

Devon,  
Devon Road, Claremont 7700.

29th October, 1960.

His Worship The Mayor,  
Alderman Gordon Oliver,  
Civic Centre,  
Cape Town 8001.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

I would be very grateful if you would spare the time in your busy life to give the following matter your attention.

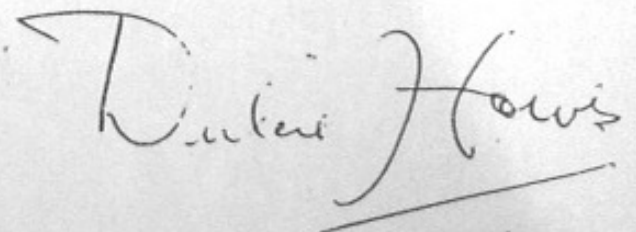
The former Athlone Nursery School Committee has drawn my attention to the fact that there is no recognition of their initiative in being the first to recognise and make use of Maynardville as an open air theatre in 1950. They approached me in 1949 when your Council had acquired the Maynardville property and asked that the University Ballet present a programme to establish the idea of an open air theatre for all the citizens of Cape Town, and at the same time, to raise funds for another first - the establishment of a Coloured Nursery School and Training College for Coloured Nursery School Teachers in Athlone. Both ideas had an immediate appeal for me. I was dedicated to expanding our world of ballet, and I likewise have always done everything in my power to bring ballet to all sections of our community.

Thus it was, that the University Ballet School together with the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra, gave their services, waiving all fees, and performed annually at Maynardville for three years, 1950, 1951 and 1952. The entire proceeds of these performances were donated to establish the first Coloured Nursery School and Teachers' Training College in Cape Town. Maynardville was accepted by enthusiastic audiences of all sections of our community (at a time when few venues were open to integrated audiences) and by the Press as an exciting facility for our City.

I am aware that a plaque exists which gives credit to the valuable work of the Shakespearean productions from 1956 to the present day, but I feel that in order to correct the history of the Open-Air Maynardville Theatre, some recognition should be given to the initiative of the Athlone Nursery School Committee, the University Ballet School, and the Municipal Orchestra, by means of an additional plaque giving the correct date of the opening of the Maynardville Open-Air Theatre. The U.C.T. Ballet School continued to perform annually at this venue from 1953-1959 to large and appreciative audiences.

With my continuing admiration for your leadership and courage,

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Dulcie Harris.