

DAVID MARKS is one of South Africa's least known successful songwriters & producers with a number of international hit songs to his credit. For the past 30 years he has recorded, mixed & produced countless albums for other singer songwriters, but has never made a record himself. We wired him up with a few microphones & with guitar maestro **ALAN JUDD** committed these tunes (old & new) to tape for your consideration - the intention is to invite you to participate in the making of this **HIDDEN YEARS** record.

Some background An underground history.

David started his music career 'underground' - literally speaking - writing songs, underground.....in the Gold Mines. He spent 4 & a half years 'in the deep dark' of Welkom, Grootvlei, & Springs. Up in the sunshine & sometimes the spotlight, he played bass for various Rock 'n Roll bands from Witbank Technical College in '61 to the Free State Gold Mines. This included gigs with **HARRY POULOS & DAVEY JAMES** at **TILES** in Durban in 1967 & as a solo 'folk singer' on the '3 month cycle' **CockTale Lounge & BarRoom Balladeer circuit** from the 4 Seasons, Totum & Astra in Durban, to the Nite Beat & the Troubadour in Jo'burg. In 1968 he founded the **NATAL FOLK MUSIC ASSOCIATION (NAFMA)** in Durban.

3rd Ear Music was officially established as a music publisher while David was in the USA, by his music mentor & close friend **BEN SEGAL** & publisher **AUDREY FRIEND-SMITH** in August of 1969 -- the country's first 'alternative' independent record company. Today 3rd Ear Music has a tape archives with over 30 years of live recorded music. David has been MD of 3eM since 1970.

1969 was a particularly good year for Rock 'n Roll & David spent the best part of '69 touring the USA with **HANLEY SOUND** of **BOSTON** working with some of the worlds great names in Folk & Rock: **The STONES, JOAN BAEZ, DONOVAN, HOYT AXTON, THE TURTLES, 3 DOG NIGHT, JIMI HENDRIX & WOODSTOCK**. His first live mixing gig was at **LIVE PEACE IN TORONTO** for **JOHN LENNON'S PLASTIC ONO BAND, BO DIDDLEY, TONY JOE WHITE, LITTLE RICHARD, JERRY LEE LEWIS, ERIC CLAPTON**, etc.

Returning to South Africa in 1970, Africa's first professional **SOUND ENGINEER** set off with his new found sound partners **TOMA SIMONS & (the late) DON WILLIAMSON** to establish **3rd Ear Sound Company**, a first in Africa. The famed **WOODSTOCK BINS** were first heard at the **Eyethu Cinema** in Soweto 1971 & became a regular feature in townships & on campuses all over the country in a variety of innovative Jazz, Soul & Jive festivals appearing in Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana etc.

3rd Ear Music became known as the **HOUSE THAT MASTER JACK BUILT**.

BEN, AUDREY & DAVID'S aim in the 60's was to promote, produce, protect & publish South African words & Music that the 'established' Record Industry deemed non-commercial or too political. **BEN** personally financed many events & recordings. Royalties from **MASTER JACK** were used to fund festivals, clubs, concerts & launched many singer songwriting careers. To overcome the then government's draconian 'no mixing of cultures' law, David & photographer friend **TONY CAMPBELL** devised the **FREE PEOPLE'S CONCERTS** - first on a deserted Durban Beach in 1970 & later at Wits University in March of 1971. Under the auspices of the then **SOUTH AFRICAN FOLK MUSIC ASSOCIATION (SAFMA)** & various student organizations (**NUSAS, AQUARIUS, SAVS**) the remarkable **FREE PEOPLES CONCERTS**, one of the very few outlets for new SA music at the time, become regular annual festivals on campuses all over the country. 3rd Ear Music friends (**Big MAC, BRIAN FINCH, RICHIE MORRIS, DON & TOMA, STAN JAMES & ROGER LUCEY** among many) initiated & managed a variety of 'alternative' music clubs for musicians who were being ignored or avoided by the SA record industry & State-run-radio.

David started off his 'club' career while working underground on the East Rand at the **TROUBADOUR** in Noord Street in 1966 -- managed at the time by **DES LINDBERG & IAN LAWRENCE** -- & at **BIG ABE'S NITE BEAT** in Hillbrow. With songwriter **COLIN SHAMLEY** he started **MANGLES**; with **STAN DOMP** the **VILLAGE**; with **BRIAN FINCH** the **OXFORD HOTEL** in Johannesburg & the **TOTUM** in Durban with **RICHIE MORRIS, BRIAN & BOB WILSON** - moving between the **TOTUM** & the **MAYFAIR** in Durban to the Jo'burg clubs. The **BLUE FOX** & the **MARKET THEATER** were joint theatre & music ventures with **MANNIE MANNIN** & the late **BARNEY SIMON**. Through the 80's David, **TONY CAMPBELL** & **DAVE BERMAN** created **LE CHIAM** & he started the **CHELSEA UNDERGROUND** in 1980 with **RODNEY BARNET, STAN JAMES & ROGER LUCEY**. He worked with **DENNIS FELDMAN** to start **MC Studios** in Hillbrow with **TON DEN TEULING & PETER HUBNER** before handing over the **WOODSTOCK BINS** to **MSC** (later to become **PROSOUND**) moving 3rd Ear Music permanently to Durban in the mid 80's.

In the 90's he helped establish the **Le PLAZA** with **DAN CHIORBOLI & JAM & SONS** for **HERBERT** in Durban & is one of the 3 producers of South Africa's most successful annual contemporary Music Festivals, **SPLASHY FEN**, founded in 1990 by farmer **PETER FERRAZ** & forester **BART FOKKENS**. He was also the founder of the **MUSIC ASSOCIATION of NATAL (MANA)** with **DAN** in 1988 & was a founder member of the **NATAL CULTURAL CONGRESS (NCC)**.

David occasionally revives the classic & unique **GUITARS for AFRICA** concerts & has put his vast South African concert & festival experience behind promoting international concert tours. Texan **SHAWN PHILLIPS** (which he produced together with veteran Folk music promoter **THEO COETZEE**) & **SPLASHY FEN** were the very first music events to take place in the new South African democracy - on the first day of the first democratic elections 27th April 1994. Two highly successful international concert tours followed with Texan author & troubadour **KINKY FRIEDMAN** in 1995 & the legendary **CROSBY, STILLS & NASH** in 1996.

WOODSTOCK legend, RICHIE HAVENS, the man DAVID set microphones up for at the 1969 festival, will be 3rd Ear Music's guest for a 5 concert performance in South Africa from October the 4th to the 10th 1997.

The HIDDEN YEARS BAND has just returned from a triumphant concert at the legendary WOODSTOCK 97 festival - The Hidden Years Band played at the Historic Woodstock festival reunion on Max Yasgur's farm in upstate New York on August the 16th - 28 South Africans, 13 staff & 15 in a band of all ages, styles & cultures performed a set of 20 original South African songs. The reaction to the show in the USA was, to say the least, overwhelming - so too was the Press & Radio reaction in Cape Town & Johannesburg before the band left SA.

The Festival was attended by some 15,000 people over 3 days - the SA Consul General Ms Sheila Sisulu, her deputy Salim Aziz & Staff were invited up on stage at the end of the Hidden Years Band set. (Through the office of the South African Consul General, an injunction against Woodstock '97 was overturned 12 hours before. There is, years after Max Yasgur's death, some dispute over who owns the land.) Ms Sisulu told the audience that the Hidden Years Band at Woodstock & their impromptu show on the steps of the UNITED NATIONS some days before, made her very proud to be a South African. The band was asked to join Woodstock legend MELANIE for a song - they have now been invited to join Melanie on her USA tour in 1998.

The primary aim of the Hidden Years at Woodstock (& the proposed future tour) is to raise awareness of the CF Beyers-Naude Development Foundation - the Development of Alexandra Township. A TV Documentary is being produced to help raise funds internationally, featuring 10 original songs from the HIDDEN YEARS CD of 18 songs by composer David Marks & recorded by the SABC in Johannesburg.

David now works with PETER RORVIK from kwaZuluNatal preparing to produce a series of indigenous albums & tours for the HIDDEN YEARS project with 3rd Ear's new partner directors BARRY GERSON & TERRY ROSENBERG.

3eM is currently arranging the biggest 'African cultural' event for the FIN DE SIECLE FESTIVAL in NANTES, FRANCE in October 1997, that will feature over 300 'unknown' indigenous & contemporary South African Musicians for 10 days.

David now works with PETER RORVIK from kwaZuluNatal preparing to produce a series of indigenous albums & tours for the **HIDDEN YEARS** project with 3rd Ear's new partner directors BARRY GERSON & TERRY ROSENBERG.

David now lives in Durban with his inspiration of the last 27 years, wife **FRAN**, their 4 children & a grandchild.....can you believe it!

.....**BRING ON THE ROCKING CHAIR?!**

The songs in this collection were all composed by David between 1964 & 1994 & many of them have been recorded by other artists & included in numerous shows & soundtracks- WHAT IS LOVE (1967) DR. KALIE (1969) GIVE ME BESIDES MY DAILY BREAD (with Phil de Bruyn 1967) COMMIT NO NUISANCE (1979) FOOL MARKS (1981) & his own GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL presentation of ROCKING CHAIR SONGS & STORIES (1995).

Modern tradition dictates that it is far better for songwriters to perform the songs they compose -- if they want to be heard. Technically speaking this can present a problem - especially if you only know 5 chords - which in the true tradition of the modern troubadour is often the case. By his own admission David Marks is no exception. He loves to sing & does so regularly -- he does not mind being recorded - - he just does not want to hear the playbacks -- complains that his recorded songs do not come out the way he hears them with an audience on stage or in his head alone. To help change this situation DAVID & ALAN would be honoured if you could find the time to lend your talent & good name (for a fee &/or royalty ofcourse) to this recording project.

Perhaps a verse or two, a chorus or just a little production advise or instrumental backup. Listen to the melodies & lyrics of the tune we have chosen for you & don't worry too much about trying to understand it - if you do not think it will suit you, scan through the tape - there might be another song that appeals to you.

If you would like to be part of The **HIDDEN YEARS** Please contact

RAEL BIRNS (011) 802-8636 at ESP or PETER RORVIK at 3rd Ear Music
Tel (031) 207-5315 Fax (031) 207-5305 eMail <thirdear@iafrica.com>