

# **VULI YENI**

BIOGRAPHICAL

PRESS RELEASE

VULI YENI - SINGER SONGWRITER HAS ARRIVED WITH HIS DEBUT " SHED RECORDS " SINGLE: A SIDE "Little Girl" B SIDE "Smilin Faces" RECORDED AT SHED STUDIOS IN ZIMBABWE.

## **XZS 106**

On the 31st of March 1953 a baby boy was born in Sobantuville Pietermaritzburg, Natal and this boy grew up under the name of Vuli.

Vuli is the third born in a family of five. At a tender age Vuli grew accustomed to music due to his father's influence. Vuli's father Gibson Yeni a highschool teacher by profession led the church choir and conducted his school's choir and though Vuli didn't like classical music, he wanted to be like his father.

Vuli did his primary education in Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Charlestown and when his family left South Africa in 1962 for Zimbabwe he attended St. Mary's primary school in Salisbury. At school Vuli still recalls when the music teacher would always comment on how horrible his voice was. At one point the teacher would sarcastically say to the choir that Vuli sings like a guitar out of tune. This didn't bother him at all because 1. he knew that wasn't his kind of music and 2. his father was quite satisfied with his voice when they sang hymns at home at night before going to bed. It was when Vuli was in Salisbury when Beatlemania reached its peak and greatly influenced by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones he wanted to learn how to play the guitar. Together with his elder brother they would make guitars out of cooking oil cans and used fishing lines as guitar strings. Mr Yeni wasn't prepared to buy his sons guitars because he had wanted them to play classical music like himself, and also he thought they were still young to learn how to play.

In 1964 the Yeni family were on the road again heading for Zambia. In Zambia Vuli attended Lusaka Boys School.

In 1966 the Yeni family again had to pack their bags and this time leave the continent, and for the first time in his life he was going to board that big bird he had always seen in the sky, an aeroplane.

It was in 1967 in Rowloon, Hon Kong that Mr. Yeni finally submitted to his sons demand for a guitar and so in Hong Kong Mr. Yeni bought Vuli and his elder brother a guitar, and to his sons astonishment he himself taught them how to play it.

They say that a rolling stone gathers no moss, but Vuli doesn't think so because in Hong Kong he learnt how to play the guitar, and later when he moved to Dar es Salaam where he completed his high school education in 1972, he learnt how to play the organ taught by his elder sister.

In 1975 he went over to Nairobi and joined The Mighty Cavalliers and in January 1976 this band released an L.P. in which Vuli wrote one track and blew the tenor saxophone on all other tracks. Unfortunately he left Kenya before the release of the L.P. Every man has a dream, and Vuli's dream has always been that of wanting to be a recording artist. Charity begins at home and so he decided to try Salisbury which is nearer to his country of birth South Africa, and after all, this is where it all began.

The words of both of these tracks show a great insight and understanding of people, probably due to the background of the composer - yes, Vuli Yeni, of course.



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