

*CAMERA DI COMMERCIO ITALO SUDAFRICANA
ITALIAN SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIES*

Johannesburg 15 Ottobre 2014

We have a little more than a month to go until the most important event for the Italian Community in South Africa, or rather The Fnb Business Excellenc Awards 2014, organised by Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries.

The event will take place on Thursday 20th of November at 6 p.m. at The Wanderer's Club of Illovo – Johannesburg.

This year's event is especially spectacular as two important South African musicians Mark Beling and Jacques Terre`Blanche will jazz up the Awards ceremony where 350 guests are expected. The artists will exhibit respectively for 45 minutes in different parts of the evening.

For more information about the attendance info@italcham.co.za or 011 615 3906

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Singer, songwriter and producer Mark Beling is no stranger to the world of music. His career began as the front man for one of South Africa's most prolific rock bands, Mean Mr Mustard. They released five albums and achieved a number of No. 1 hits on radio stations around the country, as well as receiving a SAMA Award for Best Single for "I Can't Get Enough".

He released two solo albums, the 2005 strong debut "Dancing" and the 2007 breathtaking follow up of "Can't Hold You Back".

In 2009, the Mark Beling Band formed and 2012 saw the long anticipated release of the group's album "Mercury"; with the talented

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Mark as lead singer and guitarist, Guido Helm on bass, and Corne' Olckers on drums.

A polished balladeer and self confessed rock 'n roller, Mark's music ranges from the adult contemporary smoothness of the powerful ballad to the catchiness of radio friendly pop and rock hits.

Mark draws his inspiration from his everyday experiences and brings to his lyrics and music an honesty that illustrates his courage to be true to his emotions. His musical integrity equates to his professional work ethic – Mark makes no compromises. He writes, composes, arranges, plays all the musical instruments and produces all his music. In doing so, Mark is able to stay true to his musical convictions and the messages and experiences he writes about.

Mark's musical prowess has also extended to him moving into more of a production direction. He was nominated for Best Producer and Best Engineer for the album Strong by SAMA Nominees Blackbyrd and walked away with the SAMA Award for Best Engineer. He also had the opportunity to work with International Artist Patrizio Buanne featuring the duet 'Liefeling (Cara)' with Steve Hofmeyer. He produced tracks off his 2 South African albums featuring SA Artists like Nianell, Lianie May and PJ Powers to name a few. He is currently working on Blackbyrd and Watershed's upcoming albums.

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SAMA nominated performing artist Jacques Terre'Blanche first became a household name as the blonde "surfer boy" hunk who wowed female fans with his smooth vocals during Idols in 2003. Proving that he was way more than a pretty face, Jacques became a firm favourite in the competition and was placed an esteemed third place. Idols, however, was not the first time that this singing sensation made the discovery that he could hold a note. Jacques began voice training at the age of 15 and completed his Grade 8 in Royal Music Examinations by the time he had finished school. He then went on to the University of Cape Town to read Classical Music and Jazz and majored in voice as his instrument of choice.

Jacques' first album was EQ (2004, Sony Music) and was produced and recorded by Dave Thompson. The jazz-flavoured album boasted

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the SAMA nominated track Endlessly and also a recorded version of Jacques' introductory song to the Idols competition, Brother Can You Spare Me A Dime, which is still a firm favourite amongst his fans, especially when performed at his live gigs. That same year, Jacques won a Crystal Award in the category 'Best Male Newcomer The follow-up to EQ was the SAMA nominated pop album The Colour Red (2008, Gallo Music) that contained no fewer than 5 chart-topping hits including collaborations with the likes of Pebbles and international R&B mega-star Akon. Songs such as I Won't Forget, Natural Born Hustla, The Heist and Set Me Free can still be heard on radio and their timeless feel firmly anchored Jacques as one of South Africa's leading male artists, a position which he firmly holds on to today. 2010 and 2011 have seen Jacques release two very successful singles, one being a reworked version of Do For Love where he collaborated with Block & Crown, and a duet with Jackie Jackson, the late Micheal Jackson's brother, on We Know What's Going On. This track features a haunting spoken verse by the king of pop himself. Not many South African artists, if any, can say that they have featured Akon and Michael Jackson in their repertoire! Jacques' most recent single Hot Teasing, produced by Mark Beling of Mean Mr Mustard fame, is currently gracing our airwaves across the country. 2012 sees Jacques embarking on a new direction with music that is stripped down to basics and will focus on his incredible vocal capabilities. Jacques continued his music career performing in lots of events like at Miss South Africa 2012 where he stole the show with a rich performance.

As the artist affirms, the music is his first passion, and it is confirmed by the high level of his shows

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