



SHIFTY R·E·C·O·R·D·S

THE GENUINES

The band was formed in April, 1986 and came to the public's attention in the same month at Jamesons, Commissioner Street, Jhb. Prior to the formation of the Genuines, all the musicians involved had been exposed to many different styles of music, from cabaret, dinner music, traditional to rock funk jazz fusion, pop, experimental and punk. Consequently, when composing there is a vast array of musical ingredients available, allowing their music to be enjoyed by the most diverse of audiences. Towards the middle of the year they start touring the country to promote their debut album recorded with Shifty Records.

THE BAND

IAN HERMAN: Drums

Born 9th March '63 in Albertsville, Jhb. He played with a number of groups including Isja, Wasamata and the Roger Lucey Band.

GERALD "MACK" MCKENZIE: Bass and vocals

Born 27th October '54 in Athlone, Cape Town. Has played with a variety of cover bands before deciding that original music was the only way.

HILTON SCHILDER: Keyboards, percussion and vocals

Born 19th January '61 in Athlone Cape Town. Son of legendary local jazz pianist, Tony Schilder, Hilton has virtually been playing since birth. In common with Mack, he has grown up with the unique Kaapse Klopse musical tradition.

GERARD O'BRIAN: Guitar and vocals

Born 1st August '59 in Port Elizabeth. Prior to the Genuines, Gerard played with Mack and Hilton in various cover bands all over South Africa.

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This band is for real

By RENÉ DU PREEZ

CAPE TOWN band the Genuines return home today after spending nine months in Johannesburg.

Except for drummer Ian Herman, all the members hail from Cape Town.

Leading the group is keyboard player Hilton Schilder, well-known in the City for his exploits with the band, Feather. When asked to define their music, Hilton said: "Our music is a mixture of rock, pop, fusion and 'Kaapse Kloppe'."

"It's energetic South African music with lots of improvisation." Hilton and vocalist Mac Mackenzie are responsible for most of the band's material and they perform mostly their own songs.

All the members — the other is guitarist Gerard O'Brien — are professional musicians with years of experience playing top night spots in and outside South Africa.

Johannesburg proved an excellent launching pad for the group. They were virtually thrown in at the deep end as Johannesburg has a large volume of excellent bands doing that circuit.

People's concert
Yet, the Genuines proved themselves and came out tops.

The Genuines open at Indaba Project in Wale Street tonight and on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for the next two weeks.

The band will be in Cape Town for three weeks only as they are scheduled to play at the Free Peoples Concert, which is planned for the end of February at Ellis Park.

They will also complete their first album which is due for release through Shifty Records in April.



Hilton Schilder of The Genuines.

THROBBING KAAPSE KLOPPE

The Genuines

Forty Second Street Restaurant, Joburg

SUNDAY NIGHT IN JOBURG is

traditionally jazz night. I'd heard Ian

Herman was drumming for a new

band, The Genuines, at a popular

Sunday evening jazz venue. I'd also

heard the keyboardist was hot, so it

was definitely worth a visit.

And what happened? I climbed

inside a cooking pot. Forty Second

Street was throbbing to a solid

The last song of the set was fusion with intensely creative keyboard playing and an astonishing lead guitar riff from Gerard — surprising only because his physical presence on stage is so unobtrusive.

The end of the set came with my feet still jumping around uncontrollably and me wondering 'what type of band is this? A rock-fusion-kloppe-jive-dance band? In answer, Mac told me a story of a journalist who tried to categorise

because we want it just like that,' replies Mac. 'But we don't take a fat political stand.' 'Maar ons moet die waarnemende,' adds Hilton. 'When we sing about the Buffels and the Casspirs and the rubber bullets, and when we sing 'bulle jaag ons weg, hy skiet ons binne in die Mosque', they did shoot the people in the Mosque.

The lights in the townships are playing not-rot, you know what I mean. They don't play with those wire wheels anymore, they make wire guns and things. So these songs were born that time, and you can't change them into happy songs about walsmeleins on die Kaap en die snok and all that s**t.

Midway through last year Mac, Hilton and Gerard started playing together. 'We said it is time to do things right, we must not compromise, we must get it together now.' At the time they were using a drum machine and constantly drawing in other musicians, including Mac's father on bongo.

'Then we heard there were quite a few clubs in Joburg that supported bands who played original music. So we said 'Guys let's get to Joburg man! We suddenly arrived here with nowhere to stay and no drummer.'

They found a sleeping place in a nice-graced, now-crooping, dilapidated, windily-staircased, eyes-in-the-back-of-your-head-Jack

block of flats in Joburg Park. The place reminds us of District Six, that's why we gripped the place. It's a heavy spot, but were happy there.'

They found a drummer in Ian Herman who has played with the Rockets, Tim Part, Issa, Wassomata and can be described as the resident Shifty drummer.

They've quickly found venues where they could play their 'original free music. So far they have already played at the Black Sun, 42nd Street, Jamesons, Benson's Demolition Company, and at Bay Street in the Oxford Road area.

The Genuines combine a high level of musical competence, a culturally diverse, unprejudiced approach to music, and a social consciousness. The combination of bread and butter music and we're not complaining about the whole move, no we're proud of that. We'll sommer smear it in some peoples face.'

Catch The Genuines if you can. Hulie spee creative waarnem. ALF JAMES



The Genuines TONY HUGO

driving rock that was bouncing people in their seats, heads were bobbing, and hands tapping time on tabletops. It takes a bit of getting used to the sound of rock on a Sunday night at this haved jazz venue. Almost sacrilegious. But like most times, I've been involved in sociology, the unbusiness is soon forgotten in the earthy enjoyment.

Then vintage Kaapse kloppe, played with verve, energy and enthusiasm, on a bed of subtle now driving, swishing, always rhythmic percussion.

'San Van Riebeck se ding is vim,' rasped Mac, the charismatic vocalist/bassist. The rock was soon forgotten. A rock band? Mac and keyboardist Hilton Schilder booted from the Cape Press: it was obvious they were a kloppe band.

ant to Cape Times,

The Genuines article: Mother City's own sons

CAPE TOWN get ready — your very own group. The Genuines are returning to the local circuit after a hugely successful stint in Joburg. They headed north because you weren't quite ready for them when they started out nine months ago. Be prepared this time round.

You wanted originality. They have it. You wanted creativity. There's loads of it. You wanted danceability. They oozed it. I recently saw them strutting their stuff at Joburg's popular 'Jameson's' nightclub. The experience was electrifying. What really grabbed me was the inclusion of tightly delivered Kaapse Kloppe music in their energetic repertoire of pop, fusion, rock and funk.

With this, The Genuines showed they had the guts to do what few, if any, dared: they created a place for the kloppe idiom in the mainstream of modern and club music.

And it worked because there was no hint of apology — it was aggressive. 'Ours is the experience of being coloured musicians in this country. And that includes Kloppe music,' says Ian Herman, the group's volcanic drummer and only northerner.

The other members are professional and session musicians who have paid their dues. Hilton Schilder (keyboards, vocals) Mac Mackenzie (bass, vocals) and Gerard O'Brien (guitar) are all the Mother City's own sons. Now they've come home.

These sessions formed the basis for our music. The influences are so varied, and being coloured in South Africa lends an extra dimension.

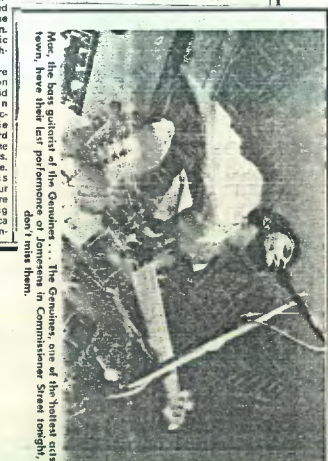


The Genuines article: Mother City's own sons. The Genuines article: Mother City's own sons. The Genuines article: Mother City's own sons. The Genuines article: Mother City's own sons.

From the exuberance of those shuffling kloppe ditties to their critical jazz/funk compositions and the demonic robotics of Amap! music influences... The Genuines' music is original and, well... genuine.

They play at Indaba Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from February 4.

Yazeed Fakier



Mac, the bass guitarist of the Genuines... The Genuines, one of the hottest acts to have their last performance at Johannesburg's Shifty Records.