

BLAST from the PAST Sopyy and son were the Hi-Lites ... Kathrada created news and Shackles rocked!

POST

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THE issue of POST of November 26, 1997, featured the Lenasia-based music band, Hi-Lites. For more than three decades they had been a household name throughout South Africa.

The backbone of the group was undoubtedly Yusuf Dawood, popularly known as Sopyy, whose unique stage personality and voice was a hit with audiences.

Then Sopyy's son, Ridwaan, took over the mantle, but his father gave him a stern warning – “don't try to be another Sopyy, be yourself”.

“I never tried to imitate anybody,” said Sopyy, who described himself as “semi-retired”, after serving for many years as a director in a pharmaceutical company in Johannesburg. Despite Ridwaan's efforts to obey that advice, music fans still saw him as “Junior Sopyy”, whenever he appeared on stage.

At two performances in Lenasia, close to the time of the original article appearing in POST, fans demanded that Sopyy join Ridwaan on stage. The ‘oldies’ the duo sang together enthralled the audience, although Sopyy remarked later that he had done so reluctantly.

He explained: “Ridwaan has a voice similar to mine and at times you would not know who is singing. I think it is unfair for me to sing at the same time.”

Ridwaan's first public appearance was at a concert in Lenasia, organised by the ANC Youth League, and since then he has not looked back.

For Sopyy, the highlight of his career was when he got a standing ovation for a song he trawls the archives of POST to bring you the stories and events that made the news in decades past. Do not miss this nostalgic series as we recount the history of the Voice and Heart of the

Community sang at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall from visiting Indian ghazal singers, Nina and Rajendra Mehta, in 1984.

Ridwaan, on the other hand, thought his “biggest moment was yet to come”. Both had great musical ambitions.

Sopyy wanted to see all the great local artistes together on one stage for the people, while Ridwaan wanted to release a solo album in which his father would sing some songs with him. THE following week's POST profiled the SABC's new news reader.

A former Stanger ML Sultan Secondary School pupil, Hasina Kathrada, was a Rhodes University journalism honours graduate.

A former head prefect at her school, Hasina excelled in public speaking and was awarded a Canadian scholarship to study journalism. She worked for the corporation for four years, compiling the evening news bulletin, but always yearned to present the news.

She was ecstatic about her new job, even though it entailed an early start, requiring her to wake up at 4am and get to the studio by 5am to get her hair and make-up done.

The mother of two-year-old son, Sahal, lived in Lenasia with pharmacist husband, Shiraz.

Hasina attributed much of her success to her father, Ahmed Saeed, a retired principal and sportsman, who settled in Verulam.

“He respected my decision to study journalism at a time when Indian women followed conventional career paths,” she said. THE same edition of POST reported that on Saturday, the Mount Edgecombe Temple Hall would be thumping to the sounds of old fashioned rock and roll.

The bands Atomic Ash, Magnets and Shackles were to rock the house with their blast from the past. Shackles became a legend in its time after being formed in 1970 by brothers Dickie and Jayce Navamoney, Bala Chinsamy, Sidney Govender and Links Moodley.

In 1973, Teddy Sigamoney joined the group to replace Soobramoney on drums, who because of personal commitments had to quit. At the time of the report, the band operated as a four member outfit with Dickie on lead guitar, Sidney on bass guitar and vocals, Teddy on drums and Jace on vocals.

UPDATE: Shackles disbanded for a few years and then regrouped. The current members are Sidney, Dickie, Jayce and Teddy who were joined by Lenny Munsamy and Tony Jimmy.



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