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ISOLERA SVDAFRIKA KOMMIITEN

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. "When everything is put into the music,
there is nothing much left to talk about."

"TANANAS cannot easily be interviewed,
they have to be interrogated, and even then
one comes away with only the bare facts,
feeling guilty for having pried at all."

"TANANAS refers to a delicious state of
consciousness achieved by consuming Vast
-amounts of Cheap red wine."

Labels Don't Stick....

When TANANAS broke into the first bar of their debut performance in
August 1987 at a club called Jamesons Bar in downtown Johannesburg, the
audience, who generally regarded themselves as progressive thinkers,
didn't know what to think. Not only were there no words, but there were
no choruses either. It made the feet dance and took the head away on a
magical trip of instrumentation, but it didn't sound like anything
they'd heard before. Since that performance the group has spread
its mystical wings and become "one of the incredible South African
bands." Even so the critics still find themselves switching into
multiple thesaurus mentality when trying to describe what the group are
doing. With TANANAS labels don't stick.

For Us To Listen....

The group itself is a harmonious integration of three very different
individual talents riding on a rhythmic wave of global influences.

"Global ethnic," some have called it. "A multi-cultural amoebic
collective" others have said. "Horrid music." Definitely. But when it
comes down to trying to describe the masters concealed behind the
musicianship of acoustic guitar wizard Steve Newman, hypnotic bassist
Gito Baij and spellbinding drummer Ian Herman, one finds a wall of
silence built by sheer dedication to the music. TANANAS want to play.
for us to listen. .

Stretching The Possibilities....

As a guitarist, Cape Town born Steve Newman has already achieved
world-wide recognition for his unique approach to the instrument. The
power of his work has repeatedly seen him with guitar case in hand
heading for folk and jazz clubs in Britain, Europe, Scandinavia - - or
African countries far north of his home in Scarborough, Cape Point. As
a musician he has developed a reputation of stretching the
possibilities of his nylon string guitar beyond the realms of
conventional performance.

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TANANAS

Drumming Across Frontiers....

Drummer Ian Herman has taken his art into a brand new dimension. The four - four beat becomes nauseating once he begins painting his rhythmic landscapes. From Cape Town's goema - trendies, The Genuines, to the instrument fusion of ISJA and the harking words of people's poet, Mzwake Mbuli, Ian Herman has drummed his way across the frontiers of influences into a Category that is his alone.

Warm And Confident 8assist....

Maputo born Gito Baioi, who has been described as 9....a warm and confident bassist." draws his influences from Mozambican jazz - funk group Pongoia and is responsible for the scarcely scattered hypnotic Shangaan, Ronga and Portuguese vocals within the TANANAS tone. Working together, Ian and Gito can only be acknowledged as the most versatile and electrifying rhythm section to emerge from the southern tip of Africa.

Let Them Explode....

Although admittedly the brainchild of Steve Newman's imagination, TANANAS was formed, and has continued to be a naturally evolving vehicle for the three musicians. They will tell you that they have no idea as to where the group is heading, but that they have a clear vision of what they want to do with their combined creative energy's. "Let them explode!" To date they have done this with two albums, TANANAS and SPIRALS, both of which achieved outstanding acclaim to the South African media, with credible journalists stating them to be "quite possibly one of the finest original recordings to have come out of this country."

A New Meaning To Crossover....

TANANAS have an ingenious ability of capturing complex instrumental arrangements in three-and-a-half minute pop formats. Each composition leaps in different parts of the planet breathing a subtle eclectic mix of African, Latin, Spanish, Mozambican, Middle and Far Eastern echos, all of this wrapped in the blues, township-jive, and something else one can never quite put ones finger on. Their music is a feeling that is universally accessible, appealing to a "musicians-musician" mentality as effortlessly as to the MOR record-buying public. It gives new meaning to the concept of cross-over.

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International Appeal...

The infectiousness of TANANAS magic has also caught an internationally with the band already having performed in Japan, France and Scandinavia. Their second album, SPIRAL, is fast growing in demand and has been distributed in Japan by Conversatlons & Company on the Quattro label, as well as throughout France by Celluloid and the UK, Scandinavia, Norway, Sweden and Denmark via Sonet.

With the uptake of the "World Music" movement it is-certain that global appetite for a group such as TANANAS grows daily.

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TELEFAX

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" " Phone: 146i(0)8-640 18 55

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