

# VICKY SAMPSON “LICENSE TO SING”





## AN INTRODUCTION

Vicky Sampson is South African born, bred and often construed as an overseas artist. The irony is that her "AFRICAN DREAM" penned by Mango Groove's keyboardist -Alan Lazar-is one that is heartfelt by this Capetonian. Some two decades ago, her fan base and career were set on course by her debut television appearance on the "Soft Shoes" special -even though she wasn't categorised as a winner, the organizers of "Follow That Star" recognized her talent and the die was cast. What followed was the inevitable attention of the media and record companies:

She left the Mother City and her first band and entered the pell-mell world of cabaret, corporate cabaret, music, extravaganzas, radio and TV jingles-taking her to Bophuthatswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana even Mmabatho and finally the "City Of Gold" where Tusk Record Company snapped her up on a four album deal in 1992. Ms Sampson decided to decline the privilege of Richard O'Brien's offer to the role of Magenta in his "Rocky Horror Picture Show" in Johannesburg and record instead. More recently to huge critical acclaim she performed the lead role as the Killer Queen. in .We Will Rock You. Which toured all major cities countrywide in 2006?

The then Radio 5, accolade Vicky Sampson's first release off her debut album "Shine" with the popularity it deserved, she rammed Whitney Houston off the charts with her emotive "Love will shine on you" for 22 days! No sooner was the nation singing along to this melody, than "Walk On By" arrived-also with a sterling video production directed by the country's finest. She became the darling of the media with her inimitable power, range and soul garnered from years of true grit experience on the road. A star had been born, and borne she was to Singapore where she represented her country amongst the top rising stars of that and worldwide territories. The tide carried her onto the second and even more powerful album, "Zai" (a nickname). Soul 2 Soul studios in London, under the skilful eye of Will Mowatt had the rare delight of recording this international release and her career took a momentous turn.

Shakatak, Al Jarreau, Tina Turner, Joe Cocker, Peabo Bryson, George Benson, Grace Jones, Randy Crawford, Maxi Priest, Kool and the Gang and the Stylistics all share the memory of sharing the stage with Vicky. and all within a space of a meagre 4 years! Miss South Africa, Miss World - The Africa Cup Of Nations, where she ignited an audience of 160 000 all followed and Ms Sampson became synonymous with the dreams and hopes of a changing South Africa, and to some the "voice" and spokesperson of a challenged populous.

Two national newspapers toasted her alongside President Nelson Mandela as front-page news and! Ever since Vicky has remained in the spotlight as the darling of South Africa's movers and shakers including appearing at functions at the special request of President Thabo Mbeki! Over the years Vicky's African Dream has taken her to Austria, England, Germany, Singapore (again),

Sweden, the Netherlands & the United States of America where the album has been released. Zai is also on the shelves throughout the Benelux countries, France, Indonesia- even Russia. The song has won her Best Song, courtesy of East Coast Radio, the NTVA Silver for video, and an international MIDEM nomination for video. A crowning and incidental vote came from the readers of Ebony magazine, who voted her one of the most beautiful women in the land in '97. Locally she inspired the nation weekly when with the launch of the National Lottery her most famous song was chosen as the theme song to the twice-weekly Lotto Draw TV show.

Her star power and cross-over appeal has also lead to numerous appearances on the evergreen & ever popular music quiz show on SABC2, Noot-vir-Noot and took on the formidable Fiona Coyne on the Weakest Link winning the Celebrity Show donating her winnings to animals in distress. As a socially responsible citizen Vicky has become a patron of the Red Cross Children.s Hospital in Cape Town. As a mother this role was a natural choice for Vicky, advancing the cause of an institution lending a helping hand to the most vulnerable in society.

In April 2007, Vicky went into production with her current album, titled "License to Sing" utilizing the skills of R J Benjamin and Cedric Samson. She wrote five of the tracks on the CD.

She has just recently returned from China where she was invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics with international stars Michael learns to rock, Kenny G and José Carreras to a Stadium of forty thousand people and a TV audience of 1 Billion. The album has also been released in China. Miss Sampson is looking forward to returning there with a tour in October / November 2009. In 2008 she was invited to her first live performance at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, she shared the stage with the likes of the Manhattans, Sergio Mendez and Jimmy Dlodlu. In August 2008 she was held a live concert at the Artscape Theatre in Cape Town in celebration of Women's Month. That was followed by a performance at the Johannesburg stadium for the Nelson Mandela 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Victoria Zaida Sampson, mother, songwriter, performer, survivor. Onward and upward for Africa's diva: polished to a brilliant shine!

