



SUPPORT ACT: Local musician Mike Smith will be appearing before Richie Havens at the ICC tonight.

Mike Smith shares the stage with Richie Havens tonight

TONIGHT REPORTER

SUPPORTING Richie Havens is a dream come true for Durban's Mike Smith. Mike Smith was chosen by the concert promoters to be the supporting act for the first SA tour by visiting African American balladeer, Richie Havens who will be playing at Durban's ICC tonight.

"I am a really great fan of Richie and it is a real thrill for me to be able to share the stage with him. When I first saw the Woodstock movie, Havens just grabbed me!

"He is such a talented man with such incredible stage presence. For many years my favourite tape was of Woodstock. I rewound and replayed Richies's songs a thousand times."

Mike performs an extensive repertoire of self-

penned songs in a style he calls "Afric-rock-reggae". His songs look at the activities of everyday people. He tries to keep the numbers up-beat and happy while telling personal and pertinent stories.

"My style of writing is free-spirited although I feel like I am moving in the same direction as Richie. We look at different issues in very different ways, but there is a similarity in our approach to music. I really respect his work. There is magic in his simplicity: one guy with one guitar . . . and a big heart!"

Mike will be playing solo with Ros Thompson on supporting vocals.

"It is really great to have the chance to meet one's hero. I am looking forward to meeting the one musician I really would like to be like. I would like to present him with my new CD!"

Booking is through Computicket.