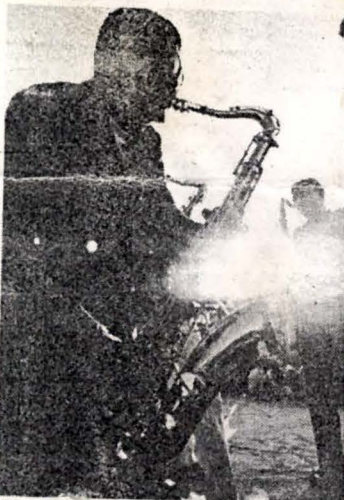


Music



Du Makasi: a wailing sun-set lament from back in the Sixties.



Dollar Brand: shaven pate with cello at Strandfontein in 1970.



Impromptu backstage ditty: Louis Moholo cymbalizes perfection.

Snapshot treasure has gems from the musical past

EVERY now and then a person of latent genius is accidentally "discovered".

Most Capetonians know the story of Billy Monk, for instance: the crayfish poacher, diamond diver, part-time robber and bouncer who was shot dead by one of his friends. Just before his death huge numbers of pictures apparently taken by Monk during his stint as bouncer at the famous '50s Cape Town nightclub Catacombs (where Club Sequel is today) were found by Cape Town photographer Jac De Villiers.

They were a documentary of the time in the true sense of the phrase. Women with beehive hair-styles wielding half-jacks of Limosin brandy, ducktail couples welded together in the darker corners of the club, a dwarf and cop in mock confrontation ... Jac took them to David Goldblatt and a successful, now famous, exhibition was hung in Johannesburg.

Jazz Den display

Another discovery, much less dramatic but equally historically significant and visually appealing, was made last week. Basil Breakey is an amateur pop photographer who has been caught with heaps of black and white shots of South African jazz musicians of the '60s and the world they lived in.

An exhibition of pictures chosen from the collection will be hung at

BEATS ME!

Chris du Plessis



A young Chris McGregor gets ready to take on Joeys soon after arriving in the Golden City.

stro Dudu Pukwana billowing out and bending backwards simultaneously.

Of a spritely young Abigail Khubeka, backed by an equally fresh-looking Winston Mankunku, strutting about coquettishly at a 1968 Swaziland concert. Of a Paisley-bedded Louis Moholo (the exiled black Buddy Rich who played with Phillip Thabane in the '50s and '60s) doing an impromptu stand-up backstage flip-about on the cymbals.

Of a bald-shaven Dollar Brand in heavy concentration behind a cello (Yes! correct) at a 1970 Strandfontein jazz concert. Of a young, beardless Chris McGregor asleep on a cold, carpetless floor after his arrival in Johannesburg in leaner days.

Of a solitary, demure Early Mabuse (of the by-gone Early Mabuse Quartet) behind a sparse '50s drum kit etc, etc, etc.

Not to be missed

About 200 of the pictures have been presented to publisher David Philip for a proposed compilation which Breakey hopes will be on the shelves by the end of the year.

In the meantime the sneak preview will be up for all and sundry.

All said, an exhibition not to be missed by any lover of black and white photography or South African music.

Spritely Abigail

There are shots of the late great Kippie "Marolong" Moeketsi, hailed by many as the greatest unsung sub-Saharan saxman (he died largely unrecognized in a township backroom in a haze of alcohol fumes) and the equally adept exiled mae-

the Jazz Den in Shortmarket Street on Sunday and the organizers hope to keep it on display for the month as part of the Jazz Den's anniversary celebrations.

The pics range from moody portraits in intimate home environs to fervent action snaps of the artists in mid-busk. Subject matter includes lesser-known artists and unique shots of nearly all the South African greats of the time, including many of our most revered musicians in exile.

Some of the impromptu heyday combos formed for some of the festivals seen on the shots are bound to make poor souls like us who missed out on such events weep with grief.

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