

Elma Potgieter

I was fortunate to have parents who didn't restrict my thoughts. I think it helped to found and form my outlook on life: I hate most -ism's, including feminism. A woman should, like a man, lead a rich and gratifying life. If she wants to work, she should be allowed. If she wants to marry, she should be free to do it, or not. I don't want to lord it over any man, or anybody for that matter, and I refuse to be lorded over. I want to feel free to create any character on paper or as an actress on stage or screen – as long as the character has an interesting psyche.

I graduated at Tuks (University of Pretoria) – main subjects French & German. As well as Afrikaans/Nederlands, English, History of Art, Psychology. Took singing and drama lessons privately. After three years as journalist at *Die Transvaler* en *Huisgenoot* started stage career in 1973 at *Capab*. Four one woman shows - *Darling Blossom*, *Laetitia kom Terug*, *Vrou aan Flarde* and *Moervrug* – in *Moervrug* she portrayed six characters (three women, three men).

Television presenting - *Wielie Walie*; *Kraaines*, *Feite en Flaters*. **Leading parts in wide screen films** - *Dr. Marius Hugo*, *Sonja*, *Soekie*, *Plekkie in die Son*, *Eensame Vlug*. For *Eensame Vlug* she was nominated for the 'Rapport Oscar' for her interpretation of a Jewess. Work in dubbing as actor, director and translator from French, German, and English into Afrikaans. Translated amongst others the French art movie, *Camille Claudel* into Afrikaans. Leading parts in TV-series: *Sterretjie*, *Laksman*, *Losprys*, *Hoffman*, *Iemand om lief te hê*, *7de Laan*, *Villa Rosa* and *Binnelanders*.

Leading characters on stage for Capab: *Pavane* by André Brink; *Welkom Weemoed* by Hennie Aucamp, *Faan se Trein* by Pieter Fourie.

1980 – formed Theatre Partnership, **Die Bywoners**, with **Schalk Jacobsz** who was **director** for all the *Bywoners Productions*.

Die Bywoners Theatre Productions:

1981 – *Hallo & Koebaai!* (*Athol Fugard* translated into Afrikaans by Schalk Jacobsz) *Upstairs at the Market Theatre* in 1981.

1982 – *Hallo & Koebaai* for **Freddy Philander-Productions** in Namibia.

1983 – *Darling Blossom* – one woman show by Elma Potgieter in Johannesburg.

1986 – *Die Wildsboudjie* to commemorate the **Johannesburg Centenary** – the only Afrikaans production for the occasion.

1986 – *Hoer of Heilige* by Corlia Fourie – actors: Elma Potgieter and Karin Retief.

1996 – *Moervrug* – one woman show by Elma Potgieter – adapted for stage by Elma from Engemi Ferreira's novel, *Die Jaar Toe My Ma Begin Sing Het*.

Writing – Since 2002 more than 50 short stories by Elma were published in *Huisgenoot*, *Sarie*, *Rooi Rose* and *Vrouekeur*. In 2007 **NB Boeke** published her first novel, *'n Tweede Begin*.

Radio – as actor in several radio dramas and soapies through the years and writer and presenter of music-documentaries: **Edith Piaf** and **Jacques Brel**. She wrote and presented the programmes for **RSG**. As well as book readings. In 2018 she wrote and presented a music documentary of **Elvis Presley** – five episodes from the 4th of January to Thursday the 1st of February. Leading part in the afternoon radio series, *Bure* in 2018.

Recent stage work: Short notice take-over from Marga van Rooy as Daphne in *Daa' Gaat die Bruid* for Lefra Productions in January 2017.

Another short notice take-over on stage as Gertie in Reza de Wet's *Mis* for André Stolz-Productions in 2017.

Mrs. Holberg in *My Man se Skelmpie se Skelmpie se Vrou* for Lefra Productions for KKNK, Aardklop and in 2018 Oppiwater Kunstefees.

Wrote an English radio drama for *SAFM: Betrayal* – about human trafficking. Was accepted and transmitted in 2018.

Loves of her life: Schalk Jacobsz, actor/director/architect (died on 6th June 2016); daughter Christiane, son in law Wynand Barnard and grandchildren, Tiaan, Elouise and Richardt.

(614 words)