

# Recording studio for the Stable

LOCAL music and musicians get a boost with plans to install a mini recording studio for the making of demo tapes at the Stable Theatre in Durban.

The Stable is fast becoming an informal music centre in the city.

Last weekend saw the first of a regular series of fortnightly concerts featuring talented local musicians.

Now to take matters a step further, the Music Association of Natal (Mana) will be installing recording equipment for

cash-strapped bands to make demo tapes. The Stable also offers musicians rehearsal space.

It is hoped the theatre will become a music centre along the lines of Johannesburg's Mega Music, where musicians meet to rehearse, perform and record. This kind of venue is sorely needed in Durban — many local bands have broken up because of a lack of rehearsal space and equipment on which to practise.

Mana and the Stable management believe an informal performance venue will give bands a chance to develop their skills and, with established as well as unknown musicians using the theatre, an exchange of ideas and skills will take place, contributing enormously to the development of music in Durban.

The music centre is starting in a small way with concerts and the demo studio being the priorities. Once it is better known as a centre of music happenings, sponsorship will be sought to improve facilities.

Last weekend's concert, sponsored by Mana and Tusk Records, featured Afro-jazz band Zanusi, Inbatwina, and Mark Harris. The next concert is planned for Saturday, September 16 at 2 pm. Taking part will be The Rhythm Aces and Zanusi. The Stable Theatre is at 490 West Street.

## Afro-jazz at the Stable

AFRO-jazz musicians Zanusi, The Inbetweens, and Mark Harris will launch a new series of Saturday afternoon musical get-togethers at the Stable Theatre in Durban tomorrow.

The concert, which begins at 2 pm, is a new project of the Music Association of Natal (MANA) and The Stable.

Entrance is R5 which includes cheese and wine.

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The Natal  
**Mercury**

## What's on the music beat

**D**URBAN will shortly have a new music centre where musicians can meet to rehearse, record and perform, following an agreement reached recently by the Music Association Natal and the Stable Theatre.

The theatre — at 490 West Street — will give local bands a place to develop their performance skills and also provide rehearsal space and equipment on which to practise.

The lack of such facilities has already led to the break-up of several local bands.

Mana is at present busy making arrangements for the installation of recording equipment suitable for the making of demo tapes.

A spokesman for Mana said that it was believed that, with established and unknown musicians using the venue,

an exchange of knowledge and skills would take place and contribute greatly to the development of music locally.

'The music centre is starting in a small way, with concerts and the demo studio being the priorities. Once the venue is better known as a centre of musical activities, finance or sponsorship will be sought to improve facilities and extend the usefulness of the centre.'

Some potential sponsors have already expressed interest in the concept.

Meanwhile, the Stable Theatre has been used as the venue for a series of fortnightly concerts. The first featured Zanusi, Inbatwina and Mark Harris.

The next concert — featuring the Rhythm Aces and Zanusi — will start at 2 pm on Saturday, September 16.

The Stable Theatre Company was established in 1977 by playwright Kessie Govender. Among those who have worked with the company are Mbongeni Ngema, Manu Padyachee, Sagren Naidoo and Sam Marais.