

## *Elzabé Zietsman*

Elzabé graduated from the Pretoria Technikon in 1981. She joined PACT in 1982 where her stage productions included **TWELFTH NIGHT, ROMEO & JULIET, INSIDE-OUTSIDE** (a revue), **PICNIC on the BATTLEFIELD, SGANARELLE** and **MATTEWIS & MERAAL**. She played one of the leads in a local television series, **DIE ROOI KOMPLOT** whereafter she did **DIE MEISIE VAN SUIDWES, KERMIS OP KOEKENMOERAND AND VREDE VAN ARESTAPHANUS WITH GERMAN DIRECTOR PETER KLEINSCHMIDT- CAPAB 1983** both under direction of Reghardt van den Bergh and then **CANTERVILLE GHOST, .**

1984/5 saw her perform in Namibia in the stage productions **OUSUS** and **EKSKUUS VIR DIE WALS** whereafter her cabaret talents emerged. Janice Honeyman directed her in **TRUE CONFUSIONS** and she performed **THE LONG SHORT SHOW** at Studio 58. In between productions such as **PARADYSBOOT** and **TWO INTO ONE** she performed in the well publicized **DAVID KRAMER JOL** and **A ... MY NAME IS ALICE** (for which she received a Dalro Nomination for Best Performance in a Musical in 1985).

Her revues include **HELLO SUID-AFRIKA, HELLO SOUTH AFRICA** at the Windybrow Theatre (Dalro Nomination and Gallo Award), **ELZABÉ ZIETSMAN in CABARET, TWO FACES of ELZABÉ ZIETSMAN, SABC APPROVED** and **TARTS**.

During 1987/8 she played in Darrell Roodt's movie **THE STICK**, a stage production for PACOFS, **DIE PROPONENTJIE**, a television series, **DOT & Kie** for the SABC and performed her cabaret shows at the Grahamstown Festival and all major cities countrywide. In 1988 she made three music specials for the SABC, **MET LIEFDE VAN ....**, **METRONOOM** and **KLUB '88** as well as acting in another television series, **HONEYBALL SE TOERE**. She was cast in an internationally released movie **RIVER of DEATH**. More cabaret shows followed, **VAN BERLYN TOT BAPSFONTEIN**, the musical **KING AFRICA**, **BLOU BULLE REVUE** and **TWO FACES**. During 1989 she had the opportunity to really prove her acting ability in a one woman stage drama, **MAN to MAN**, at the Market Theatre as well as the one woman musical, **TONIGHT LOLA BLAU** for NAPAC. More cabaret shows include **SLEUTELGAT REVUE**, **ZIETS & DE VRIES** and **THE DRIVEL & THE SONG** with Casper de Vries.

A tribute to the words and music of Jacques Brel followed and during 1990 a national tour of **ZIETS & DE VRIES** took the country by storm. During this time she and Kevin Feather wrote a cabaret for herself, **CABARET SCHMABARET** which she performed at After Dark. The end of the year saw a very successful run of **THE AFTER DARK HORROR SHOW** with Nataniël and Alida White. 1991 she toured with Pierre Knoesen in **LOOKER ON, FLIKFLOOIE** (a farce for PACOFS) and the musical revue **ENCORE** (for CAPAB). 1992 – Two new cabarets **CLICHÉ** and **COVER GIRL** and a stage drama for PACT, **DIE WATERWYSER**.

During 1993 and 1994 Elzabe took time-out from performing to recharge her batteries and did marketing for a wood mill in Ermelo.

In 1995 she landed a leading role in M-Net's soapie, **EGOLI**. Her cabaret shows continue and during a short run of one of her shows in Windhoek, she was spotted by a musical director urging her to send material to Germany. This led to her landing the title role in **EVITA**. She performed **EVITA** during the Summer Festival in Ettlingen in 1996 (in German). This proved so successful that she was invited back in 1997 to perform the role of Velma in **CHICAGO** and during 2000 the Master of Ceremonies in **CABARET** (all in German). On all these occasions she performed her solo cabaret shows at the festival which proved extremely popular with the German audiences.

In 1995 Nataniël wrote **IN GLASs** for Elzabe, a cabaret drawing parallel lines between Marlene Dietrich and a South African woman. Ten years later, Elzabe is still performing this show on popular demand. She compiled **TWEE VAN DIE BESTE** for KKNK with the lyrics of David Kramer and Hennie Aucamp. This show is also still being performed.

Back and forth between Germany and **EGOLI**, she teamed up with André Schwartz in the cabaret **SCHWARTZ AND ZIETSMAN** for the 1998 Oudtshoorn Festival. She was offered the role of Wallace Simpson in Pieter Toerien's two-hander **HER ROYAL HIGHNESS** which performed Cape Town and Johannesburg. During this period she performed **BRECHT** for the Goethe Institute. The institute invited her to Berlin during 1999 to further her studies in the German language. A new cabaret, **A WHOLE LOT OF HUMAN FEELING** followed on her return and she recorded her first CD "**XIII**" which was launched in October 1999.

During 2000 she toured with the show of "**XIII**". She teamed up with Amanda Strydom for the KKNK in Oudtshoorn and Aardklop Festival in a sell-out show, **STRYDOM & ZIETSMAN IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER**.

In 2001 she played one of the leads in the highly acclaimed Deon Opperman musical, "**VERE**" which opened at the Oudtshoorn Festival and played Arts Cape in Cape Town. Elzabe and Coenie de Villiers performed together at Aardklop in **SONGS – ZIETS SING COENIE**.

Elzabe recorded her second CD, **IN MY BLOED / IN MY BLOOD** with Rocco de Villiers in January 2002 and Deon Opperman wrote **KAALGESTROOP** for her, which she performed at KKNK, Aardklop and all the major cities in the country.

2003 was a big year! Elzabe renovated her house in Aucklandpark and turned it into a part-time restaurant, **ZIETSIES**, finally living out her passion for cooking. She joined forces with Theresa du Preez and Sean Else in the formation of **kOOKOO! Productions**, producing Afrikaans theatre - **MY VROU SE MAN SE VROU, MY BOETIE SE SUSSIE SE OU** and **AS DIE KAT WEG IS...** in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

**Smallchange**, written for Elzabe in 2004 by Wikus du Toit was nominated for the Aardvark Award at Aardklop for innovation and groundbreaking work. kOOKOO! productions received the People's Choice Award at the same festival for My Boetie se Sussie se Ou.

Currently Elzabe is acting, singing, cooking and producing.