

HOPPING TO THE PARTY

JOINING TOP UK ROCK OUTFIT, FEEDER, AT THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH AT SUPERSPORT PARK ON OCTOBER 27 ARE SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MORE FAVOURITE ARTISTS AS WELL AS DANISH POP OUTFIT HOPSCOTCH

Sure, one of the biggest parties of the year, THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH at SUPERSPORT PARK on OCTOBER 27, is about celebrating a birthday. But more than that it is about entertaining; about providing South African partygoers with the best reason of the year to have fun; and about staging the greatest live music bash ever.

Which is why organisers are assembling a music line-up as impressive as the enormity of the day. So, joining top UK rockers FEEDER are Danish pop sensations HOPSCOTCH, another soon to be announced international act, and a collection of SA's great big-stage bands.

Which leaves an impressive stage line-up that looks like this:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| • <u>A STAGE</u> | <u>B STAGE</u> |
| Feeder | Wess-lee |
| Hopscotch | Zen Arcade |
| Saron Gas | Max Normal |
| Watershed | Tweak |
| Wonderboom | |
| Mean Mister Mustard | |
| Just Jinger | |

Accommodating all partying music styles, THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH will also erect a DJ tent that will see the likes of UK spinner ANNE SAVAGE and DINO TOPHAT performing.

"We want THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH to appeal to as many 5FM listeners as possible," explains 5FM station manager Anthony Duke. "This is, after all, the birthday celebration of a national radio station that for 26 years has taken every single music trend and new sound to the ears of millions of South Africans. Not only do they need to be thanked for this achievement, but their loyal fans need to be shown that their support is recognised and appreciated. What better way to do both of these, than with a party that will draw as many listeners as possible to listen to music that by being played on 5FM has defined the station as the country's entertainment authority."

As well as the music, THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH will offer concertgoers numerous other youth-oriented activities from an extreme sports area to a comedy tent, and is once again sponsored by leading fashion retailer, EDGARS.

"Having EDGARS onboard for the second year running is amazing," says concert promoter Roddy Quin. "Last year their presence brought a new and exciting element to the concert and we are sure they will do the same this year. EDGARS is the first choice fashion retailer for clothing among 5FM listeners as they offer the latest branded fashion, from Tommy Hilfiger fragrances to Levis jeans as well as their own successful youth ranges."

HOPSCOTCHHOPSCOTCHHOPSCOTCH

Modern rock and sweltering breakbeats fuse together to form the melodic sound universe of HOPSCOTCH.

HOPSCOTCH are centred around Danes, lead vocalist Lisbet Frisenette and songwriter Lars Roed. Together they manage all of the songwriting and composing. The characteristic sound of HOPSCOTCH was finally obtained after joining forces with the producer Morten Munch.



Having been signed to the Roadrunner Arcade Music label in 1999 success came fast for HOPSCOTCH. Their first single *Look Me In The Eyes* was released in late 1999 – and became an immediate radio hit. Just one week after its release it was positioned second on the Danish airplay chart and national radio P3 made it song of the week. The second single *Callgirl* was released in June 2000 and soon followed to be an equivalent hit of *Look Me In The Eyes*.

Their first concert was given at Pumpehuset, Copenhagen in June 2000, and marked the release of their album *Look Me In The Eyes*. The venue was packed for the occasion and the audience were very pleased.

Along with the album being released at this venue, their first video to *Look Me In The Eyes* was also introduced. Directed by Caswell Coggins, who previously worked with Robbie Williams, Suede and Gerri Halliwell, the video was shot in London and MTV soon saw the potential and played it extensively on the Nordic Top 5 chart.

A year after their first single had been chosen as song of the week, national radio chose yet again to elect the new single *Alive Again/Abused* from the album to be song of the week. This was the first time a national radio station in Denmark has chosen two singles from the same album to be song of the week.

At the same time, HOPSCOTCH's first single *Look Me In The Eyes* was released in Germany which instantly captured the 58th position on the German Mainstream Airplay Chart.

Following the success in Germany, *Look Me In The Eyes* was released in South Africa where it went Top 10 in the official airplay chart. At the moment *Callgirl* is in the official airplay chart Top 40.

Meanwhile HOPSCOTCH has been busy touring and playing a lot of festivals in both Germany and Denmark.

WATERSHEDWATERSHEDWATERSHED

The release of WATERSHED's debut album *In The Meantime* by EMI South Africa in April 2000 signaled the arrival of a substantial and fresh musical force on the South African music scene.

The Gauteng-based group first attracted the attention of music fans and the industry with the release of their first single, *Shine on Me*, which was playlisted on all the radio stations that count across South Africa, and is still played regularly on regional stations. It was followed up by the hits *Angel*, *In the Meantime*, *Indigo Girl* and *Yesterday Again*, and there's more to come.

Their sound, a gorgeous, at times edgy, serving of acoustic rock that's bolstered by some stellar vocals, delicate piano-work and an understated harmonica, is all about crafting songs that stand up to the harshest scrutiny and, whilst simple, rest on the highest global production standards.

Having started out essentially as a duo consisting of Craig Hinds (vocals, acoustic guitar, harmonica and piano) and Paul Mc Iver (lead guitar and vocals), the band's lineup has been consolidated with the addition of Tulsa Pittaway (drums) and Vernon Hodgetts (Bass). And a new addition is Lizzie Rennie, renowned viola player, on violin and keys.

Live, WATERSHED offer up a sound that's crisp, at times riveting, and big-sounding, while at the same time retaining those moments of intimacy that most of the band's songs lend themselves to. It's music that's at the forefront of any WATERSHED live performance, with bombast and histrionics held firmly at bay by performances that showcase this group's real song writing strength. Having added violin and another keyboard to the set-up, they've certainly got a unique live performance that's a feast for the ears, the eyes and the soul.

The band has achieved the following successes since release:

- *Shine on Me* charted on all stations across the country: it reached No. 15 on the 5fm Top 40, No. 1 on KFM (Cape Town) and featured on Highveld Stereo's Top 8 @ 8.
- *Angel* enjoyed similar success: it reached No. 2 on 5fm and was No. 1 on KFM for two weeks running.
- *Yesterday Again* reached No. 1 on Safm in 2000 before actually being released as a single, and was playlisted on most regional stations across the country
- *In The Meantime* reached No 7 on the 5fm Top 40 and No.5 on Just Plain Darren's High 5 @ 5 (5fm)
- *Indigo Girl* reached No.1 on Just Plain Darren's High 5 @ 5, No.2 on the Highveld Top 8 @ 8 and No.5 on the 5fm Top 40.

WATERSHED successfully supported The Cranberries in Johannesburg and Cape Town on the South African leg of their World Tour, and have appeared at the major festivals, such as Splashy Fen, where they shared the stage with Irish supergroup The Hothouse Flowers, The Ice Freedom Dance Festival, The Easter Rock Festival and Woodstock.



Recorded at The Farm Studios with Brian O'Shea in the producer's seat over a three-month period, *In The Meantime* is a ballad-rich, acoustic rock, earthy gem. In one short year, **WATERSHED** have established themselves as one of the top acts in the pop-rock segment, receiving two SAMA nominations, for Best Pop Album of 2000 and Best Adult-Contemporary Album of 2000.

WONDERBOOMWONDERBOOMWONDERBOOM

In 1997, a fusion of The Electric Petals and the Eight Legged Groove Machine created **WONDERBOOM**. Forty-eight hours later, the band appeared live on Dali Thambo's *People of the South* TV show. A week later, **WONDERBOOM** were on a national tour as the opening act for Simple Minds.

1998 saw the release of *Is It*, a self-financed six-track EP. This yielded two top 10 singles: *She Cries* and *Jafta Rebel*. During the course of the year, **WONDERBOOM** toured and played at campus gigs and raves.

In 1999 **WONDERBOOM** headlined all major South African festivals – Oppikoppi, Splashy Fen, Up the Creek, Hangklip, Easter Rock Festival, State of the Nation, Woodstock and Wingerdstock. The group was signed to David Gresham Records and released the CD single *Something Wrong*. This reached number two on 5FM. The band continued to tour during the course of the year.

In 2000 **WONDERBOOM** appeared together with The Mission at the Rand Easter Show and were personally chosen by Live as their opening act for their nationwide tour. Other highlights of the year included the group's performance at the inaugural Oppikoppi Festival in Worcester (Cape Town) and their headline performance at Woodstock. This was followed by the highly successful Mentos National Tour during December.

In late January this year **WONDERBOOM** appeared unplugged on the Steve Hofmeyer TV show. The band had no choice but to play unplugged as Danny was at Midem in France.

Rated by the South African public as one of their best bands, this Johannesburg-based group is committed to creating songs that will carry them over the seas to international markets – proving that South African artists do have great musical talent.

SARON GASSARON GAS

Formed in May 1999, **SARON GAS** emerged on to the South African rock scene and rapidly established themselves as one of South Africa's top bands. The band independently released their first demo in late 1999, featuring the single *69 Tea*. The track was greatly received by radio stations nationwide and climbed to number two on the 5FM charts. The band signed to Musketeer Records in August 2000. Working with top South African producer Brian O'Shea, **SARON GAS** spent two months at the Farm Studios, rewriting and shaping material. The result is the top selling debut album release – *Fragile*.

Immediately following release in South Africa, *Fragile* was sampled to various international companies. These included majors – Sony and Atlantic, as well as worldwide studios like George Martin's (of Beatles fame) and Air Studios in London.

In April 2001 Frontline Entertainment Management approached and sampled *Fragile* to US label Wind Up Entertainment in the hopes of gaining international interest and a record deal. Wind Up was suitably impressed with the band's profile, their music, and business structure in South Africa, as well as the quality and talent hailing from the band. As a result, Frontline Entertainment Management were able to secure a live showcase in New York with the Wind Up A&R team. The result, an exclusive seven-album deal.

Power, strength and emotion are three words which aptly describe musicians Shaun, Dave and Dale and aptly summate their musical creations. It is indeed true that **SARON GAS** are destined to be South Africa's biggest and most profiled rock success in the international arena.

SARON GAS will be relocating to New York in late 2001 and will immediately add the final touches to *Fragile*, their smash South African debut album. This will include their new hit single, *Gasoline*, which is due for release in South Africa in September 2001.



MEAN MR MUSTARDMEAN MR MUSTARDMEAN MR MUSTARD

MEAN MR MUSTARD is currently one of South Africa's most experienced bands consisting of musicians who have played the club and concert circuits around the country and overseas.

Their new album entitled *Only When it Rains* features 14 great new tracks recorded at G Music Productions Studios, which have been produced by the band and management and mastered in London. The direction of the band has changed and a more MOR feel is present on the album.

The songs have been written around personal experience and once again feature the stunning voice and song writing talents of Mark Beling who fronts the band. All albums have a message and this album is no different. It expresses love and understanding.

Since the release of the album *Only When it Rains* in December the band has had a no. 1 hit on the country's leading radio station 5FM with the track *Only When It Rains* and their second and third single, *Without You* and *She's Crying Again* reaching no. 2 on the 5FM top 40. *Hello She Said* has just been released to radio, so watch out for it on your favourite station. All three singles are receiving airplay throughout the country on almost every station with the same success.

The band has been incredibly busy of late with a performance schedule that has them working on average five gigs a week. They are performing at Gold Reef City every Wednesday; Tovey's on Thursdays; Firkin in Centurion on Friday's and Hurricanes in Fourways on Saturdays. On top of this they squeeze in corporate and private function whenever available.

Apart from performing **MEAN MR MUSTARD** are running a successful recording studio, avid video suit and production company.

ZEN ARCADEZEN ARCADEZEN ARCADE

"Is there anybody out there ... anyone at all" goes the plaintive lyrical refrain from **ZEN ARCADE**'s calling-card composition *Crazy Over You*. If **ZEN ARCADE** carry on crafting songs like *Crazy Over You* the answer to that question may well be a huge roar of affirmation and kinship from a mob of adoring fans in clubs and stadiums the length and breadth of the land.

Crazy Over You is a cracker, an unabashed, chest-beating, heart-squeezing, melody-swelling power ballad that is lifted to the wide-blue sky by aching vocals, beautiful guitar-viola-cello interplay and an empathy-rich backdrop of dramatic, dynamic drumming. It's the emotional centre and pearl-like heart of **ZEN ARCADE**'s superb debut album *Snowflake*.

ZEN ARCADE – named after a classic Husker Du album – are no misty-eyed Pierrot Lunnaires, however, live they kick out the jams with their crisp and potent guitar brews. Hard they are, but with glistening hooks and lures – as in the memory-snagging *Step Back* on the album – that leave you gasping like a landed fish.

For sure, they're a guitar band – with sheathed distortion, raw riffs and squalling feedback close at hand ... but they play it cool, biding their time for the kill once the spectacular chordal foreplay, the melodic and vocal build-up, is blissfully indulged.

The band comprises Andrew Cleland (drums), James Donaldson (guitar), Alistair Mathie (bass) and Iain McKenzie (vocals, guitar). The individual members have played in numerous bands such as The Kerels, Live Jimi Presley, Nevermore, prior to their first jam together in 1998. However, it was only at the end of 1999, when Iain relocated from Durban to Johannesburg, that the lineup was formalised. Their songwriting is a collaborative process, with all members contributing melodies, riffs and rhythmic ideas. Iain is responsible for the emotive lyrics, which range from cryptic references to universally recognisable observations.

Since making their live debut in May 2000, the band has won over fans and fellow musicians alike. At the infamous annual awards held in December 2000 at Johannesburg's alternative music sanctuary, the Abelarde Sanction, **ZEN ARCADE** cleaned up, winning awards for Best Vocal Performance, Best Drummer, Best Bassist and Best Alternative Rock Band. This was followed by an intensive 10-day tour to Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Cape Town and the environs, where the band bowled over audiences, fellow bands and club owners alike with their powerful delivery.

In 2001 the band were accepted for the 5FM/Sony *Showcase 3 – Unearthed* compilation of unsigned South African bands which is distributed exclusively through Musica. The selection process was gruelling and brutal: more than 300 bands submitted demos; the best went to a selection committee; the elite, were chosen.

ZEN ARCADE have played at The Southern Cross, Rustlers Valley and Oppikoppi festivals this year. They are also confirmed for the Bosberock (Nelspruit) and Woodstock 3 festivals.



MAX NORMAL MAX NORMAL MAX NORMAL

MAX NORMAL is a four piece audio-visual unit designed to enhance the vibration frequencies of its listener or viewer. The unit consists of Mark Buchanan (electric bass/electric guitar), Sean Ou Tim (drums/keyboards/sample), Simon Ringrose (turntables/backing vocals) and Watkin "Waddy" Tudor Jones (vocals).

Mark and Sean are certainly no strangers to the music industry, each being involved with numerous experimental, and many successful South African bands over the years. Their talents are quite exceptional, and their unique vibrations can be felt rather than just seen, when they appear on stage, these two don't just play their music, quite simply, they are their music.

Waddy's talents flow in an intoxicating stream of consciousness, covering genre's from beautiful melodic notes to hard-core hip-hop and rap. His character captivates its audience, mesmerising, hypnotising and seducing his crowd into an incredible crescendo.

Simon, aka "Sibot", is the youngest member of the band, and truly is a classic DJ, in every sense of the word. This "Sultan of Scratch" turns the tables like no other, spinning through each sensational set with a rare sense of presence and style.

MAX NORMAL fuses various elements ranging from hip-hop and jazz, through to electronica, into a highly spontaneous theatrical performance that dazzles the mind. Their music is electrifying.

At the end of last year Waddy released his debut solo album *Memoirs of a Clone* (Chameleon Records). The album featured the band on some of the tracks, and it was decided that a second album should be released, this time using the entire band. The new album, *Songs From the Mall*, was released on July 23 this year. Both albums were produced, recorded, and engineered, by Adrian Levi, the head of Chameleon Studios.

The band has performed at various festivals around the country, including Up the Creek, Splashy Fen, and Oppikoppi. They have also just returned from Europe, where they played in London and three shows at the world-renowned Pukkelpop Festival in Belgium, which was a huge success, as the crowd responded well, and even Nelly Furtado joined Waddy on one of his tracks.

WESS-LEE WESS-LEE WESS-LEE

WESS-LEE recently performed at the Sliemens Freedom Dance Festival with some of the hottest bands in the country as well as at the Croc festival in Richards Bay, and had South Africa enthralled with her live gig on 5FM on Ian F's show.

Like a holiday was **WESS-LEE**'s first radio single and is still playlisted on every major radio station in the country and reached number six on the 5FM Top 40. The song and video is also shown on SAA's international flights as well as all South African television stations, including M-net soundcheck & Channel O. *These Sparks will Fly* is **WESS-LEE**'s second single, currently charting at # 23 on the 5FM top 40 as well.

The pop singer's first single CD, *In Store Now*, is compiled on PC-interactive CD. This means it can be played on both your CD player and PC. This single includes her current hits *Like a holiday* and *These Sparks Will Fly* as well as two remixes of these songs. To give you even more value for your money, it also includes the music videos for these songs, as well as a short interview with **WESS-LEE** and some of her producers. Her album called *Merry-go-round* was launched on Wednesday, May 9.

WESS-LEE has been an exceptionally talented singer all her life. At school, apart from performing her own little shows during break times, she studied acting. After matriculating, **WESS-LEE** was fortunate to travel Europe and the U.S.A. for two years.

After returning to South Africa and performing as part of SouperEgo, **WESS-LEE** signed to Sting music and released her debut album that has been carefully crafted to combine her voice and a distinctive concept of sound that "speaks" to a certain culture.

WESS-LEE's music could be compared to artists such as Natalie Imbruglia, Mel-C, Jewel, and Alanis Morissette. It is obvious that she is not competing in the Britney Spears / Backstreet boy's category, although she's still a pure pop-artist.

In order to get that "non compromised" yet balanced production Sting used some of South Africa's most renowned producers to guide her band through the recording sessions creating her cutting edge sound. To add the finishing touches the album was mastered at Metropolis studios in London.



JUST JINGERJUST JINGERJUST JINGER

Now based in the UK **JUST JINGER** will be making a special trip back to South Africa to perform at the **THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH**.

A couple of years ago, **Just Jinger's** undeniable talent and extensive street following resulted in a recording contract with BMG Records Africa. Their debut album *All Comes Round*, began an unprecedented roller-coaster ride from relative anonymity to unparalleled South African fame.

Powerful songwriting has resulted in beautiful harmonies and flawless tunes that just keep getting better and better. The band describe their music as a mixture of modern rock, folk and funk. This is hardly surprising when you consider their influences, which range from Stevie Wonder to Jimi Hendrix, Cat Stevens, Rodriguez, Stone Temple Pilots, Radiohead, Toto and Frank Zappa.

No less than four Top 40 hits from their debut album on 5FM helped to build a very stable foundation of fans for **JUST JINGER**. In February 1998, only a year after their release *All Comes Round* achieved platinum sales status, an unprecedented accomplishment for a local rock band.

The March 7th issue of *Billboard* not only dedicated a full page article to the band, but secured them the front cover as well. The timing of this article could not have been better, as the article was published the same week that the band departed for North America. After a guest performance at the Canadian Music Week in Toronto, where the crowds were very receptive, the band had their first taste of the Big Apple. This left them drooling in anticipation of their next international encounter, which as fate would have it, would be just round the corner.

Shortly after their arrival back in South Africa, the band was off to Cape Town for the concert of a lifetime. While supporting Def Leppard, the Crash Test Dummies and Toto were awe-inspiring experiences, it was the sheer enormity of the U2 concert that would bring home the reality of what **JUST JINGER** themselves hope to achieve in the future.

On March 23 1998, **JUST JINGER** released their second CD *Something For Now*. Featuring six tracks from those that proved most popular at live gigs (*Paradise in the Summertime*, *Stayed a Boy* and *Like You Madly*), to two completely new songs (*Wrong Again*, *Today Again*) and a striking interpretation of Rodriguez's *Sugarman*, **JUST JINGER** have proved that they definitely have what it takes to get to the very top. On July 27, just four months after its release, *Something For Now* achieved platinum sales status, again, something of a record in the South African rock music market.

Dan Janse van Rensburg is the new Just Jinger guitarist. He is 22 years old and is here to stay!

TWEAKTWEAKTWEAK

Having formed two years ago by Chris 'Destroyer' Brink, (Bass Guitar), Mike Stott (Lead Guitar) and Garth Barnes (lead vocals & rhythm guitar) and joined later by Paul Mathis (drums), **TWEAK** have become the country's most exciting punk rock outfit.

Creating songs about life that draw from various styles of music such as rap, reggae, rock and grunge, **TWEAK** quickly came to the fore having won a battle of the bands last year and have now performed at all the major venues in Jo'burg, alongside bands like Sugardrive, Wonderboom and Ethel my Love and have also played at major festivals like Oppikoppi and Woodstock.

"We have rap songs, reggae, swing and punk songs, in fact Kwaito is the only avenue we have not yet explored. Our mission is to bring something new to SA music. Who cares where the band comes from? Music should be appreciated because it is good and not because it is South African!" say the band.

With two EPs already recorded, **TWEAK** are busy completing their debut full-length CD.

TICKETSTICKETSTICKETS

Tickets for the **EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY BASH** at **SUPERSPORT PARK, CENTURION** on **OCTOBER 27** are available from www.5fm.co.za or **TICKETWEB** on 0831 400 500, 0821 400 500 or www.ticketweb.co.za or ticketweb outlets at selected **EDGARS** stores. Tickets cost between R90 and R190 for general admission and golden circle (excluding service fee).

