Mr Entertainment
The Story of Taliep Petersen
Paula Fourie

THE BOOK
In Mr Entertainment, we hear the voices of the people who knew Taliep Petersen best: his family, friends and collaborators. Their stories bring to life the spaces he inhabited, vividly recounting scenes from his childhood, his rise to fame from the Cape Coon Carnival stage to the West End, his artistic collaborations, most notably with David Kramer, his family life, and his tragic death and its aftermath. In this pioneering biography of one of Cape Town's most beloved entertainers, we encounter Petersen as a complex and many-sided personality whose influence continues to reverberate in national life.

Mr Entertainment evokes not just Taliep's life, but also the music and entertainment worlds of the 1950s to 2000s and their diverse and irrepressible cultural traditions. Along the way, it brings us to the front row of South Africa's difficult history.

Drawing on the musician's personal archive and on more than fifty interviews conducted over a decade, Paula Fourie has pieced together a fascinating portrait of Taliep Petersen, acutely observed and poignantly captured.

SALES POINTS
• The book sets Taliep Petersen's biography within a meticulous and vividly drawn cultural and historical context.
• It offers a powerful account of widely publicised events, such as his killing and its aftermath.
• Petersen's first wife, singer Madeegha Anders and children speak candidly about their relationship with him and his killer.
• The book features entertainment luminaries, such as David Kramer, Loukmaan and Emo Adams, and Paul Hamner. Petersen's children, entertainers with followings of their own – Ashur, Jawahier and Fatiema – also participated and support the project.
• It features the modern history and linguistic and entertainment richness of Cape Town.

THE AUTHOR
Paula Fourie is a writer who holds fellowships at the Bern University of the Arts and the Africa Open Institute at Stellenbosch University. She is also an occasional theatre director and the co-author (with Athol Fugard) of Concerning the Life of Babyboy Kleintjies. Her published work includes academic articles, essays, interviews, dramatic texts and poetry.