

**The Star**



**Tonight!**

**South Africa**

**Tuesday July 28 1987**

# Dutch nightspot books 'Puns and Doedie'

The South African socio-political satire, "Puns en Doedie", currently touring Europe, has been invited to perform at one of Amsterdam's popular theatre night-spots, Melkweg, opening for one week tomorrow.

Puppeteer, Gary Friedman, who manipulates all the famous political leaders such as Archbishop Tutu, President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher and, of course, President Botha, is currently participating in a three-week course on "Puppets for Film and Television" with the creator of the Muppets, Jim Henson.

The training course is being held at the Institute International de la Marionette in France.

"Puns" performed to large audiences in Covent Garden, London, in May as part of a two-day festival celebrating the 325th anniversary of Punch and Judy. Puns' humour and

political outcries proved popular with the crowds, as he criticised almost every politician in the news. Now Friedman looks forward to making a similar impact on Dutch audiences at the end of this month and in Switzerland in September at an International Puppet Theatre Festival in Locarno.

In August, Friedman has been invited to visit Poland and is now anxiously awaiting his visa from Warsaw. Another possibility in August is a visit to the Isle of Man, where "Puns" has also been invited to perform.

Due to the popularity and demand for "Puns" in Europe, Friedman has decided to organise another tour here in 1988, together with both "Puns" and a new production, which he hopes to build in Johannesburg and have ready by next year.