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Doreen Thobekile

**Press packs cd's and cdrom video
Contact Ian Smith at Fru**sion

Telephone (Landline/fax)

+44 (0) 16 29 57 082

Telephone (Cellphone)

+44 (0) 77 91 69 98 89

Email ian@frusion.co.uk

Doreen Thobekile: Kwazulu roots diva of immaculate pedigree, lead singer with Trans Global Underground, for many years across many continents; one third of the legendary Shikisha trio; Chachouka; star of Ipi Tombi, West End show of the



late '70's; solo roots star with phenomenal voice and squeeze box and the Zulu songs and rhythms that she embodies and embraces.

An accomplished, singer, dancer and instrumentalist, Doreen was born in Natal then grew up in Durban, South Africa. She plays African instruments such as mbira and umqangala. While in school she took part in singing and dancing, but it was in dancing that she would really excel. She became the solo dancer for a group called African Follies that toured several countries.

Doreen settled in Britain in 1971 and was lead singer in the London's West End spectacular South African musical 'Ipi Tombi' for 8 years. This led to her being a founder member of Shikisha, a Zulu women's dance group. Other musicals she has starred in include 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' and 'Poppie Nongena', both in London.

In 1983 Doreen was in Kenya to join with Mose Fan Fan's band Somo Somo for the recording of the song 'Jolie Africa' that is on the CD Belle Epoque. Very often Doreen conducts cultural arts workshops in schools, community centres or arts centres in Britain. One such occasion was during the big Celebrate South Africa festival in London in May 2001. She has also worked in this capacity in other parts of Europe and USA and Canada. Two memorable moments in her career were at the Royal Command Performance at the Commonwealth Institute and at the launch of Virgin airline's route to South Africa. Currently Doreen is a singer and dancer in the fusion band Transglobal Underground.

Doreen was also with Transglobal Underground when they performed at several WOMAD festivals in 2001 around the world. Doreen and two other members of Transglobal Underground sometimes appear as a smaller act called Transglobal Undergrowth.

In 2004 Doreen performed at London's Coin Street Festival. She also had a major acting role as Mama in Beverley Naidoo's 'The Playground' which was staged for 6 weeks as part of Black History month at The Polka Theatre in Wimbledon, London.

And now in 2006 Doreen fronts her own wicked band, occasionally featuring members of Trans Global Underground, its a totally mesmeric sound with recent reviews in Songlines and a profile in Froots magazine, you'll be hearing a lot more about Doreen Thobekile over the next few years.

...when Doreen sings the whole world seems to stop and listen to a voice that could well have kicked off the Big Bang' Straight No Chaser

Also available Doreen will run workshops on Zulu / African singing, quite simply superb!

Copies of London Zulu doreens album available on request

Ian Smith represents

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