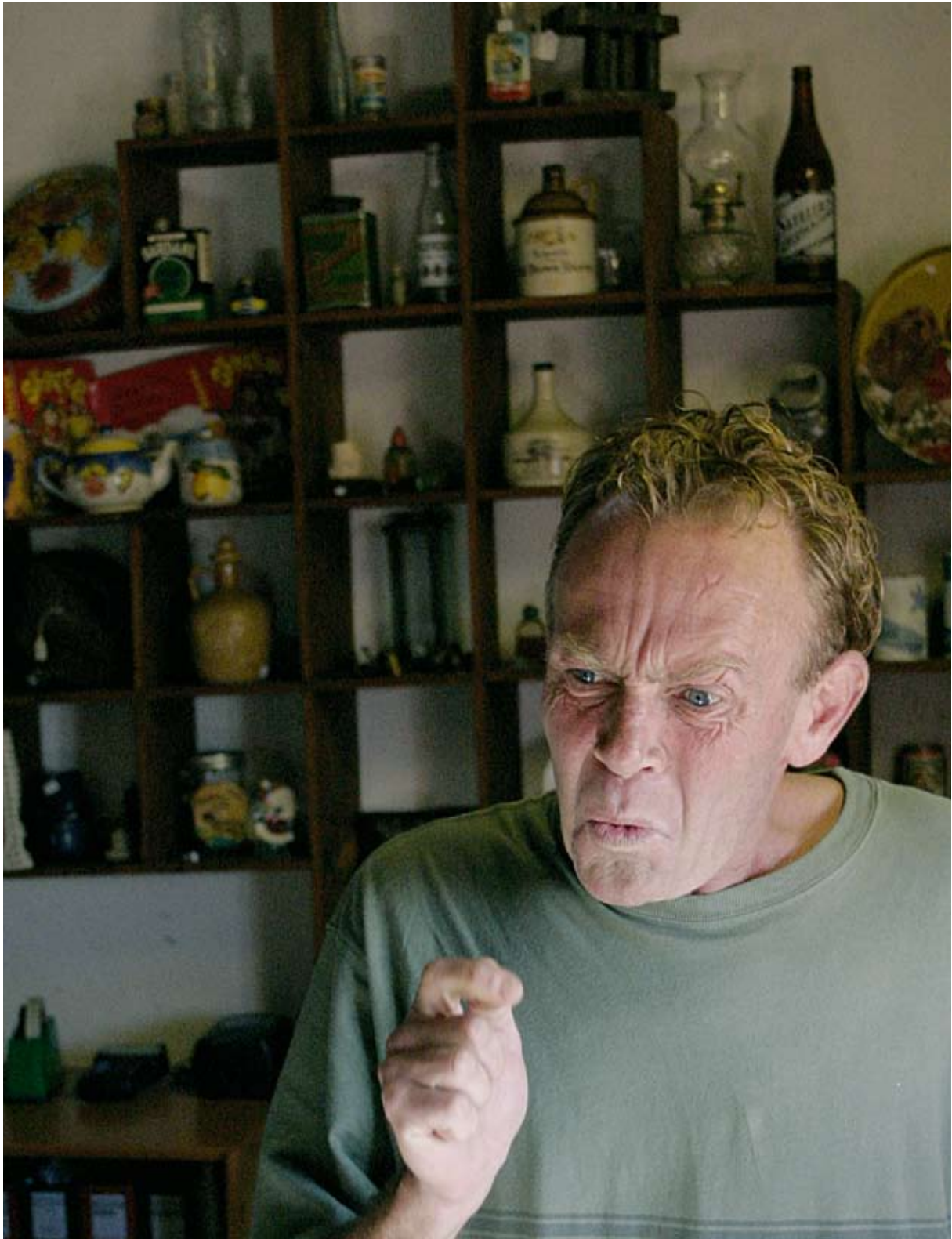


# *tale piece* By Maré Mouton



*Jan Stoop has retired from the footlights of the Johannesburg stage and now minds a shop in Paternoster on the West Coast, surrounded by the lore of the fisherfolk and the sea. He is writing a narrative poem in Afrikaans about the people of the area, the boy who leaves home to work in the city, about Grandpa who lost his fingers to a fishing line, about the tide of life. We were privileged to hear him recite a part of this moving tale.*