

US balladeer to hit SA stages soon

By Elliot Makhaya
Entertainment Editor

AMERICAN balladeer Richie Havens, who is in a class of his own, will be in South Africa in September for the International Theatre Series.

The International Theatre Series is the brainchild of concert promoter and respected South African David Marks, who wrote the biggest South African worldwide hit in history, *Master Jack*.

Havens is reputed to be another Woodstock sensation next to Crosby, Stills and Nash. Incidentally, it was Marks who brought Stills and Nash to South Africa last year.

The International Theatre Series organises intimate, smaller concerts in quality theatres where audiences can see the artists up close, as opposed to cold-er capacity-packed stadiums.

United States folk legend Havens will launch the series in Cape Town at the Nico Malan Theatre on October 2 and 4.

He will then move to Johannesburg's Civic Theatre on October 8 and 9.

The tour ends with one show at the new ICC Theatre in Durban on October 10. Book at Computicket.

"We are at present negotiating with legends we grew up hearing about but were never able to see perform live during the years when our country was blacklisted by international artists," says Marks, who also plans to return self-exiled South African artists such as Manfred Mann to perform in front of their loyal local followers.

"Havens, with his outstanding renditions of Dylan and '60s classics as well as covers by modern artists such as Sting, is an ideal choice to introduce the series in this country," he says.

Havens, noted and adored for his three-hour open-

ing performance at Woodstock and his on-the-spot composition of what became his most famous song, *Freedom*, says of that day: "I was supposed to be fifth on the bill but I had to go on first, because the first acts had not yet arrived."

The result was Havens was pushed on stage first and kept there till the first act arrived - almost three hours later.

But this proved to be no disappointment to concertgoers, who gave him nine encores.



Balladeer and environmentalist Richie Havens is coming to South Africa.

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