

Students give their all to Evita!

By SUN REPORTER

TO CREATE challenging opportunities for students, the drama department at Durban University of Technology is staging the musical *Evita*.

Evita began as a rock opera in the mid-1970s.

The music is by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and the lyrics by Tim Rice.

The show has enjoyed long seasons on London's West End and on Broadway and was the first British musical to receive a Tony Award. Written for the stage, it also was a film featuring Madonna, Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce.

On Saturday the local production started its week-long run at the Durban Playhouse.

Durban University Professor

Debbie Lutge is directing first, second and third year students in the show.

Evita looks at the life of Eva Peron, who was fondly known as Evita.

She was an extravagant and bold Argentinean woman who married Argentine President Juan Peron.

The musical follows her life from being an impatient teenager, who, after many strategic love affairs, became one of the most watched global icons at the time of her death in 1952.

"Che" is the name of the production's commentator and narrator, taken from the name of Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara.

Students in the local musical are giving their best.

The role of Evita is shared between Nosifiso Msibi and Sweetness Ngobese.

Sweetness has already appeared in 12 university productions, while Nosifiso is an experienced second-year student with nine university productions under her belt.

Narrator Che is played by ex-Mzansi TV presenter Brian Khawula, who has returned to complete his studies.

The role of President Peron is played by gospel choir singer Kwenzokuhle Ngcobo and Magaldi is played by Sandile Magagu.

Costume design and co-ordination is by Nellie Ngcongco and Debbie Wester, set design by Derek O'Toole, choreography by Mdu Mtshali and music direction by Madlen Tzankova.



The musical is on at the Playhouse.