

Johnny rocks Kirstenbosch

 By [Alan Hughes](#)

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What better place to be on a sunny summer's Sunday evening than picnicking in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Gardens. And what better venue in the world for an outdoor concert, beneath the spectacular mass of green and mountain. It was here that Johnny Clegg and his band entertained a sell out crowd on Sunday the 21st of December.



Johnny Clegg appeared on stage in bright Orange pants, and kicked off the show with "African Sky Blue". He managed to squeeze about fifteen songs into this energetic show, as well as a few of the stories behind some of the songs. Mostly the songs were his well-known oldies, with a few of the newer songs from his "One Life" album. There was soon a crowd dancing in front of the stage, and several times the entire crowd was up on its feet, clapping, singing and swaying along to the better known hits. The crowd, although large, was friendly, family orientated, and well behaved.

A few of the notable songs were: "Impi", which was the first to get the entire crowd up and dancing; "Thamela - Die Son Trek Water", his first Afrikaans/Zulu song, along with the story of its origin; and his encore, "Asim Bonanga", one of my personal favourites.

Despite the number of years he has been performing, Johnny Clegg is still in good shape and full of energy, displaying some of the dance moves, for which he is so well known. What impresses me, apart from his obvious musical and diverse cultural ability, is his versatility and natural ability to entertain. I remember first seeing him over twenty years ago, in the Standard Bank Arena, with a huge, very "African" band, lots of drums, traditional dress and dancing. About a year ago I saw him in a small cocktail lounge environment, with only minimal accompaniment. And now in the Gardens, with a large, but more "Westernised" band. He seems able, in any setting, to adjust the tone of the performance, and the songs themselves, so that they work, and give his audience what they come looking for.

The other six people on stage were all accomplished and supported Johnny well, playing, singing and dancing along. He introduced and paid tribute to the band at the end of the show, pointing out how long some members have been with him, with a special mention of the lady vocalist, who has been singing and dancing with him for twenty-two years!

I thoroughly enjoyed both the concert, and the laid back picnic vibe. Let's hope Johnny Clegg keeps rocking us for at least another twenty years.

ABOUT ALAN HUGHES

Alan Hughes is a Life Coach, a Craniosacral Therapist, and a Healer. His passion is to facilitate change, helping people lead the lives they dream of. Alan also contributes articles to the Biz Lifestyle. You can ring him on 076 2649127, email him at alan@lifecoachingcapetown.com or visit www.lifecoachingcapetown.com to learn more.

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