

DUT: GIVING YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS A VOICE

THE Durban University of Technology (DUT) will be hosting the New Playwright's Festival at the Courtyard Theatre on the Steve Biko campus in Durban, from today until Thursday between 6 pm and 8.30 pm.

There will be three or four play readings on each night of the festival, lasting around 15 minutes each.

Each reading will be followed by a 10-minute public question-and-answer session, with feedback for students during the last 30 minutes of the evening.

Organiser professor Deb

Lütge, said that after founding the New Director's Festival Phase I & II in 2001, and seeing the enormous strides which the event had undergone, she was delighted to present a platform for new works by young, unpublished playwrights.

"I hope to see this New Playwright's Festival grow through the engagement and interaction of young first-time writers with the public, their peers, academics and industry practitioners," she added.

"In this festival, actors carry scripts and read these manuscripts, sans costumes

and elaborate sets, frequently merely seated, with the writer reading the stage directions.

"The audience is expected to visualise and therefore participate. It is the written-text (rather than the performance text) design elements and direction that hold the key.

"This forum aims to encourage new works by the youth, and gives new South African works a voice."

Programmes for the festival will be available at the door. Entrance is free.

— Arts Editor.

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