

Puppetry magic

THE LOSH 'N' HORROR SHOW

Hakoah Club until Dec 1

SOUTH Africa's loss is Australia's gain. Brilliant puppeteer Gary Friedman has immigrated to this happier land; and he could not be more welcome.

His creative genius is well, but perhaps not completely, on display in his internationally acclaimed "not a *Punch and Judy*" show for a limited season at Hakoah Club.

The program carries an extensive glossary of African and Jewish expressions; but don't let that intimidate you if you are not (a) ex-South African and/or (b) Jewish.

Nevertheless, if you are blessed with both, your enjoyment of the show will be significantly enhanced.

What's it about? Fun. It's a comedy; but with a dark side. Friedman (one of five co-writers) pulls no punches. Two themes shape the lives of his characters: there is no such thing as a land of milk and honey; and some people have to go, some have to stay. There is a third but lesser theme: some have to return.

Friedman is full-on in his parodying of black and white types, but



Gary Friedman and friends.

there is no malice — only food for laughter and thought.

Imagine the black woman who, as the English would say, "does for" the white Jewish family she serves. She cooks Jewishly, prepares the Shabbat table and even lights the candles. Later, she becomes a globetrotting domestic workers' union delegate.

Then there is the Jewish family that moves to Sydney, whereby hang several amusing episodes. It adds up to not-to-be-missed entertainment and wonderment at the skills and imagination of Friedman and his team.

Peter Morrison