

2/3

RIGHT: All stars ... (clockwise from top left) Errol Dyers, Paul Hamner, McCoy Mrubata and Siphon Gumedede join fellow star Frank Paco tonight at the Jazz Hotel. Be there at 21:00 to warm your ears and catch their dazzle.

Funky upfront groove

CUE, Sat
3 July
99

With the quality of dance, theatre and exhibit festivities, it is not surprising if you haven't made your way to the jazz. But look out. International act **No No Diet Bang** stepped into town yesterday and set the pace for the weekend's jazzing. From mountainous Swiss terrain, their profoundly European influence resonates strongly throughout their avant-garde and wild jazz

interpretations. However, when they collaborated with some top South African performers last night, the sound shifted into a completely different headspace. Band leader Andy Brugger laid down a busy break-beat on the drum, creating a funky upfront groove that the musicians could jam over. Cape Town's improvisational genius, Robbie Jansen, has developed an appetite for jamming with house music DJs, and his selection of riffs and

melodies were excellent and his improvised solos sensational. But when turntablist Ready D brought in the synthetic element — scratching, scribbling, looping and sampling in an innovative gesture — the collaboration was shifted into a fresh and funky format, a format that moves the focus from the jazz head to the dancing feet. Acid jazz. No No Diet Bang will be teaming up with other musos in another collaboration tomorrow night.

press reviews

NONO DIET BANG

S.A. 99

The Star July 8th 1999

Good dieting

BY GWEN ANSELL
GRAHAMSTOWN

It's no insult to Swiss avant-garde drummer Andy Brugger to say that the most exciting thing about his show, for Grahamstown audiences, was the triumphant reappearance of alto saxophonist Robbie Jansen. He's been excluded for too long, and Brugger's No No Diet Bang — a dense-textured, driving, improvising ensemble — provides the perfect context for the Cape reedman's unique approach. For Jansen's is music of the heart and the pulse, which is where the soul of all the best improv resides.

Think Ornette Coleman's *Tone Dialling* and you'll get something of the flavour of the Swiss band: intense but joyous and fuelled by Brugger's complex rhythm patterns. Tenor player Joachim Bolders' more austere voice sets up a dynamic tension with the rhythm, while bassist André Busse has a gift for the unexpected — think Carlo Mombelli on speed.

It's been said before that this kind of post-Trane European free music uses a lot of the elements of African music: cycles, hockets and a fluctuating balance between rhythmic and harmonic patterns.

Rhythms come up front, too, in the playing of monster young pianist Camillo Lombard and DJ Ready. Lombard absorbed everything from Hammond rhythm 'n' blues to Mozart, but plays it out through a very personal vision with a great deal of wit. Ready plays his scratches like a percussion kit pulse plus content, which lets him lay bird chirps and vole squeaks under a cheesy ballad and build a filigree chorus of voices under the fast-train blues of Brugger's 79/68. As a bonus, we had a breath-stopping trumpet solo from Brian Thusi, paying a very individual homage to the electric Miles thang.

No No Diet Bang play both Kippies and the Bassline over the next week.

Standard Bank

JAZZ

FESTIVAL



Standard Bank Jazz Festival

SATURDAY 3 JULY

12h30 The Beatles Songbook
Jazzing up the hits of the Fab Four, guitar maestro **Johnny Fourie** directs and teams up with New Yorker **Morris Goldberg** on reeds and flute, plus a host of the Cape's finest musicians. Second last performance! (90 min)

19h00 Standard Bank National Youth and National Schools Jazz
A week of intense tuition

under the guidance of our local jazz aficionados culminates in a performance by tomorrow's stars, today. One performance only! (70 min)

21h00 Afro Jazz All Stars
Be sure not to miss the last performance of the Afro Jazz All Stars before they jet off to the North Sea Jazz Festival. This exceptional line-up of musicians include producer and ace bass guitarist **Siphon Gumedede**, guitarist **Errol Dyers**, saxophonist **McCoy Mrubata**, drummer **Frank Paco**

and **Paul Hamner** on ke (S)

23h30 Jazz Jam
A Switzerland-South Africa jam featuring local DJ Ready spinning the turntable with outfit **No No Diet Bang**. from Zurich and proudly presented by PRO HELVE. **No Diet Bang** perform in Grahamstown after a highly successful stint in Cape. If you can't catch them tomorrow, don't miss the last performance tomorrow, 19h00!