

Chekhov's Die Kersieboord to bloom at 2014 US Woordfees

 By [Anna-Bet Bester](#)

5 Mar 2014

The countdown to the annual [University of Stellenbosch Woordfees](#) has begun! The festival is a celebration of written and spoken word in a variety of contexts (including poetry, prose, debate, drama and music) and runs from 7 to 16 March, 2014.

This year, festival audiences can look forward to a star-studded production of Chekhov's *Die Kersieboord*, featuring the talents of Oscar Petersen, Tinarie van Wyk Loots, Carel Nel, Wilhelm van der Walt, Nandi Horak, Roxanne Blaise, Sjaka Septembir, Marvin-Lee Beukes and Bianca Flanders under the direction of the inimitable Sandra Temmingh.



Produced by Cape Town's darlings [The Mechanicals](#), and based on the translation of Chekhov's original work by Alwyn Lee, the standard four-act play has been skilfully condensed to a 90-minute production that received glowing reviews during its run at the Intimate Theatre on Hiddingh Campus last year.

Contemporary South African themes

The premise of the play hinges on the return of an aristocratic Russian woman and her family to their family estate (which includes a large and well-known cherry orchard) just before it is to be auctioned to pay the mortgage. The themes of cultural futility that underpin the story of Liefie and Leonid's family and their struggle to find meaning in the midst of the breakdown of their heritage resonates deeply with the contemporary South African themes of gentrification and cultural disassociation. As such, the story remains as relevant today as when it first hit the planks in 1904.

The production runs the gamut of emotions and comments subtly on a variety of subjects, including the economic divide and the contempt it breeds; marrying for love vs. marrying for money; as well as the pros and cons of knowing your fate vs. sticking your head in the sand.

Audiences can get ready for a slick, fast-paced performance that sweeps its way across the boards, taking no prisoners and leaving a trail of delightful devastation in its wake.



Die Kersieboord will be performed at the PJ Olivier Art Centre in Stellenbosch on the following days:

- Monday, 10 March (8.30pm)
- Tuesday, 12 March (5pm and 8.30pm)
- Wednesday, 13 March (5pm)
- Thursday, 14 March (5pm)

Tickets are available from [Computicket](#). Find the rest of the US Woordfees festival line-up [here](#).

ABOUT ANNA-BET BESTER

Anna-Bet Sterrmret is a writer and translator who lives in the Swartland with her husband & daughter. She blogs as Die Wynwyfie and does commercial copy and content as Skryfyster.

- #WeeklyWineWrap: Chilean winemaker experiments with dynamite in subsoil - 18 Jul 2016
- #WeeklyWineWrap: Scientists invent a machine that makes wine non-stop - 11 Jul 2016
- #WeeklyWineWrap: Vineyard robot prototype ushers in a new era - 4 Jul 2016
- #WeeklyWineWrap: SA wine industry could add 100,000+ jobs by 2025 - 27 Jun 2016
- #WeeklyWineWrap: Move over red & white, blue & orange wine is now a thing - 20 Jun 2016

[View my profile and articles...](#)

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>