

HELENA HETTEMA

ACTRESS, SINGER, SONGWRITER, CABARET ARTIST, VOICE ARTIST, STAGE DIRECTION

Personal Details:

Height:1.64 Weight:56.5 Eyes: Green/hazel Hair colour: Blonde Dress size: 32 Shoe: 5.5

[www.helenahettema.com/YouTube/iTunes/Spotify/Deezer](http://www.helenahettema.com/YouTube/iTunes/Spotify/Deezer)

**NOMINATIONS:**

1998 -SA Music Awards (SAMA), **Highlights** - *Best Contemporary artist - Afrikaans with Lucas Maree, Amanda Strydom amongst others*

2000/2001- FNB Vita Theatre Awards: Helena Hettema:***The Legends and a Touch of Me - Best Musical Revue Production***

2001/2002 -FNB Vita Theatre Awards: ***Helena Hettema: The Bridge - Best Performance in Musical Theatre Revue***

*-The Bridge -nominated with Amanda Strydom, Nataniel, Stef Bos*

2011 -DVD ***Helena Hettema -Alive*** - Best Jazz/Instrumental/Popular/ Classical DVD

**AWARDS:**

2004 -***SABC 2 Geraas - Best Solo Female Vocalist - CD Divided Heart 2004***

2004 -***Vonk*** Album of the Year ( second to Laurika Rauch) ; Divided Heart

2005 ***The Herald Showtime*** - Bob Everleigh - Arts Editor - PE - Divided Heart

2006 ***Checkers Shoprite Arts Category***

2007 -***Laureate - University of Pretoria*** - Contribution to the Arts

2008 -***Huisgenoot Tempo - Top Ten Female Artists***; (among others: Laurika Rauch, Sibongile Khumalo, Anna Davel, Amanda Strydom

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**Career Highlights**

1971 -1976 - Pretoria Children's Theatre - ***Pinocchio , The Nightingale, The Storytellers, Ten Magic Rubies (main role-*** Piet van der Walt Theatre - Pretoria.

1971 - 1974 - *Pretoria Kinderkoor* (one of five chosen from 1000)- Conductor :`Prof Petru Grabe - UP - performances countrywide

1980 (matric - distinctions: English/Afrikaans - HG) - directed ***winning house play*** - Pretoria High School for Girls - Chairman of the Debating Society, Librarian, School Choir directed the, Responsibility Girl, member of the Folk Group under singer Juanita Claassens .

1981-1983 - B A Drama - University of Pretoria - Drama Department - title role - **Stevie** - 3rd year (rave reviews). (Glenda Jackson in the movie/ Dorothy Anne Gould in SA version)

1984 - 1985 - selected for PACT Play work with fellow actors Kevin Smith, Rupert Swart and Paul Luckoff amongst others.

Chosen from among 5 drama students countrywide - Lyndall - **Story of an African farm** - (opposite Albert Maritz as Waldo -**Lady Macbeth** -worked with directors: Billy Egan, Dieter Reible, Alwyn Swart and actors such as Louis Van Niekerk, and Elize Cawood 1985

1984 - Directed **Aladdin** - Pretoria Children's Theatre - Piet van der Walt Theatre - Pretoria

1987 -Formed own band - **Triple Fair** - Lizanne Barnard of Marimba fame -(piano) Evan Schoombie (vocalist) - performances throughout Gauteng at various venues.

1986 - **Pirates of Penzance** -chorus of sisters with Kate Normington - director - Geoffrey Sutherland - Civic Theatre - Jhb also with Clive Scott , Andre Schwartz.

1986 - Duchess Turomel - **Arme Moordenaar** - director Stephan Bouwer - Cobus Rossouw, Greta Fox

1986 - National Arts Festival - Grahamstown -**Introspectives** - 1988 - **Dream Scream Carousel. Piaf, Brel and Just a Little Me and Divas Divine** 2006 - (see crit at end of CV - **Cue** Festival magazine.

1987 - Eersterust Performing Arts Council (EPAC) director Anthony Wilson - excerpts for schools - Gertrude - **Hamlet; Of mice and men** (John Steinbeck).

1988 - **Sunrise City** - director Chris Pretorius ; choreographer Lara Foot; Market Theatre, Jhb

1988 - **Victorian Songbook** - director: Doug Thistlewhite- Shireen Hollier, Rodney Mark Venner-Pta, Jhb +PE

1989 - Youngest member Anton Goosen's alternative group *Kommissie van Ondersoek* - Lucas Maree, Karlien van Niekerk - album - **Winde van Verandering** - festivals :Jakaranda, Houtstok (20 000 audience)) and 6-week tour countrywide and on TV programmes

1990 - Celebrity Tour - Botswana -

1991 - opening Rosebank Theatre on the Square (Daphne Kuhn) - **Piaf, Brel and Just a Little Me**- Waldo Malan (pianist)

1992 - Wrote lyrics for theme song of **TV series Sonkring** - for Jan Scholtz Films

1992 - Formed band: Golden Fleece - Hennie van Jaarsveld, (acoustic guitar) Alwyn van Heerden,(piano) Lindsay Liebenberg (bass guitar) countrywide and SA Embassy, Harare, Théâtre Rendezvous, State Theatre/ videos: SABC2 - (Helena's songs): Touch of Green and Fool's Gold

1992 - **Die Kindertotenlieder** - played Alma Mahler opposite Jonathan Rands and Jana Cilliers, Marita Napier - director - Mario Schiess - conductor - Weiss Doubell - Civic Theatre - Roodepoort

1993 - Piaf, Brel and Just a **Little Me** - 6 weeks - Café Indigo, Yeoville - Jhb -Alwyn van Heerden (pianist)

1992 and '94 - performed music of **Brel and Piaf with Cape Town Symphony Orchestra** (CTSO) - Symphonic Pops - conductors : Gerard Korsten/Alan Stephenson

1993 -First recording - cassette: **Piaf, Brel and Just a Little Me**

1993 - **For Folk's Sake** - vocals with Rod Dry (double bass) ,George Lotz (guitar) -State Theatre

1994 - **Neem Kennis** - directed: Laurika Rauch - with Danie Niehaus and Ilse Roos - Theatre Rendezvous - State Theatre - Pretoria

1996 - South Africa House - London - on invitation (see review)

### **CD releases + CV highlights continued**

**13 CDs '95 to present** - distributed by : JNS, Music for Africa, Select Music and Sony BMG

1995 - Fool's Gold (JNS) (1<sup>st</sup> CD- critical acclaim - original music

1997 - Jasmine Lament (2<sup>nd</sup> CD ) launch - Cape Town

1998 - Highlights (3<sup>rd</sup> CD) - nominated for SAMA - Sun City

2002 - The Bridge (live show CD) - performances countrywide and KKNK/ Aardklop (Alwyn van Heerden (piano)- critically acclaimed.

2004 - Divided Heart - 4<sup>th</sup> CD -SABC 2Geraas Award - Best solo female vocalist

2006 -CD - Divas Divine - Inside Out-National Arts Festival /Aardklop ; Sandton Theatre on the Square (Daphne Kuhn) - André Wessels (pianist)

2008 - CD Launch - **Spirit of Piaf and other great French legends** - Double French -Sony BMG - (see review) - Aula - André Wessels (piano) Sergio Zampolli (accordion) and Hilton ( double bass)

2008 - CD **Spirit of Piaf and other great French legends** featuring 25 musicians (including the Soweto String Quartet) - No 3 at Musica

2008 - French Legends - Rupert Residence - Somerset West - 16 Cartier Jewellers (Paris) - Andre Wessels ( pianist)

2010 - DVD + bonus CD **Helena Hettema Alive** - recorded live - Centurion Theatre - Pretoria

2012 - CD launch - **Rooiwynliefde**, director -Helena Hettema - pianist :Andre Wessels- arranger: David Jooste - electric guitar:Mauritz Lotz and dancer Angela Alison and other artists Atterbury Theatre - Pretoria

2013 - **Rooiwynliefde** - KKNK with Mauritz Lotz (electric guitar)

2014 - Launch of CD - **Woordengel** - Atterbury Theatre - pianist/arranger: David Jooste - Rick Barnard (acoustic guitar); Bronberg Kinderkoor (Daleen de Kock)

2015 - **Piaf - 100 -year tribute** - Marelize Koch (pianist, Sergio Zampolli (accordion), Friendship band (Lindsay Liebenberg ,bass guitar -Gerald electric guitar ) and Suranel van den Berg (dancer)

2015 - Bastille Day Celebration - French Consul - The Venue - Melrose Arch - Jhb

2017 - **21 Plus** - CD launch -with Congrazia,(violin, flute and saxophone + harmonies) and Marelize Koch (piano) - guest artists: Lindsay Liebenberg (bass guitar) , Gerald Brookshaw (acoustic+electric guitar) Cesar de Almeida (vocalist) -Atterbury theatre

2018 -Aardklop - **21 Plus** -Congrazia - Marelize Koch (piano)

Dec 2018 - **Kersskouspel** - Sun Arena - Times Square -Pretoria with 17 artist line up (Anna Davel, Amanda Strydom, Jannie Moolman, among others - guest artist: Dana Winner

2019 - Oppiwater Kunstefees - MSC Musica - Marelize Koch (pianist)

2019 - Divine - A tribute to the great divas and magical musicals - show launched - Pierneef Teater, and HAP (Huis van Afrikaanse Poësie) Pta - Elsa Strating (pianist)

2020 - Online shows :- [www.pierneef.com](http://www.pierneef.com)- kuberkonsert - insamelinskonsert - 30 artists -Helena Hetteema Alive ; Lewensasem - Matthys Roets/ Jannie du Toit/ Rina Hugo; Lochner Kook - Amanda Strydom/ Richard van der Westhuizen'

2020 - 6 - 16 July - DVD Helena Alive -[www.NationalArtsFestival.co.za](http://www.NationalArtsFestival.co.za) - vFringe Grahamstown/

2020 - *Briekaandraai* - radio drama series - Maroelamedia - drector: Bettie Kemp; script writer: Leon van Nierop; actors: Anton, Antowan Nothling, Luan Jacobs, Helena Hetteema (Melissa) - community radio stations countrywide

2020 - Judge -National Lockdown Competition - in aid of Theatre Benevolent Fund - [www.projectperformer.co.za](http://www.projectperformer.co.za).

2020 - 15 August - online DVD - **Divine** with Elsa Strating (piano/ arrangements) [www.pierneefteater.com](http://www.pierneefteater.com)

#### **Festivals throughout SA numerous times:**

Grahamstown National Arts Festival, Aardklop (Potchefstroom), Kalahari Kuierfees, KKNK, Hermanus Whale of a Festival. Kalfiefees Onrus . Innibos(Nelspruit) ,Woordfees (Stellenbosch).

#### **Festivals and performances abroad**

1996 - Il Frigo Festival Bologna , Italy (on invitation)

1997 -SA House, Trafalgar Square, London - on invitation;

1997 -Canal Theatre Café, London

2002 - UKKASIE - London (on invitation)

2002 - Zuid-Afrikaanse Instituut - Ghent- Belgium and Ede, Holland -on invitation

2005 - Potstok - South African community - Hawkes Bay - New Zealand - on invitation

2010 -On invitation of former ambassador to South Africa- Bodrum- Turkey

2011 - **3 Blondes out of Africa** - with Zorada Temmingh, Elna van der Merwe - Cadogan Hall - Sloane Square, London

2013 - **Het Nederlandse Fees voor Afrikaans** - The Hague

2015 - **Helena in Cabaret** -Harare - The Venue

2015 - Madagascar - South African Embassy

2018 - **Kersskouspel** - LEFRA Productions - Sun Arena - Times Square - Pretoria - SA artist line up- Belgian guest artist - Dana Winner

2019- **Oppiwater Kunstefees** - Marelize Koch (pianist) -MSC Musica - LEFRA Productions

**Sings in English, Afrikaans, French, Flemish and Italian.**

Press Comment:

“... and boy, can she sing! Hetteema has a voice that ranges farom crushed silk to wet gravel and she uses it with sensitivity and skill. It was a stirring performance ... great opportunity to see one of South Africa’s finest performers in action.” Peter van der Merwe - **Pretoria News**

“ ...a powerful voice that touches the heartstrings.” **Business Day**

“Helena is one of South Africa’s most accomplished cabaret artists ... album can be commended for its superb quality of fine musicianship. Her Piaf playfull included an SA feel as the Soweto String Quartet adds a delightful Kwela twist ...” **Classic Feel.**

“Helena is deep, light hearted, witty and intuitive in her song writing. Hers is a sensitive and soulful performance.” South Africa House - Trafalgar Square London 1997. **The Star and South African Times International**

“A classical vocal exhibition which can easily be voted the best performance at the Festival” (Divas Divine) - **Cue Magazine** (National Arts Festival Grahamstown mouthpiece )