

**THE ARTIST** With Edward Tsumele

# La Traviata is a ballet show not to be missed



## Edward Tsumele

Some years ago, whenever someone suggested that ballet was as good an art form as music, traditional dancing and others that I was familiar with, I would laugh that off.

I simply could not understand why people appreciated something I considered to be uninspiring. Ballet was definitely not my cup of tea.

After watching several dance shows from contemporary to ballet, I have completely changed my mind.

In fact, I have come to love and appreciate dance as a serious art that can be used to tell a story about a number of social issues, just as theatre does.

Well, in terms of the audience, and to a large extent the ballerinas, it is still predominantly white.

However, over the years, there has been a significant increase of black ballerinas who are doing well.

From politics to love, ballet is an art that uses the body and sometimes music to tell a story.

One show which you must not miss and which tells a contemporary story with a universal human



Anya Carstens as  
Camille with Lee  
Fennell as Armande  
in FNB's *La Traviata*  
— The Ballet

interest is *La Traviata*, which is currently packing the Civic Theatre in Johannesburg.

It is produced by one of the leading ballet companies in the country, South African Ballet Theatre.

*La Traviata* is Cape Town-based choreographer Veronica Paepers' ballet translation of the Verdi opera of the same name.

Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas, it tells the story of a Parisian courtesan who unexpectedly finds herself in love and being loved in the midst of a cynical and frivolous life among the *démimonde* of Paris.

But it is a love that is destined to be shattered on the shoals of family duty and mortal illness.

Regarded as one of Paepers' finest works, *La Traviata* brings to the stage the tragic story of a dying woman's last love.

Tickets sell for R91, excluding booking fees. There are discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more.

*La Traviata* runs at the Civic Theatre until September 7.

This is show is suitable for the whole family.