

Icon visits DUT

>> Pieter-Dirk Uys motivates DUT students

STUDENTS of the Department of Drama and Production Studies at Durban University of Technology (DUT) were pleasantly surprised last Thursday morning when iconic South African actor writer and entertainer, Pieter-Dirk Uys visited the department.

Uys, who delivered a talk at the Ritson Campus courtyard theatre, concentrated on issues that students deal with in the modern age and compared it to the difficult circumstances of Apartheid.

He encouraged students to find their niche and create their own platform, "because nobody will give you anything in life unless they want something in return".

"My success in life is only because I went back to my failures. Nothing happens overnight, but you have to keep working hard and re-inventing yourself in order to do well," said Uys.

"I mean my plays were all banned when I wrote them during apartheid, but I had to find other ways to do what I love."

Uys kept the students laughing while he explained the reality of the drama and

production profession being a lonely one.

"You know some people told me I couldn't be an actor and that I wasn't any good, so I said to myself, okay, I will become an actress," he said, referring to his alter persona, Evita Bezuidenhout.

With an interactive session, students were able to pose questions to Uys, which gave them the opportunity to learn from the prolific actor about humour, activism, philanthropy and production as a whole.

According to the head of department, Professor Debbie Lutge, having an individual of Uys' calibre, was a step in the right direction as it was aimed

at helping motivate students as well as give them a sense of belonging in a cut throat industry.

The students at DUT are currently working on a play titled Antigone, running till 26 March at the Courtyard Theatre, which made Uys' visit a fitting motivation.

For more information on the play Antigone, contact Professor Debbie Lutge on 031 373 2199.

