

**ENTERTAINMENT  
AND THE ARTS**



# White boy leads Zulu warriors

ADRIAN ENGLISH

**THE SHOW:** Tribal Blues (University Great Hall).  
**THE ARTISTS:** Jon Clegg, Sipho Mchunu, dancers wa madhlebe, Malombo Jazz Makers and Wilde Bees (formerly Freedom's Children).  
**THE PROMOTERS:** Third Ear Music and NUSAS.

AT LAST somebody is starting to tap the vast wealth of indigenous talent that abounds in this country. Last night's opening concert with its 98 percent Black material and performers was only the tip of the iceberg, now we need to dig deeper.

A rather empty and slightly desolate Great Hall was the centre for one of the most ambitious multiracial shows staged in this country. The most remarkable act of the evening was a superb display of Zulu dancing and singing by a troupe of 18 part-time warriors led by an 18-year-old White boy, Jon Clegg.

This young man, trained and guided by Credo (Indaba My Children) Mutwa is a most realistic induna as he leaps and screams about the stage whipping his team into a frenzy of stamping and whistling. Jon has an uncanny sensitivity and rapport with his dancers.

Here is real talent. He writes in Zulu, and certainly last night appeared more at home in the language than he is in English. Young Jon has taken a long road to find the roots of African culture. Slowly he is building up a repertoire of material that hopefully, one day, somebody will seize upon and say, this is Africa.

On the more musical side, the Malombo jazz-makers are so bursting with vitality and talent, I wondered where they would be if they were White. Despite a badly injured hand, Julian Bahula led his companions, Abecindi on flute and alto sax and Lucky on guitar, through some powerful jazz "African style" rhythms on

his set of conga drums. A soaring flute and penny whistle are the lead figures for some magnificent guitar riffs and drum patterns that could have gone on all night.

The only blight on the evening was the re-emergence of three members of Freedom's Children and one from Abstract Truth who came from a farm in Swaziland to present excerpts from their alleged masterpiece, Orang Outang.

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1st NIGHT  
LAST 50%  
2nd NIGHT  
LAST 75%

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