

## Another week of Afro-rock

### ROCK

John Michell

THE festival of Afro-rock at the Market Theatre enters its second week on Monday with a new programme — Roger Lucey backed by his own band, and Era, a nine-man group from the Cape.

Era, little known in Johannesburg, has been punching out high energy music since its formation in 1976. Its roots are in Grahamstown, Queenstown and Cape Town and they boast that they handle anything from blues, funk, R & B and soul to basic Afro-rock and jazz.

The group first came to Johannesburg in 1977 and were all set to play in top venues, like the New York City, when the police cracked down on multi-racial nightclubs. So Era was shunted out to Springs before being heard by 3rd Ear Music who recorded two albums of Era's indigenous Xhosa rhythms.

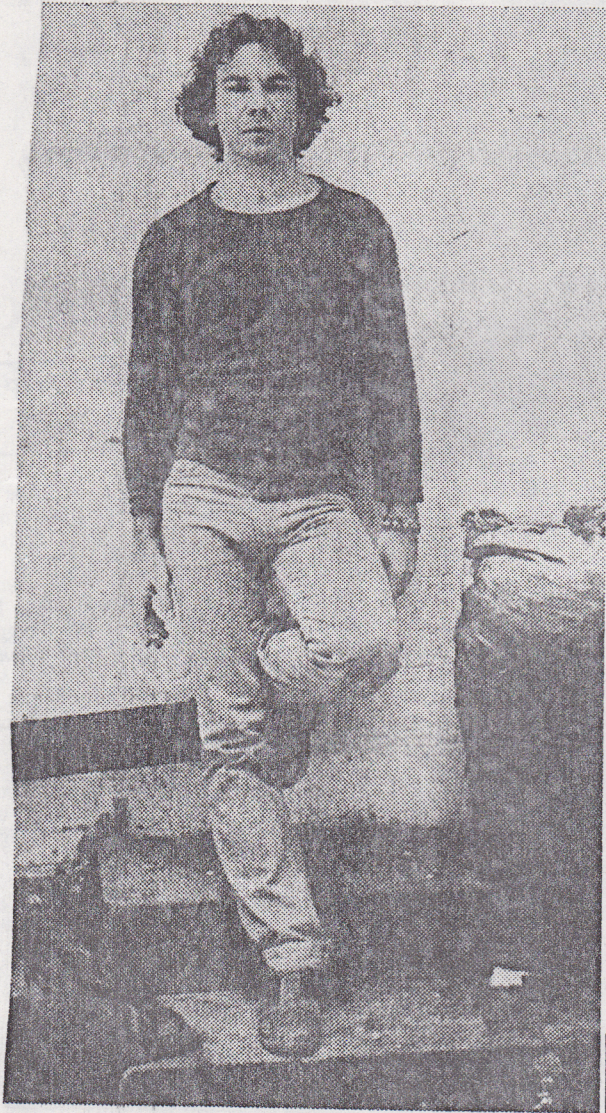
So when they take the stage on Monday night it will be their Johannesburg debut.

Roger Lucey, the angry young man with political lyrics, will make a second debut. This is to be his first South African concert since his return in February from a lengthy sojourn in London and the U S A.

He will be presenting his new group, simply called the Roger Lucey Band. And it will be a "new" Roger Lucey, he assures me. With fresh material and a show that is more developed as a result of his overseas exposure, he hopes to draw bigger crowds than ever.

Starting with this series of concerts, he plans to perform around Southern Africa, mainly on campuses, record an album and with a locally established band return to the U S A in 1981.

In the line-up of his band is Jethro Butow, guitarist and session musician who acted as lead guitarist for Cliff Richard during the star's recent tour.



Roger Lucey . . . second debut.



Roger Lucy . . . People's music for the Eighties

## New drive, new look, new music

### SHOW PEOPLE

John Michell

ROGER LUCY, the aggressive rock singer and composer of political lyrics, arrived back in Johannesburg from New York last week with loads of new material and plans for an all-out drive reach a bigger public.

With a new manager, New York businessman Mark Shapiro, and wife Sue in tow, Roger told me of his plans to set up a band and then organise a nation-wide tour that would expand his earlier audience which was predominantly a university crowd. And he is going re-press his album "The Road is Much Longer".

His old fans won't be disappointed by the new material, Roger says, though they will have to get used to the new look — gone are the shaggy locks and thick beard. He describes his latest work as "new music with a different influence that is people's music for the Eighties".

Fired with go-get enthusiasm, he is producing a sound that will have more general appeal. Will he release another record soon? He certainly wants to, just as soon as he can collect the necessary band members.

After a brief spell in London, where Roger had hoped to join Manfred Mann's Earth Band, he decided that that course was not for him and they went their different ways quite amicably.

New York, he contends, was very good to him and he angrily denied Press claims that he had been cold shouldered. He certainly had not "derided" his album and said that the record company, Weir, was, contrary to reports, keen to market his music.