

# A SKELLUM OF NOTE

Boksburg's Kevin Ehrenreich is a prankster of note who recently made his film debut in the candid camera style movie, *Rainbow Skellums*. He is also a creative writer and the owner of a theatre company. **Fioné Gerritsen** caught up with this multifaceted and chatty star.

**K**evin, who resides in Reiger Park, was one of the three "skellums" in *Rainbow Skellums*. The other two were played by Alexa Strachan and Louw Venter. Pranks were pulled on security guards, motorists, taxi passengers and businessmen. "This was my first movie experience and wow! Did I have fun!" says Kevin. His enthusiasm for his craft bubbles over and I laughingly abandon my long list of questions and just listen.

As a South African, I'm a proud coloured who likes to portray amusing and entertaining stories of our colourful and vibrant community

Kevin is best known for his Gatiepie shows of which he is the writer, performer and producer. Gatiepie made his debut in 1999 at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown with *Gatiepie sien sy gat*. "As a South African, I'm a proud coloured who likes to portray amusing and entertaining stories of our colourful and vibrant community," he says.

"Gatiepie is a middle-aged character who entertains with funny Gatiepie-stories and music. Just like *The Highlander*, Gatiepie is forever and a day. According to him and his bosom buddy, Makriel (Leonard Petersen), he is an international salesman who sells fridges to Eskimos. He has a girlfriend named Fatima (Charmaine Hess) and a mistress (he calls her his spare wheel), named Rosie. What can I say, Gatiepie likes his bread buttered on both sides," laughs Kevin.

Kevin's drama company, K.A.T.

(Kopdoekie-Afrikaans & Teater) was born in 1994. "With the new South Africa on the horizon, I started writing, because then I could write exactly what I felt," says Kevin. He became involved with various projects. Two of his memorable projects seen on kykNET included a 13-episode documentary *Agter die Mynhoop* and a one hour Christmas programme, *Krismis in Reiger Park*, of which he was writer, producer and presenter.

"Gatiepie fans can look forward to a blockbuster hitting the big screen shortly," says the man whose aim it is to make the whole world "smaail". Visit [www.gatiepie.co.za](http://www.gatiepie.co.za) to stay posted.

Kevin is currently working on a play for the ATKV (Afrikaanse Taal- en Kultuurvereniging) on drug abuse for schools in the Cape Province. He is also making his debut as poet with his first volume *Sloffies en skoenveters*, which will be launched soon.

## Bits and pieces

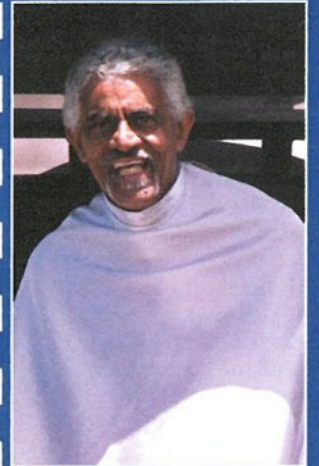
**When I don't write,** I paint. My garage walls are covered with Disney characters.

**I'm a biker.** I can easily get on my BMW R90/6 and drive down to the coast.

**People who inspire me** are Charlie Chaplin, Steven Spielberg, NP van Wyk Louw... the list goes on. Then there are the toothless granny, the bright-eyed girl and the boy with bad teeth.

**I wish I had** my own island where I could escape to when I write.

**When I do nothing** it's usually when my mind is at its busiest, working overtime on a new idea.



## Some of Kevin's highlights

Being a finalist for RSG/Sanlam Radio drama competition in 1997.

*Gatiepie sien sy gat*, Gatiepie's debut at the National Art Festival in Grahamstown in 1999. Writing, producing and presenting *Agter die Mynhoop* and *Krismis in Reiger Park* on kykNET in 2001 and 2002.

Writing two more Gatiepie dramas and touring Namibia with K.A.T. in 2006. Definitely 2009, when *Gatiepie kry 'n baby* hit the theatres and he made his movie debut in *Rainbow Skellums*.