

Pierneef Theatre – Retraction of *Drizzles* Press Statement and Apology

Pierneef Theatre retracts its Press Statement made during October 2020, regarding the cancellation of the Children’s Theatre production by the *Drizzles* Production House, unconditionally and in its totality.

In particular, the Theatre retracts the following portion of the Statement:

“The Pierneef Theatre’s stance is unashamedly that children who attend the theatre, specifically the target audience of between three and ten years old, shall not be exposed to any performances with a sexual element and/or undertone.”

The Theatre acknowledges that the phrase “sexual element and / or undertone” in the context within which it was used was particularly inappropriate, in that this phrase could be misconstrued to indicate that the Theatre was hypersexualising the LGBT community – which was not its intent. The Theatre apologises for the use of the phrase accepts that it was misguided and likely to be hurtful.

Pierneef Theatre apologises for the decision not to allow the *Drizzles* Production to be performed at the theatre and the harm and strife that resulted from this decision.

In response to mediation proceedings by the Human Rights Commission, undertaken between *Pierneef Theatre* and the Complainants, the Theatre will be hosting a Diversity Celebration Festival on 23, 24 and 25 September. Details about the festival can be found on the theatre’s website www.pierneefteater.com

Issued on behalf of the Pierneef Theatre and Ms. Jopie Koen.

22 September 2021
