



CRASH arts

PRESENTS

Johnny Clegg Band

SPIRIT IS THE JOURNEY
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Johnny Clegg

Drummer, **Barry Van Zyl**

Keyboard/Sax/Vocals, **Daniel Shout**

Guitar/Musical Director, **Andy Innes**

Bass/Vocals, **Trevor Donjeany**

Backing Vocals, **Mandisa Dlanga**

Dancers: **Qalubheke Qoma & Linda Zakhew**

Road Manager, **Terry Finley** • FOH Sound, **Johan Griesel** • Stage Manager, **Brian Simon**

Fri., April 8, 2011 • Somerville Theatre

No portion of this performance may be photographed, recorded, filmed or taped.



BIOGRAPHY

Johnny Clegg is one of South Africa's most celebrated sons. He is a singer, songwriter, dancer, anthropologist and musical activist whose infectious crossover music, a vibrant blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms, has exploded onto the international scene and broken through all the barriers in his own country. In France, where he enjoys a massive following, he is fondly called *Le Zulu Blanc – The White Zulu*.

Over three decades, Johnny Clegg has sold more than five million albums. He has wowed vast audiences and has won a number of national and international awards for his music and for his outspoken views on apartheid, his perspectives on migrant workers in South Africa and the general situation in the world today. Johnny Clegg's history is as bold, colorful and dashing as the rainbow country which he has called home for more than 40 years.

Born in Bacup, near Rochdale, England, in 1953, to an English father and Zimbabwean mother, he was brought up in his mother's native land of Zimbabwe. She married a South African journalist and immigrated to South Africa when Clegg was seven years old. At the age of nine, he spent two years in Zambia with his parents who then returned to South Africa when he was 11 years old. Between his mother (a cabaret and jazz singer) and his step-father (a crime reporter who took him into the townships at an early age), Clegg was exposed to a broader cultural perspective than that available to his peers.

Whilst lecturing Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Clegg worked on the concept of blending English lyrics and Western melodies with Zulu musical structures. This blend was recognized by a South African producer, Hilton Rosenthal, who became the champion of the project and drove it with passion and commitment. He signed Clegg and Sipho Mchunu (his songwriting and performance partner) to his independent label at a time when mixing music was effectively unprofitable because of the radio censorship of mixed music and mixed bands.

Clegg and Mchunu called their new band Julaka which means "sweat" in Zulu. Their music was subjected to censorship and internal restrictions on the state-owned radio, and their only way to access an audience was through touring. This brought them into conflict with the Group Areas Act which enforced the geographical separation of race groups and their cultural facilities.

At this time, they could only play in private venues as the law forbade mixed race performances in public venues and spaces. Testing the law, they played at universities, church halls, migrant labor hostels and even in the lounges of private houses. The battle ground of public versus private performances was often

challenged by the security police who attempted to close these down whenever they could. Many shows were closed down but not enough to prevent the emergence of a substantial following of students and migrant workers.

In late 1979, their first album, *Universal Men*, was released. The album was a musical journey into the life of the Zulu migrant worker, living and working in the city, but continually journeying home, caught between two different worlds. A second album, *African Litany*, came out two years later and was greeted with critical acclaim. Juluka worked hard to maintain the basic framework of their music on this album, but allowed themselves the freedom to explore broader aspects of the South African experience. This ground-breaking work was largely ignored by the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) because of the mixing of languages and also the combining of African and Western musical forms. However, it developed a following through word of mouth and sold-out live shows. An immediate follow-up album, *Ubuhle Bemvelo*, was released. Recorded entirely in the Zulu language, it continued to mix Western and African styles of music and appealed to a niche market. Juluka were most fruitful during 1982 and 1983 with tours of the USA, Canada, Germany and Scandinavia. In 1983, they released *Work for All*, and a year later they came out with *Musa Ukungilandela*. In the six years that they were initially together, the band recorded two platinum and five gold albums and became an international success.

Juluka split up in 1985. Mchunu returned to his roots, which was cattle farming in Zululand, while Clegg formed another crossover band, Savuka (which means "we have risen"). This time around, his concept was to mix African music with a wider music base and international rock sounds. The first album Savuka released was *Third World Child* (1987), and it broke all international sales records in France, Switzerland and Belgium in 1988. This was followed by *Shadow Man* (1988), *Cruel, Crazy Beautiful World* (1989), *Heat, Dust & Dreams* (1993) and then the best of Johnny Clegg and Savuka was released as *In My African Dream* (1994). Savuka toured extensively in Europe and North America from 1988 to 1993 and broke all attendance records in France in 1988 and 1989.

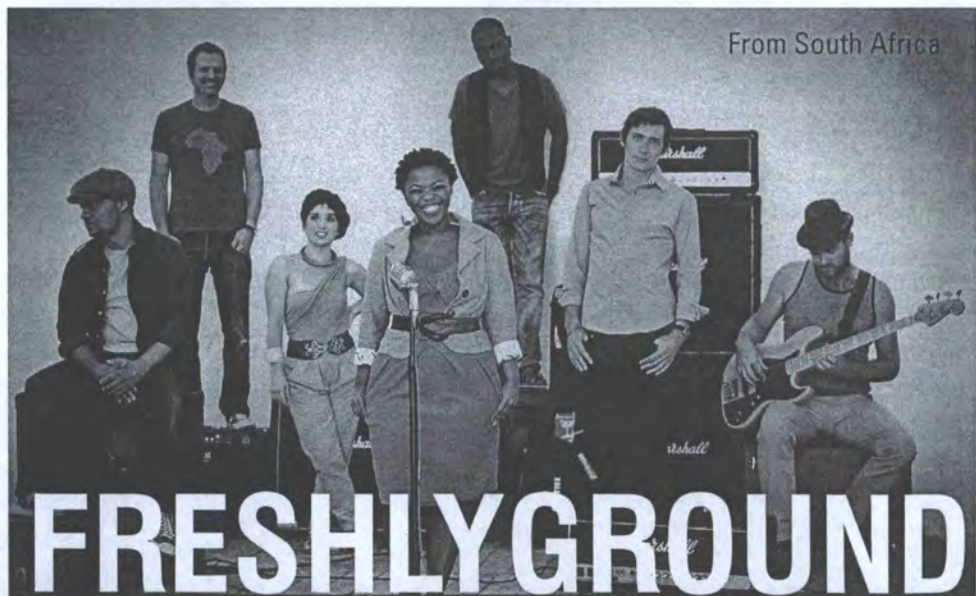
Savuka split in 1993, and three years later Clegg and his lifelong friend Mchunu temporarily re-formed Juluka and recorded *Ya Vuka Inkunzi* (also released as *Crocodile Love*.) Since then, Clegg has recorded several solo projects, including *One Life*, *New World Survivor* and *A South African Story* (both an album and live concerts).

Johnny Clegg has performed at all four of Nelson Mandela's 46664 Aids Awareness Concerts in South Africa and in Norway. Mandela has joined him on stage during the rendition of "Asimbonanga," a song written by Clegg about Mandela (and other struggle heroes) during his period of incarceration. At every

live performance of this song, the audience, charged with emotion, spontaneously rises to stand. During the Cape Town and Tromso 46664 shows, Clegg also performed duets of his work with Peter Gabriel.

Clegg's haunting refrain "Impi" (meaning "Zulu warriors" or "War") regularly echoes within any South African rugby stadium which, together with his song "Great Heart" from the movie *Jock of The Bushveld* and *The Crossing* (written for Dudu Ndlovu, his Zulu dance partner in the Savuka era), have achieved anthem status with crowds in his home country.

Johnny Clegg's latest release, *Human*, builds on his critically acclaimed, massive-selling success in combining Western pop and Zulu rhythms with English lyrics alongside South African musical structures. The 11 original tracks and one traditional tune epitomize the spirit and intensity that have characterized Clegg's career for more than three decades.



FRESHLYGROUND

Monday, June 27, 9pm • 18+

Brighton Music Hall

158 Brighton Ave., Allston

FORTICKETS AND INFORMATION

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