

...eme: Domestic
...a plays Wamala,
...erful politician
...to tatters
...sfortunes. At
...s on idle memories
...He is a father only
...se he is an idler
...ovide for the
...fe Tinka, played by
...theatre Anne
...more practical
...the bread winner
...by selling illicit
...as is a play of
...ensions, of explosive
...is between man and
...tion of social strife.

seems to have been some booking
problem and the dates have been
changed to July 1 to 8.

From Friday until Sunday, the
Sarakesi production of *Aikin
Mata* moves to Mombasa's
Bandari College. This Tirus
Gathwe-directed play features,
among others, popular *Nation*
humorist Wahome Mutahi, the
evergreen Njeri Luseno, who is
not a new face to Mombasa audi-
ence, and Sam Otieno, last seen
in Mombasa as Brother Jero.
Others include Josephine

Mutuku, Deo Omondi and Lucy
Indimuli.

Heinemann Kenya has done us
proud to bring us, first, leading
African writer Chinua Achebe,
and now Cyprian Ekwensi. We
hope the trend continues: we
need constant encounter with our
writers. Heinemann should also
spare some of the good publicity
for some of our leading writers. Is
it just coincidence that our lead-
ing playwright, Francis Imbuga,

National Theatre as manager,
tells me that in order to
"revitalise theatre", the manage-
ment plans to "Make Kenya
National Theatre a centre of art
and culture in Nairobi". To pur-
sue the above, the manager is
organising a variety of perfor-
mances every Saturday from 3-
4.30 p.m.

There is plenty to choose from:
the Les Wanyika Band (May 26),
Morgan State University Musical
Show (June 2), Mbalamwezi
Players (June 9), a variety show
(June 16) and entertainment by
children (June 23 and 24).

ta goes to Coast

CINCIS MWAKA
the doyen of Gujarati
returned to Mombasa
with her Pravin
Artists for a per-
the Bandari College
scheduled to perform
today under ar-
by the Lions Club of
island, with the pro-
to the club's charity

forming at the National Theatre,
Nairobi, from May 8 till May 23,
was scheduled to stage *Sakha
Sahiraya*, a hilarious comedy
and social play by Sai Paranjpe,
which has been adapted by Tarak
Mehta, at Bandari at 6 pm and 9
pm yesterday.

And today, they perform
Savita Damodar Paranjpe, a
suspense comedy by Tarak
Mehta, at the same place at 6 pm
and 9 pm.

Stepping out with a sure winner

By EVA NDAVU

Nairobi City Players are ready to
step out in style with their next
big musical, *Stepping Out*. Gerry
Tebbutt, the man who gave us
the successful *Godspell* last year,
has returned to Nairobi to direct
the players. Jenny Logan plays
the lead as Mavis the school
teacher. Logan recently played
the same role in the UK national
tour.

Stepping Out is about nine
women and one man who come
together in a tap dance class held
regularly in an old church hall in
northern England. The man is
lonely, his wife having recently
died; he is quiet and sensitive,
coming to the class to relieve his
loneliness. The teacher is an ex-
professional dancer, who never
really made it. She is bitter, hard
and demanding. One Black girl
calls herself "the token Spade";
she is married with lots of kids
whom she loves as much as her
husband. Maxine is another stu-
dent who is brash and pushy; she
always has "just the deal for



Jenny Logan: Plays dance
teacher.

you." Others in the dance class
include a young student nurse
who is quiet and insecure and
some additional mousey and un-
attractive girls. All of these char-
acters come together with differ-
ent expectations and dreams.
The entire play is about how the
teacher, Mavis, is trying to pre-
pare the rather ragged group for a
charity performance. That is the
story of *Stepping Out*.

The play creates these charac-
ters as individuals who dream
and dare to "step out" of reality.
The play develops the characters'
motives, likes and dislikes,
dreams and disappointments. It
is not a musical and not a dance
recital; it is a warm and sensitive
comedy.

Others in the cast include Ian
Barton, Eleanor Stevens, Lesley-
Anne McGuinness, Anne Cohen,
Maria Cunningham, Jane Bailey,
Asheline Makokha and Ruth
Sherwin.

their best

ican," says the
ae magazine. Jux-
o Han Dynasty lady
musical instrument
asai herd roaming
ae African highland;
are blooming, birds
ng, under a Chinese
on an African tree
colours used in these
s may be universal,
composition and
rokes are definitely
based mostly on an-
inese philosophy of
Yang. The contrast-
ects add interest to
bition as a whole, but
paintings use tradi-

tional Chinese art techniques.
"Mrs Rosa Lee, the direc-
tor of the school, has visited
more than 20 countries in
four continents. She believes
that the traditional Chinese
art must combine with world
modern art and her efforts
seem to bear fruits. The
school's students come from
all different nationalities,
many have now become ma-
ture artists in their own right.

"This year, a different feature
is added to the exhibition. Funds
will be raised to help the building
of Sunrise Baby Home run by the
Child Welfare Society of Kenya,
from the sale of paintings, raffle
prizes and generous donations
from patrons."