

something else

Big tour planned by Roger Lucy

By ANTON HARBER

PRE-AZANIAN music is coming to Springs soon when Roger Lucy, powerful singer and composer, begins a nationwide tour.

Azania is the name chosen by black nationalist movements for a liberated South Africa just as Rhodesia becomes Zimbabwe after the elections this month.

Lucy uses the name to express the political drive behind his music.

Roger has just returned from a six-month visit to London and New York with a new image, a fresh approach and enough enthusiasm to fire a tour on a scale unprecedented by local artists.

Having shed his beard and hair and acquired an American manager, Mark Shapiro, Lucy is looking for a bigger audience for his individual brand of politically motivated music.

"We are tired of preaching to the converted only," he said, explaining his desire for a wider appeal.

He describes his music now as "more upbeat and updated."

In a word, Lucy is commercialising. But, he hastily adds, he is commercialising his approach not his music.

"The original motivation behind my music is the same. It is part of the same political concept. But we want more people to hear it, and we think they will like it," he said.

He is talking now of a new professionalism on the lines of the slick, faultless performances he saw overseas.

His tour will visit 30 venues, starting at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg at the end of March and coming to Springs early in April.

Lucy will also travel to Botswana and Namibia with about five of "the country's top musicians", who he will not name yet.

"We are going to do the impossible in terms of size," his manager said.

Roger will also be taking the opportunity to promote the record he released prior to his departure, "The Road is Much Longer".

He has sold over 50% of

the original pressing and is planning a re-issue which will include some of his best music omitted from the original record.

The record included some haunting lyrics about the political situation in South Africa.

He is also planning to do further recordings in the near future.

Roger originally went to London to audition for Manfred Mann's Earth Band but, having decided the work did not suit his particular talents, he moved on to New York.

There he was well received by the record company, WEA, who will be distributing his recordings.

Events are moving fast for Roger, who has come a long way in the recording and performing fields in the past year.

If he succeeds in maintaining the powerful content of his lyrics while popularising his style, he is likely to cause a stir in the music business.



Roger Lucy, who will be performing soon in Springs