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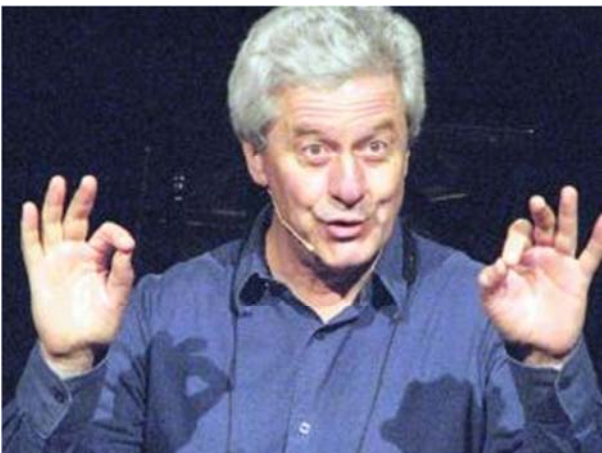
Tonight | October 4 2011

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By Diane de Beer



Those in the Afrikaans entertainment sphere will be familiar with composer/singer Jannie du Toit. He turns 60 at the end of the year and is claiming the rest of this year to celebrate his 40-year-long affair with music of all kinds.

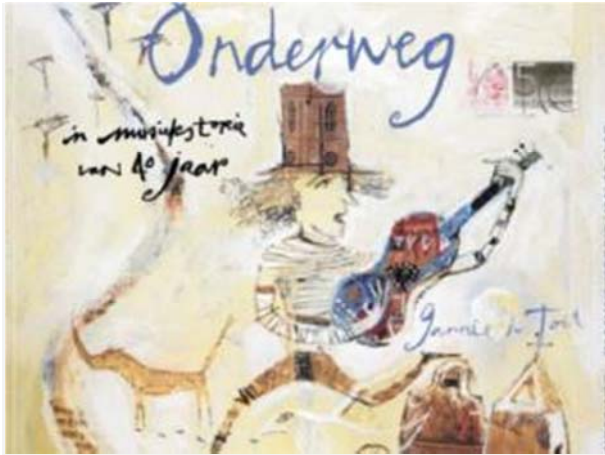
Titled *Onderweg* (en route), it's not only a production which will tour the country (having kicked off last Friday in Pretoria); it is accompanied by a three-disc album, as well as a book.

Onderweg, 'n musiekstorie van 40 jaar, the album, consists of 20 songs from his early career starting in the 70s until the early 90s; the next simply titled *Later*, includes music from the past two decades; while the third disc is a visual look at Du Toit and his career with, for example, *luisterliedjies* evenings, with the iconic Koos du Plessis singing some of his emblematic songs, such as *Skadus Teen Die Muur*, a song which is also included in the live show.

You will also experience duets with Chris Chameleon and Coenie de Villiers of, among others, *Pie Jesu*.

Du Toit was part of the movement of Afrikaans folk singers starting in the 70s who moved away from singing translated international songs to writing their own music. It was the authenticity of the music that has always driven this dedicated performer.

While others have moved away from the more intimate cabaret format, he has stuck to his guns, and with this celebration, he gives a nod to that passion, as well as the determination to serve a niche market who have been faithful to his more intimate way of entertaining.



While he was also hoping to celebrate his 25-year-long stage career with prolific pianist Christa Steyn, her current battle with cancer has sadly not allowed her to participate in this season which brings accompanist Clinton Zerf and cellist Susan Mouton on board.

The compilation of songs performed in the live shows, indicates the entertainer's preference for songs that not only sweep you off your feet musically, but stick in the mind because of the thoughtful lyrics.

Du Toit has used the sharp pen of PG du Plessis to write the binding text, as well as some of the songs, and his repertoire includes Dutch singer/songwriter Jules De Corte, Jacques Brel (whose music he performed with Laurika Rauch in a show only last year) Bertolt Brecht, many self-penned songs as well as an amusing skit of other Afrikaans pop songs. His unique selection should indicate exactly what kind of performer he is.

Not someone who takes things lightly, with the help of an acerbic Du Plessis, Du Toit keeps a twinkle in his eye throughout. Always looking out for others, with a friend, he is also promoting a sound system for the deaf which will be engaged at all his shows and give the hearing impaired special access to his music. His programmes are also printed in braille.

He might feel the outsider, or the musician standing on the edge, but with this three-pronged approach, he's determined to get his thoughts and his music out there – quite masterfully.

This means that Du Toit fans who cannot get to live performances, will easily hook into the album or get stuck in the pages of his book, all of which take a similar look – just in a different medium – at his love affair with music.

Here are the dates of Du Toit's performances: October 4 to 6 at Aardklop; October 7 at the Musaion, UP; October 28 at Pretoria's Pierneef Theatre; November 26 at the Port Natal high school in Durban; December 2 in Bloemfontein; December 3 in Nelspruit; December 13 in Hartenbos and concluding on December 14 at the Oude Libertas Theatre in Stellenbosch.