

Durban High School 150th Cultural Week



Boys are Back in Town

"The Boys are Back in Town" was a one night only musical special.

This extravaganza was the vision of Kirsten Smith, DHS Dramatic Arts Teacher and co-ordinator. Her aim was to celebrate the music of DHS Old Boys throughout the years, and this was particularly impactful in our 150th year of the school's existence.

The show opened with **Jon Chappe** (class of 1987) and **Winston Owen** (class of 1989) with their alternative renditions of songs like *You Gotta Move* and *People Get Ready*. They also featured, within their set, two of our matric learners Clinton Sithole and Thabiso Tshabalala. **David Hall** (class of 2002), guitarist of *Two Tone Themba*, entertained the audience with their innocent charisma especially since this was their first gig as a band. *Last Night*, as their opening number, was upbeat and drew the audience in from the outset. David is the only DHS Old Boy in this band, so the friendly banter between band members on the stage, especially from the opposing 'green' school down the road, was endearing and added to their overall charm. **Marc Maurel** (class of 1998), a popular solo vocalist on the Durban music scene, was a pleasure to watch and listen to. The richness in his voice, and his subtlety on the guitar, kept the audience in awe. A predominantly memorable version of *Sail Away* will immediately pop in to the minds of those who have watched him perform before. A DHS Old Boy and musician who is making waves in KZN, is the unforgettable **Chico Muya** (class of 2010). The duo put together a polished set of 'sparkle' music. Chico has a unique presence on the stage which shines through his bright smile, and is forever etched in your mind. He performed his own compositions which display a melodic and 'easy-to-listen-to' framework. The last entertainer of the evening, and entertainer in his own right, was **Colin Penn** (class of 1957) and his band. Their 'bluesy pizzazz' and 'rock 'n roll' on the stage is unbelievable, and this is partnered with Colin's storytelling and 'gags', which left the audience in stitches and dancing! Perhaps, with years on their side, the band can easily read the audience and played songs which lead the show to its incredible, high-note ending! Kirsten Smith was incredibly fortunate to perform three songs with his band as an addition.

"The Boys are Back in Town" played to a sold-out audience on the 6th May 2016 as part of the DHS Cultural Week. Encompassing Miss Smith's vision, this show truly celebrated and showcased the talents of our Old Boys and made for a very entertaining, 'feel-good' evening. The 'Boys' played in front of a colourful backdrop and under spectacular lighting courtesy of Dark Horse Productions. Each of the performers was introduced by a pre-recorded interview which gave the audience insight as to who they were, and put their performance into context. These interviews were filmed a month in advance on the DHS campus. The clips recorded a nostalgic time for the performers as they wandered about the deserted school on a Sunday. Parts of the performances, which held a valued remembrance to DHS, was the mention of and tribute to past educators, Jean McBean and Pat Collyer, who had influenced the musical direction of the performers themselves.

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Boys are Back in Town cont'd

We were also extremely fortunate to have Old Boys involved in other spheres as well. We thank:-

- **Pat Goss** (class of 1965) for the sponsorship of a 3-night stay at Umngazi River Bungalows to raffle
- **Sean Roberts** from Unity for the sponsorship of the Craft Beer
- **Marco Santoniccolo** (class of 1998) for the sponsorship of a meal voucher to raffle
- **Preven Reddy** and **Mikhale Singh** (class of 2012) from RedBox Entertainment for the filming and audiovisuals
- **Johann Potgieter** (class of 2010) for the poster and ticket design

It was a fun evening which encapsulated the DHS spirit in its 150th year.

Kirsten Smith
Drama Educator

