

**SAFMA
NATIONAL
FOLK
FESTIVAL 1970**

"OLD ROUTES & NEW DIRECTIONS"



SANDOWN ARTS THEATRE, JOHANNESBURG

16-26 July 8-15 p.m.

AND AT

CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC, PRETORIA

28 & 29 JULY 8-00 pm

Cast List
(In Alphabetical Order)

MUFF BEHRENS
PAUL BEHRENS
BRIAN BEBBINGTON
VALERIE CARPELAN
CAROLINE COAKER
THEO COETZEE
THE COLLEGE SET. (ANDY LEVY, NORMAN COHEN, HUGH SOLOMON.)
DENNIS & TERENCE
ANDY DILLON
ESTHER & DENISE
THE FELLOWS. (JOHN LEACH, JOHN SHAW.)
BRIAN FINCH
BRIAN GIBSON
GAIL & GINNIE
GILL & PAUL
GLADTIME BAND. (SUZY SKLAIR, CHRIS McHALE, & NINO RIVERA.)
CLIVE GLOVER.
JILL KIRKLAND
PETER LE ROUX
CAROLINE MACDONALD
DAVID MARKS
MARCELLE MATTHEWS
MEL MILLER
EDI NIEDERLANDER
PAUL & ALAN
VAL PHILLIPS
ROCKY RATH

OLD ROUTES AND

PROGRA

Presented

S.A.F.

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PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO ALL

RAMME

D NEW DIRECTIONS

nted by

F.M.A.

LEON RABINOWITZ

REALITY CHAPTER. (PAUL CLINGMAN, PHIL SMIEDT.)

SEAN RENNIE

DAVE ROSE

MIKE SEARS

COLIN SHAMLEY

COLIN SHAPIRO

GORDON SILVER

JOHN SILVER

ERIC SOLOMON

TOGETHER. (CLEM THOLET, PETER LE ROY, SYLVIA STOTT, MEL MILLER.)

CHRISTINE VAN DER MAAK.

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STAGE MANAGER:

MEL MILLER

LIGHTING:

PETER DUBY

SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION:

CLEM THOLET

SOUND SYSTEM:

DAVE MARKS

MUSICAL DIRECTION & NARRATION

IRENE FRANGS

PRODUCTION BY SAFMA NATIONAL & JOHANNESBURG COMMITTEES

FRONT OF HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY:

LIONEL SILVER & PETER GRAY

BACKSTAGE & GENERAL ASSISTANCE:

IN TRUE FOLK SPIRIT THE CAST, SAFMA
COMMITTEES AND ALAN HATCHUEL,
ESTELLE ORLIN AND KIM SACKS.

POSTER:

RICK ALEXANDER

ALL KINDS OF ALTERATIONS.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOLK MUSIC ASSOCIATION: A RESUME

Before the peak of the folksong boom in South Africa, a need was felt amongst the folksingers for a co-ordinating body that at the same time could foster folk music and public interest therein in this country, mainly by means of Annual Folk Festivals.

A meeting for this purpose was called at Keith Blundell's residence, in mid-1966, at which a Folk Festival Steering committee was elected. This committee, under the chairmanship of Ray Sher, organised the 1966 National Folksong Festival, held at the University Great Hall during September — an artistically successful but cold series of concerts produced by Barney Simon. More successful was the weekend caravan camp at Meredale which preceded the Festival concerts. This weekend of workshops, which was attended by enthusiasts from all over the country, but mainly from Cape Town and Johannesburg, set a standard of artistic ability and variety and enthusiasm that has so far been difficult to match. At an inaugural meeting held during the weekend at Meredale, SAFMA was founded; and its constitution adopted by the members present. Ray Sher was elected as SAFMA's first Chairman, which position he held until he resigned in May 1967 when he changed his domicile to Cape Town. Ben Segal then held the chair until the following A.G.M.

During the first year of SAFMA's existence, the accent was on building up membership, and on creating activities and outlets for folksinging. Nearly all the incentives and activities found on the SAFMA application form for membership were introduced during 1967. There was also a highly successful if overlong concert in aid of the African Music Society, and concerts in Klerksdorp and Vanderbijlpark. SAFMA inaugurated its current series of SAFMA records with an LP by Brian Bebbington and "The Folksinger" magazine (Vol 1 No. 1) first saw the light that year.

The Guitar Club of Pretoria and the Wits University Folksong Workshop affiliated to SAFMA during 1967.

The 1967 Folk Festival was held at the makeshift "Folk Theatre" behind the Troubadour, where the very impermanence of the seats, set etc. helped create an atmosphere ideally suited to the type of festival produced. The producer was Richard Daneel. At the A.G.M. held during this festival Leon Rabinowitz was elected Chairman for 1968.

The facet of folk music emphasised during 1968 was expansion and "doing one's own thing". The Natal Folk Music Association, Durban and the Free State Folk Club, Bloemfontein were founded and affiliated to SAFMA. Durban had its own successful folk festival and expanded their activities under the chairmanship of "Ginger" Seipp. This was the year when the singer-composers came to the fore, to incorporate an individual South African flavour in our folk music.

A highlight during this year was the Singer-Songwriter Concert held at the Selborne Hall which was unique and exciting, but continued, chronically, longer than a normal full concert should. Two records, The Mike Dickman LP (Now a collector's item) and the "S.A. Folk Scene and Heard" LP (Singer-Songwriters) and the 2nd issue of "The Folksinger" (A vast improvement on the previous issue) are souvenirs of this particular SAFMA era.

The A.G.M. held during this festival elected Keith Blundell as the 1969 Chairman. Keith devoted himself to organising a superb festival at the German School in detail, the emphasis being on groups, rather than individuals, and folksongs rather than folksingers. Another innovation was the shifting of the complete festival to Pretoria for 2 days.

The annual Festival at Sandown turned out to be an informal series of concerts, with the emphasis still on our local composers. Many Durbanites helped to contribute to the success of this festival.

External commitments caused Theo Coetzer, the Chairman elected at the following A.G.M. to resign, his place being taken by Mel Miller. Folk Festival this year is back at Sandown, (having had a successful start in Durban) and, will go on to Pretoria. New talent "Old Routes and New Directions" are this year's "bag".

BEN SEGAL.