

WEEKEND

AWAY

Conquering
Kilimanjaro

PAGE 15

The Herald

LEISURE

Keeping you up to date on your local Theatre, Music and Movies

DRAMA REVIEW

Vibrant show portrays Joseph's story brilliantly

(8) VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, with Wicus Jansen Van Rensburg, Cayce Fielding, Jordan Ross, Bernard Roos and Charles Smit. Directed by Wicus Jansen Van Rensburg. Music by Marlon Louis.

Reviewed by Amy Cornish
IT must have been a daunting task to take on this acclaimed Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice family favourite. But for Wicus Jansen Van Rensburg (a Victoria Park staff member and Showtime award

winner) and his vibrant and polished cast, success was the only expected result.

The first act opens with Cayce Fielding - the narrator of the tale - in a controlled, yet what seemed effortless performance that led me to suspect that this matric pupil was no stranger to the stage.

This Star Search winner held a key role throughout the show in not only telling the story but also engages with each character - in which she did not disappoint. Joseph, played by Jansen Van Rensburg, begins his tale with a remarkable rendition of *Any*

Dream Will Do, assisted by a rather - dare I say it - colourful chorus.

Jacob (Ross) and his 12 sons are introduced through the performance of *Jacob and Sons*, followed by *Joseph's Coat* - the song that is more likely to keep playing in your head. The story continues as expected as we follow Joseph's plight from his enslavement to Egyptian millionaire Potiphar (Roos), right through the twist of events that lead him to become the Pharaoh's right-hand man. The Pharaoh, with all of his Elvis charm, is played by

Charles Smit - who dominates what is probably one of the highlight sequences.

The family reunion finale provides a dynamic end to this beloved adventure, with the cast boasting as much enthusiasm as was felt in the first act.

Apart from one or two technical glitches, I could not fault this theatrical treat, with its impressive choreography, notable costume design and inspiring musical input by Marlon Louis and his band. With a performance like this I would surely also be proud to be a Victorian.