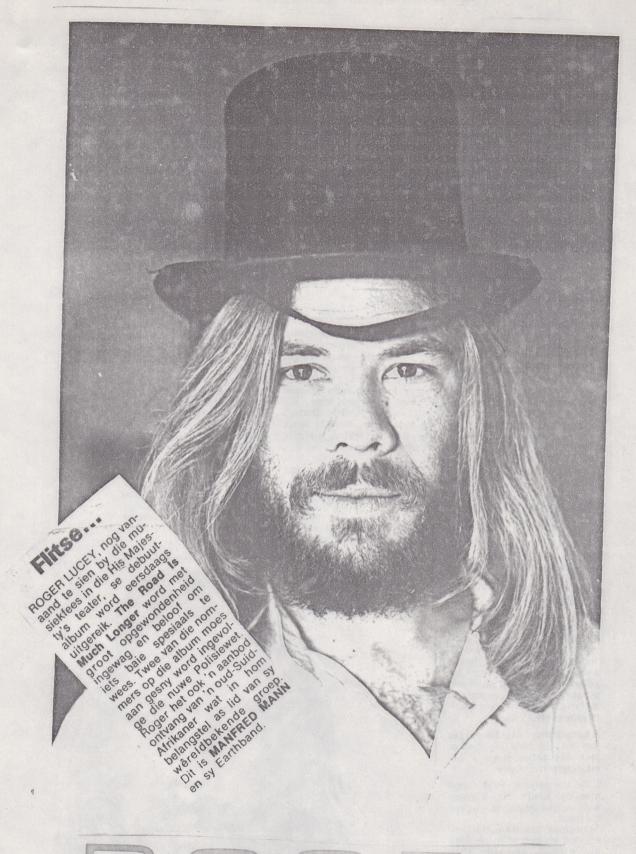
INTRODUCING



ROGER

Lucey shines at music festival

Last night Roger Lucey signalled his arrival as a major performing artist.

His transition from the small solo stage at Mangles club to the concert format was spectacular. He moved with complete confidence, relating equally well to audience and backing band, and presented his lyrically complex songs without ever losing the strong rock 'n roll feel.

Roger Lucey is one of the few local singer/songwriters to give serious attention to his social environment. Others who do generally remain in the folk club setting forever, preaching to the ageing converted. Lucey could be the first to take that kind of awareness and project it through the popular rock medium.

He sang with an enthusiasm and conviction that infected the small audience, and gathered strength as the set progressed. His songs ranged across vivid contemporary situations, and included some very uncompromising assessments - "you know it's so damn easy/to turn and look away..."

Behind Lucey a hurriedly-assembled band rendered adequate service. He had the good sense to acquire two supportvocals ladies, who reinforced and extended his singing. Together the vocal unit expressed a savage sense of anger and moments of compassion equally effectively.

Considering that Lucey put this set and band together at such short notice, it was a devastating performance.

By comparison, Paul Clingman and band - also a group with serious intentions - lacked charisma.

Clingman has done this set so often his lack of spontaneity was painfully obviously after Lucey's cracking pace. Although Edi Nederlander (lead guitar), Ramsay MacKay (bass) and Colin Pratley ROCK

Patrick Lee Johannesburg Music Festival

His Majesty's

(drums) are far better known than their counterparts in Lucey's band, they could not get the same flow running.

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Clingman sang with only minimal support from Edi, and sounded lonely up front. His lyrics were not clear through the sound mix, and his songs are not naturally melodic enough to survive without that clarity.

Both Ramsay MacKay and Edi Nederlander were disappointingly docile, and it was only when MacKay and Pratley shared a stunning solo spot that some energy came to the team. Pratley drew spontaneous applause with his visually powerful performance. Therafter the set improved markedly and if it can be arranged that Clingman's vocals have more strength and clarity, the band should be good for the rest of the run.

Abafana Besishingishane, a tight nine-piece Mbaqanga band, delivered a highly energetic show.

Three guitars, drums, and keyboards backed the four front men who danced, jived, and leapt through a sequence of ethnic numbers, which although incomprehensible to the mostly white audience, drew frequent delighted reaction.

This is the first session of three in the Johannesburg Music Festival. If those to come deliver equally varied entertainment, and produce new star surprises like Roger Lucey, they'll be well worth seeing. This session runs until Satur-1a day.

