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## Artslink.co.za News

### Review: Headshots by CAPA

*Fiona Gordon*

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### Review: Headshots by CAPA

**By Fiona Gordon:** The students of the Cape Academy of the Performing Arts present their debut musical theatre production, Headshots.

Headshots is devised and directed by local musical theatre hotshots Anton Luitingh and Duane Alexander, and workshopped with the students of the Cape Academy of Performing Arts.

Presented as a musical theatre montage, it describes the life of those who must 'dance or die', across all aspects - from the challenges of dealing with the physical pressures (Dance 10, Looks 3), to the difficulties with mentors and artistry (Nothing), to the competition (Anything You Can Do...), to the injuries (Ouch), and the emotional landscape that is the constant background in the life of an artist where one just feels so much. And what drives it all – ambition!

Although performers are represented in the industry as their one face-photograph, there are people behind those names and numbers on a casting list. These guys talk frankly about why they dance in the face of social criticism; about 'sissie' as another name for 'suspected homosexual'; about their relationships with their fathers; and about how dancing beats small-talk any day...

Dance is not what they do – it's who they are. Telling many of their own stories, this young and triple-threat-talented cast urges their audience to consider the 'life behind the lycra', 'the heart behind the headshot'. This is a clear deconstruction of what it means to be (or to want to be) on the other side of that red curtain, conveyed with just the right balance of humour and poignancy. Both costume and lighting design are well-considered and utilize colour cleverly. The sound and harmonies created by the collection of voices is beautiful; I wish they would have the same confidence in their ability to sing solo.

In spite of the heaviness of some of the subject matter, the mood created is so positive. Recommended for anyone with the vaguest interest in the arts, it is equally accessible for an audience who is in the industry, and one which is not (or not yet).

It played at the Masque Theatre in Muizenberg, 8-9 June, and will form part of the CAPA offerings at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival in July 2009. (Bookings through Computicket.)

Picture: No

Submitted by [Fiona Gordon](#)

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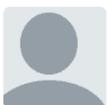
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