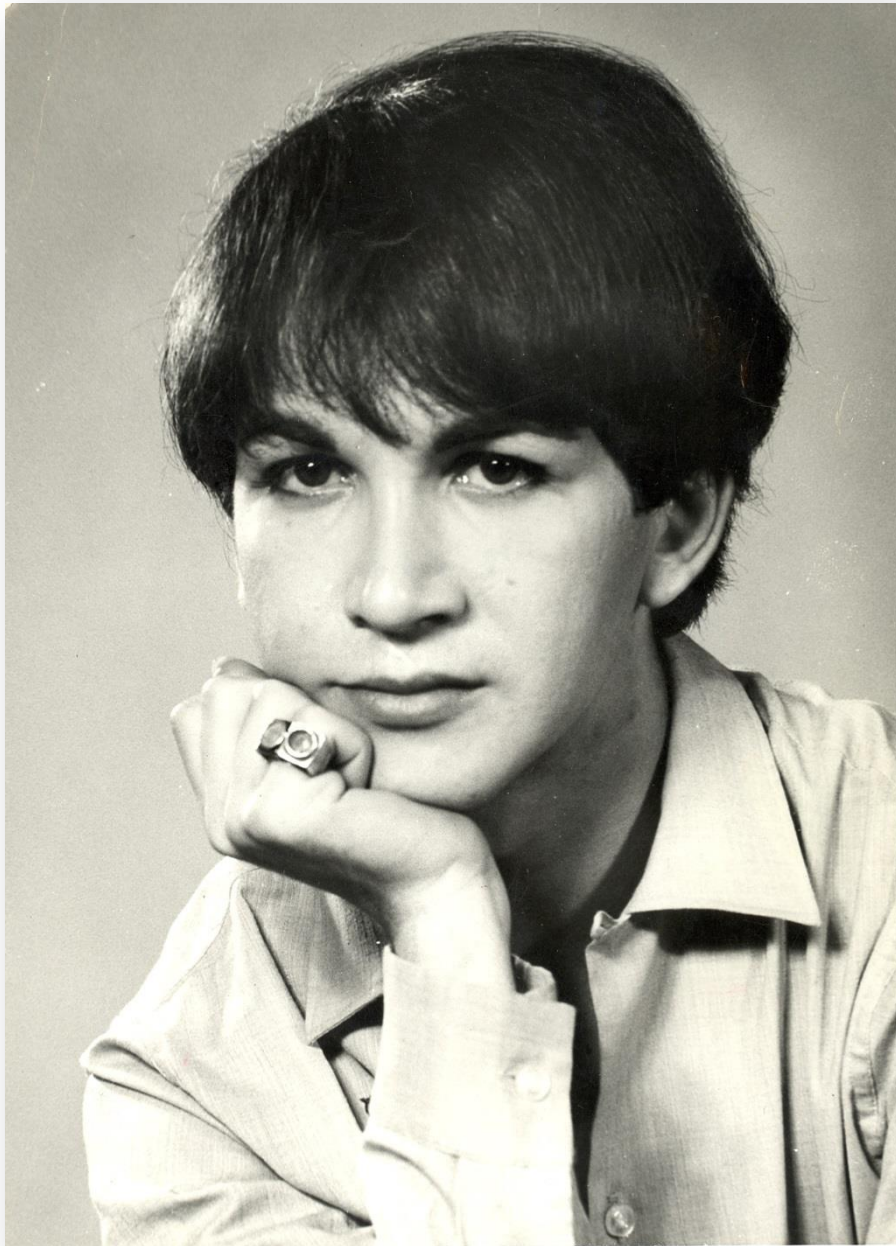# Farewell Michele Bruno



Celebrated Joburg hairdresser, drag performer and early gender non-conformer Michel(e)* Bruno died this week in Johannesburg at the age of 75.  Bruno was well-known in some of Joburg's more flamboyant social circles of the '60s and '70s – she also became the country's first Miss Gay South Africa in 1969, but received more media attention for being one of those arrested in the now notorious Forest Town raid of 1966. Please click here for Mark Gevisser's tribute to Bruno in the *Mail & Guardian.*

Beeld article on the Forest Town raid - - Bruno is shown on the far left



The photograph Gevisser refers to in his article.

It is in fact thanks to Gevisser that GALA has a small but important collection on Bruno, consisting of material donated after being interviewed by Gevisser for his 1997/8 oral history project. The project interviewed LGBTI men and women to document their experiences of 1950s and '60s South Africa.

Along with the interview Gevisser did with Bruno in 1997, GALA was also given a photo album and several loose photographs by Bruno, as well as a scrapbook she made showing her hairdressing achievements and press clippings from the local social scene, dating from the 1960s through to 2004. Bruno also featured in GALA's 2008 exhibition, *Joburg Tracks*.

Written by Linda Chernis, 20 May 2016

*Bruno appeared to spell her name both Michel and Michele.