

amaBhulu? Biography

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Biography short – Afrikaans

amaBhulu?—’n folk band uit die Boland uit—gooi ’n allegaartjie van folk, kwela, blues, reggae, country, gypsy en melankoliese ballades saam, so vêr as moontlik vermeng met ’n lekkie boeremusiek.

Die band se oorspronklike komposisies is gebed en gebodem in ’n Wes-Kaapse Afrikaanse spreektaal en die lirieke raak slaags met al wat ’n groot vraag is, van alleenlopery, die liefde en verlies, tot eietydse spanninge tussen kultuurvervreemding en -affiliasie, tuiswees en weg-wil-wees ... alles met ’n stewige tong in die kies.

Musikale invloede is divers en uiteenlopend—van David Kramer en Nico Carstens aan die een kant tot Pink Floyd en verskeie wereldmusiek, veral van Afrika aan die ander kant.

amaBhulu? “die ewige soeke na die klankflans van basterwees”
(www.amabhulu.co.za)

Lede:

Heine du Toit (Stemme & kitaar) Elmi Badenhorst (Pensklavier & bekfluitjie)

Dawid de Villiers (Banjo & baskitaar), Hendre Retief (Perkussie)Natalie Mason

Biography short – English

amaBhulu? hails from the Boland and presents a jumble of folk, kwela, blues, reggae, country, gypsy music and melancholic ballads mixed with a bastardized, alternative boeremusiek.

The band’s original songs are rooted in vernacular Western Cape Afrikaans and jitterbug with every question that bedevils human existence—including cultural alienation and affiliation, love and loss and the ever elusive search of our probable spiritual nature – all presented with tongue in cheek.

Our influences are wide and diverse, ranging from David Kramer and Nico Carstens to Willie Nelson and Pink Floyd, as well as a variety of world music (with a strong bias in favour of the African continent).

amaBhulu? reflects an eternal search for the sound-weft of bastardy

Members:

Lede:

Heine du Toit (Vocals & guitar) Elmi Badenhorst (Accordion & Harmonica)

Dawid de Villiers (Banjo & bass), Hendre Retief (Percussion)Natalie Mason (Viola)

Biography long – Afrikaans

amaBhulu? Het sy ontstaan gehad in die herfs van 2005 toe Heine du Toit as Elektronika producer en DJ Opperman verveeld geraak het met elektroniese perfeksie en sy hand aan akoustiese folk musiek wou waag.

As interpreteerder van karakters en die ewige soeke na sy eie individuele gom na stam begin die reis deur herinterpretasies van Dawid Kramer en ander tradisionele groepe soos die Briels. Hy op kitaar en stemme sleep toe sy suster Christine Vandenheede op bas, Marleze Smit op klawers Mikey D op Perkussie Willie Lategan, Linda Padfield op backing vocals en Helen Nepgen op viool, saam die afgrond in.

Na 'n maand of so word die band bevrug deur die energieke, authentic Elmez 'the badhorse' Badenhorst op pensklavier en banjo en begin die dinge tol.

Open mike aande , 'n regte set by die Acoustic cafe in Muizenberg , private shows ens volg totdat Christine en Linda pregnant raak...en Heine se nering na die platteland te groot raak....dus verval amaBhulu toe in hibernasie met Heine en Elmi as enigste yweriges oor...

Dit was 'n jaar later toe Heine met Hendre Retief en Dawid de Villiers van die ook dormante alternatiewe folk outfit, Jeremiah Brimstone Band opkinnek op sy nuwe blyplek , 'n plaas buite Wellington.

Die twee halwe bands besluit toe om kragte saam te span, maar om hulle eie identiteite te hou en as twee bands individueel te bly optree.

Met Dawid op Bas en Banjo en Hendre op perkussie was amaBhulu? weer op dreef.

Andre Loubser join toe op lead guitar vir 'n wyle en die klank kry toe finaal sy lê toe Natalie 'Viola' Mason van Birmingham op altviool by hulle aansluit.

Die naam amaBhulu? Vertaal uit Xhosa uit as 'die boere' is 'n komieklike verwysing na die dualiteit van 'n verouderde stam identiteit en die bevrydende potensiaal van wortels eien – dus die vraagteken aan die einde.

Vandag speel amaBhulu? uitsluitlik oorspronklike materiaal, diep gewortel in werelddmusiekstyle van kwela tot blues, country tot reggae, tango tot riel, vrylik verbaster met boeremusiek en bipoleer van die uitspattige tot diep en donker melankolie...

Die band se oorspronklike komposisies is gebed en gebodem in 'n Wes-Kaapse Afrikaanse spreektaal en die lirieke raak slaags met al wat 'n groot vraag is, van alleenloper, die liefde en verlies, tot eietydse spanninge tussen kultuurvervreemding en -affiliasie, tuiswees en weg-wil-wees ... alles met 'n stewige tong in die kies.

Musikale invloede is divers en uiteenlopend—van David Kramer en Nico Carstens aan die een kant tot Pink Floyd en verskeie wêreldmusiekfusion , veral van Afrika aan die ander kant.

Dus...**amaBhulu?** “die ewige soeke na die klankflans van basterwees”

Lede:

Heine du Toit (Vocals & guitar) Elmi Badenhorst (Accordion & Harmonica)

Dawid de Villiers (Banjo & bass), Hendre Retief (Percussion)Natalie Mason (Viola)

Vir meer informasie besoek www.amabhulu.co.za

Biography long – English

amaBhulu? was first formed in the autumn of 2005 when Heine du Toit (electronica producer and DJ) got disillusioned with digital musical perfection and wanted to try his hand at acoustic folk music. Taking up vocal duties and guitar, Heine was joined by his sister, Christine Vandenheede, on bass, Marleze Smit on keys and Mikey D on percussion. Willie and Linda Lategan later joined on backing vocals, soon to be followed by Helen Nepgen on violin.

Having been inspired for years by the way in which folk musicians like David Kramer were able to dig deep into the South African collective psyche—specifically by engaging with the Western Cape traditions of musical theatre and storytelling—Heine’s newly formed group set off on their journey of self-discovery through music. The band started off by interpreting Kramer songs, as well as old folk traditionals made famous by older groups like 'die Briels'.

A month or so into their venture the band was joined by the ever-energetic Elmez ' the badhorse' Badenhorst on banjo and accordion, and they started to play open mike evenings on a regular basis. Yet everything came to an abrupt end when Christine fell pregnant and Heine succumbed to an urge to move to the country—that is, to the town of Wellington.

It was here, a year or so later, that he connected with local musicians Hendré Retief and Dawid de Villiers, former members of the disbanded Jeremiah Brimstone Band, an English-medium alternative folk outfit. With Elmi expressing her readiness and availability, the two bands decided to join forces, while retaining their distinctive musical styles. With Hendré on percussion and Dawid taking up bass and banjo, amaBhulu? was set to make music again. Their sound was still further enhanced with the arrival of Natalie Mason—Birmingham native—on viola in July 2008. To this day the two bands, while sporting the same line-up, continue to operate independently; frequently appearing on a double bill, they simply metamorphose between sets.

The name amaBhulu? translates from Xhosa as “the Boere?” and is a tongue in cheek reference to the old chestnut of identity: the limitations of old group identities offset by the enabling role of roots. Today the band exclusively plays original material, drawing on and connecting an array of musical styles, including folk, kwela, country, blues, reggae, gypsy, to their native boeremusiek—gleefully bastardised—resulting in a hybrid mix ranging from the ecstatic to low-down melancholy.

The band’s original songs are rooted in a Western Cape Afrikaans vernacular and jitterbug with every question that bedevils human existence—including cultural alienation and affiliation, love and loss and the ever elusive search of our probable spiritual nature – all presented in a manner that is firmly tongue in cheek. They continue to play local clubs and festivals in the Western Cape.

The members are

Heine du Toit	—	Vocals & guitar
Elmi Badenhorst	—	Accordion & mouth organ
Dawid de Villiers	—	Banjo & bass
Hendre Retief	—	Percussion
Natalie Mason	—	Viola

For more information visit our website at www.amabhulu.co.za