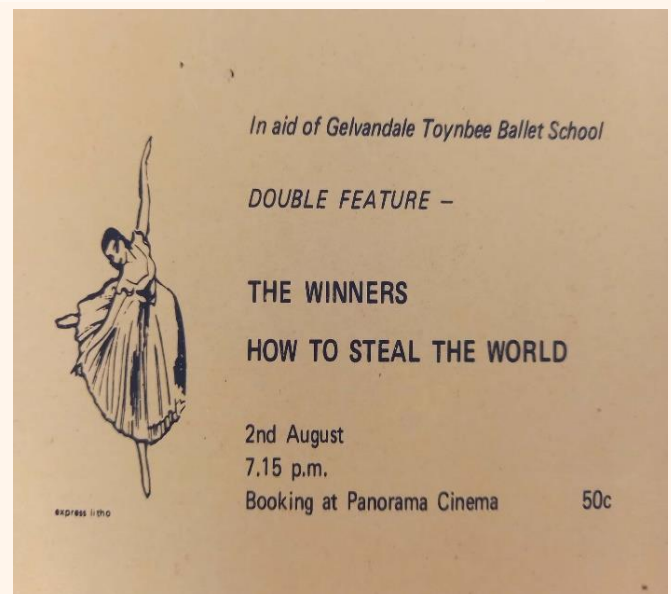


The Debutante Ball in Port Elizabeth Organized by Fonda Dubb, Chairman of the Toynbee Ballet School 1970.



During the 70's I volunteered teaching ballet to Coloureds at the Gelvandale Ballet School in Port Elizabeth. The policy of Apartheid failed to provide cultural services to all citizens equally which meant that the Gelvandale initiative had to be mostly supported by the community itself, the Welfare Department and by volunteers.

In addition to actually teaching ballet and in order to advance the School's expansion and thus provide a venue for the local population to use and enjoy, as the Chairman, I undertook the task of fund-raising. This included organizing cake sales and Movie Premiers in the City of Port Elizabeth. The money raised was used for buying ballet shoes and costumes for the pupils. It was clear that the funds from these sources, were only a start..



City of Port Elizabeth Stad Port Elizabeth

Telephone 2-7951
P.O. Box 116

Mr. Wignall
DEALS WITH THIS MATTER
HANTEER HIERDIE SAAK
205/3/JAM/DNT.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
KANTOOR VAN DIE STADSKLERK

28th July, 1970.

Mrs. F. Dubb,
Toynbee Club,
9 Munro Street,
Millard Grange,
PORT ELIZABETH.

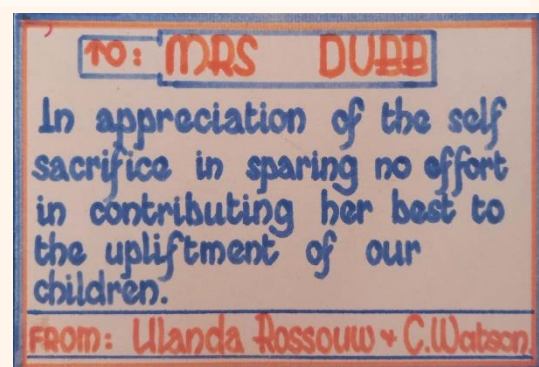
Dear Madam, Cake Sale.

I refer to your letter of the 24th July, 1970, and have to advise you that there is no objection to a cake sale being held in front of the O.K. Bazaars, Newton Park, on the 1st August, 1970, provided that no obstruction is caused to vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

This particular site is approved subject to it being not less than fifty yards away from any bakery or confectionery business, and to permission being obtained by you from the owner of the property concerned.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
TOWN CLERK



Dulcie Howes, the Inspector of our School, declared that the Coloured Affairs Department would consider a grant, but that first, we needed to fundraise ourselves, in order to show our commitment.

Being prompted by her, I decided to organize a Debutante Ball since I had some experience in doing the same for the Theodore Herzl School in Port Elizabeth where debutantes curtsied to Judge Adleson; so in the light of this experience, I undertook doing this for Coloureds in Gelvandale.

It was quite an undertaking!

We needed to start from scratch, arranging the venue, raising funds, sewing the outfits for the debutantes, organizing transport for the girls, their escorts and the workers. There was work to be done behind the scenes making sure that the event be up to standard as a memorable and prestigious affair. The debutantes rehearsed for several weeks and the excitement and enthusiasm was palpable. My late husband, Mark, put in countless hours of work, being the handyman, taxi-driver and my chief advisor.

Fortunately, my mother-in-law, Ada Dubb, married to Louis Dubb an ex-Mayor of Port Elizabeth, also stepped in!! She was a prominent figure in Port Elizabeth. By putting together a brochure advertising local businesses, the Jewish community business men as well as the community in general, donated generously.

Thanks to this initiative, vital additional funds were raised for the maintenance and advancement of the Gelvandale Toynbee Ballet School.



The Fundraisers and Helpers behind the Scenes



Lt- Rt: Fonda, Ada Dubb, Mark on extreme right with representatives from the Child Welfare who were part of the team.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are honoured and greatly appreciate the presence of His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Daan Ellis and the Mayoress, Mrs. Ellis.

Thanks go to:

Miss I. Laikie, the Mayor's Secretary, for her willing assistance.

Mr. Cleary, Director of Housing and Coloured Affairs, for his help.

Mrs. Louis Dubb, for assisting with the programme.

Stephanie & Wilson, for the presentation bouquet.

P.E. Leather Co. for leather goods.

Bumleys for printing tickets free of charge.

Uptons for loan of carpets.

Rose Bowl Florists for flowers.

Rothmans for cigarettes.

Miss Perrow for floral arrangements.

Mr. E. Olivier for acting as Master of Ceremonies.

Mrs. M. Dullisear for assisting the Debutantes.

J. J. Pharmacy for Perfume.

Mrs. J. W. Hartle for arranging the sale of tickets.

Mr. R. Dyne for handling the finances.

and all those whose names may have been inadvertently omitted but whose help has been greatly appreciated.

A sample of the Adverts in the Brochure to Fund Raise

With Compliments

from

**DUBERG PAINT & HARDWARE
LTD.**

432 Main Street

Agents for Plascon Paints

HUBIE DUBB ELECTRIC

24a DIESEL STREET

WISH YOU SUCCESS

With best wishes from

RUBIN'S
"The Man's Shop"

41 Main Street

CASH WHOLESALERS

497 Main Street

187 Main Street

GOOD WISHES

15

Weinronks Furnitures

For an outstanding selection
of good quality furniture
at extremely reasonable
prices on easy
terms . . .

you must visit

Weinronks Furniture House

421 Main Street

Phone 2-4093

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM

THE LADY WEARS....

Millana
SHOE CREATIONS

PARKIN STREET

PORT ELIZABETH

13

A big
"THANK YOU"
to all
Anonymous Donors



P. RUBIN & SONS LTD.
MEN'S OUTFITTERS

322 Main Street

Wish you Good Luck

Mr. and Mrs. AUBREY BRAUDE
1 Wembly Road Mill Park

Send their Best Wishes

for

a successful function

Councillor and Mrs.

ARCHIE MAROCK

Wish you a successful function.

Best of luck to the Gelvandale Ballet School.



16

Shatterprufe Safety Glass Co. Ltd.

Manufacturers of Safety Glass for all purposes

Neave Township, Port Elizabeth



With Compliments

and

Best Wishes

2

The Evening Post

wishes you good luck
in your undertaking

With Compliments from
the Manufacturers of

MENTONE

Mens Wear

5

WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS AND BEST WISHES

from

Mrs. Staphnie Mattheus
Previously of O.K. Bazaars

Ebrahim (Abe) Ismail
6 Beetlestone Road
Gelvan Park

George Williams
163 Bell Road
Gelvandale

Frederick Douman
72 Highfield Road
Schauderville

GOCHIN'S

HOME FURNISHERS (Pty.) Ltd.

386 MAIN STREET

PORT ELIZABETH

26

B.P. SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Pty.) Ltd.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

FORD HOUSE

187 MAIN STREET



Wish you success
Good Progress
A swinging Debs Ball

24

AHMEDS BUTCHERY

375 MAIN STREET

With Compliments and Good Wishes

NORTHERN FURNISHING
Ltd.

382 Main Street

With Compliments

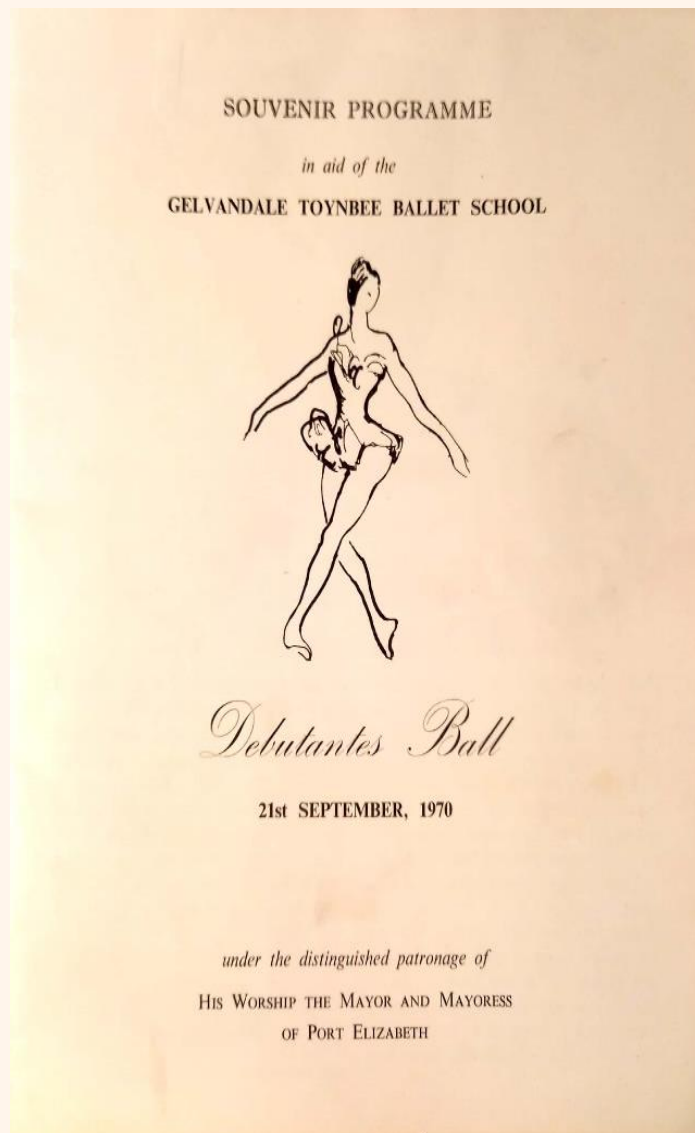
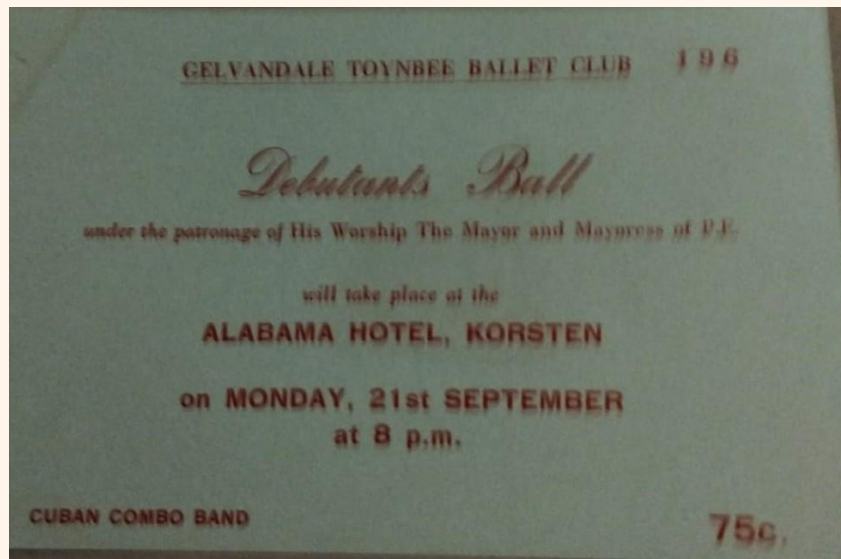


DESPATCH FURNISHERS
369 Main Street

"Our Furniture makes
a House a Home"

25

The Event - Venue and Programme



The Mayor Mr. Ellis was more than happy to receive the debutantes at The Ball held at the Gelvandale Hall in Port Elizabeth. The debutantes were well prepared and had been taught the customary decorum of how to walk and curtsey on such occasions! Indeed, they even learnt formal dancing with their escorts.



A debutante
curtseying before
the Mayor and
Mayoress

The evening was highly successful, the debutantes, their escorts and all those attending, enjoying the event immensely.

This was the first Debutante Ball held for the population other than White during the Apartheid era! I felt that justice had been done...

Dulcie Howes, Principal of the Cape Town University Ballet School was full of praise for our project, but thought there should have been photos of the students from the Ballet School in the brochure. I regret to this day that we had overlooked this!! However, we did receive the grant we so badly needed!! Dulcie Howe's dream had become a reality.

I do feel proud that together with my late mother-in-law Ada Dubb, my team of helpers and the beautiful debutantes, that we achieved our goal. As a result, many of our students who are now ballet teachers were able to attend the University of Cape Town Ballet School. Two of these graduates teach Ballet as a Matric subject in schools in Gelvandale in Port Elizabeth.

People have often asked me why it was so important to me to organize something on this large scale.


My answer is a simple one:

'I wanted to give the Ballet School which had so many talented pupils, the same equal opportunities that Whites in South Africa enjoyed.'

Narrated by Fonda Dubb, who lives in Eilat after making Aliyah in 1987 from Pietersburg, South Africa. Fonda lived in P.E from the mid 1960's till mid 1970's. She volunteered for several years at the Toynbee Gelvandale Ballet School, teaching children **Compiled by Gail Loon Lustig, Israel April, 2023**

Dulcie Howes, Principal of UCT Ballet School's message prior to the event.

Message from Dulcie Howes,
Principal, U.C.T. Ballet School . . .



"I send my most sincere good wishes for a very successful and enjoyable evening. I wish that I could be there in person to see the lovely debutantes and I would like to express my admiration for this splendid enterprise."

Yours sincerely,
DULCIE HOWES.

PROGRAMME

8.30 p.m. ARRIVAL OF HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
AND THE MAYORESS.

9.00 p.m. PRESENTATION OF DEBUTANTES.
MAYOR'S ADDRESS.

9.30 p.m. PRESENTATION OF BOUQUET TO THE
MAYORESS.
by Carleen de Kock

FIRST DANCE LED BY DEBUTANTES AND
THEIR ESCORTS.

DANCING AND REFRESHMENTS.

Debutantes	Escorts
SHARON NIEKERK	DAVID CHAMBELL
MILDRED NIEKERK	ANDRÉ RHODES
URSULA NADISON	CHRISTOPHER BEACON
ROSALINE LODEWYK	GEORGE THOMAS
JILLIAN GELDERBLOEM	MELVIN POTGIETER
DOROTHY GELDERBLOEM	ERROL DULLISEAR
CECILE COETZEE	EUGENE COETZEE
EMALDA HENDRICKS	CLARENCE RHODES
FAEEZA RADEMEYER	MORGAN FELIX
PEARL BARRY	SAMUEL KRIEL
CLAUDETTE ALLISON	HARLAND PETERSEN
GAMIEDA KEMP	WESLEY HEYNSSEN
NAZLI KEMP	RONALD HEYNSSEN
JENNIFER PERROW	ERIC PAULSEN
ERNESTINE MILLER	SYLVESTER MICHAELS

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Dulcie Howes, Principal of the U.C.T Ballet School, sends her wishes for a successful and enjoyable evening

The Programme for the Evening



Photographs of the Event



Fonda with the Debutantes, Mark her husband, her righthand man and Mr Cleary, Director of Coloured Affairs.



The Mayor, Mr Ellis and the Debutantes

The Debutantes and their Escorts



The Mayoress Mrs Ellis, receiving a bouquet of flowers from a ballet pupil of the Gelvandale School



Letters and wishes received after the Debutante Ball

MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
OF THE CITY OF PORT ELIZABETH,
COUNCILLOR D.C.F. ELLIS:

It gives me very great pleasure to compliment the organisers of the Debutante's Ball. The Ball is twofold in purpose and benefit. In the first instance, the debutantes themselves will be given valuable hints on feminine grace and charm, and the money raised by the Ball will go to the building up of a fund to finance promising young ballet dancers. Half of the proceeds will be given to the Toynbee Club as a token of appreciation for the use of their hall for ballet classes.

Mrs. Fonda Dubb is a dedicated teacher of ballet and the Coloured community of Port Elizabeth has good reason to be grateful to her. Not only does Mrs. Dubb teach but, with her helpers, explores means of obtaining money so badly needed for ballet shoes and costumes.

I know that the generous Port Elizabeth public will willingly support this most worthy cause.



D.C.F. Ellis,
MAYOR.

City Hall,
PORT ELIZABETH.
7th August, 1970.



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA—REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Telegramadres:
Telegraphic Address:
"KLEURTAK"

Geliewe in antwoord te meld:
In reply please quote:

7/41/17/1/D376

Navrae: Tel. 46021
Enquiries:

Mnr. Best
Mr.

KANTOOR VAN DIE STREEKVERTEENWOORDIGER,
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE,

ADMINISTRASIE VAN KLEURLINGSAKE,
ADMINISTRATION OF COLOURED AFFAIRS,

PRIVAATSAK 6022,
PRIVATE BAG

PORT ELIZABETH.

29-10-1971

Mrs. F. Dubb,
Gelvandale Toynbee Ballet School,
9 Munro Street,
Millard Grange,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Madam,

TOYNBEE CLUB BALLET SCHOOL.

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating you on the magnificent results achieved by your ballet pupils at their recent examinations.


Yours faithfully,


REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

A Sad Example of the Bureaucracy of the Times

G.P.S. G.C.188

Republiek van Suid-Afrika
DEPARTEMENT VAN GEMEENSKAPSBOU



Republic of South Africa
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PERMIT

(Uitgereik kragtens artikel 21 van die Wet op Groepsgebiede, 1966 (Wet No. 36 van 1966)).
(Issued in terms of section 21 of the Group Areas Act, 1966 (Act No. 36 of 1966)).

30254 Leer No. 32/1/1795/775
File No. 32/1/1825/118

1. Uitgereik aan
Issued to MRS. F. DUBB (WHITE)

2. Ten opsigte van die grond of perseel
In respect of the land or premises Marist Brothers High School and St. John's
Ambulance Halls.

3. (a) Doel waarvoor uitgereik
Purpose for which issued To allow six (6) members of the Coloured group to
participate in variety concerts to be held in the Marist Brothers
High School Hall on 17 th May, 1974 and in the St. John's
Ambulance Hall on 7 th June, 1974.

(b) Onderworpe aan die voorwaardes
Subject to the conditions (i) That only six (6) Coloureds attend;
(ii) That no social mixing with the audiences occurs;
(iii) That the Coloureds do not make use of any of the changeroom
or other facilities provided for Whites; and
(iv) That they leave the premises immediately after their
performances.

4. In die geval van 'n verkryging van onroerende goed of die okkupasie van grond of 'n perseel verval hierdie permit as die be-
In the case of the acquisition of immovable property or the occupation of land or premises this permit will lapse if the in-
trokke onroerende goed nie verkry of die grond of perseel nie ingevolge die permit geokkupeer word binne
movable property concerned is not acquired or the land or premises occupied in terms of this permit within
maande vanaf die datum hiervan nie.
maande vanaf die datum hiervan nie.

15 -05- 1974

THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Gemagtigde Uitreikingsbeampte
Authorized Issuing Officer.
/LS

THE END