

THEKISO ANTHONY LEFIFI

HAD Johnny Clegg been raised by his biological father in the UK, he would have been a Manchester-bred accountant. That, at least, is what his father told him when they met for the first time when Clegg was 21.

The legendary musician and anthropologist would also not have been arrested at the age of 15 for contravening apartheid laws forbidding racially mixed musical performances.

He would not have frequented migrant hostels as a teenager or been exposed to places considered by the apartheid regime as "dangerous" for white people.

He would not have formed Juluka with Zulu musician Spho Mchunu.

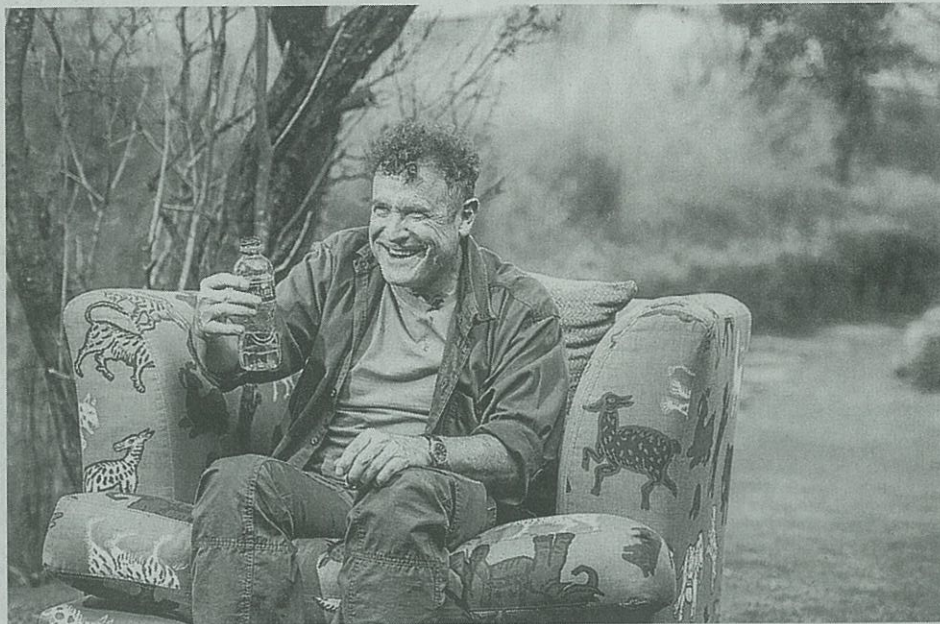
Today, *Le Zoulou Blanc*, as he is known in France, where he was named a Knight of Arts and Letters in 1991, is one of South Africa's most respected musical icons.

Clegg's upbringing — his mother was a jazz and cabaret singer and his stepfather was a crime reporter who took him into townships from an early age — exposed him to experiences that inspired his music.

In 1988, Clegg, who cannot read music, achieved the almost miraculous feat of selling more records in France than Michael Jackson and Madonna combined.

In 1987, he released *Asimbonanga* (We've never seen him) with the group Savuka. The song, writ-

SA music's one-man impi



ZULU FUSION: Johnny Clegg during the shoot of his picture for the 21 Icons series

Picture: GARY VAN WYK

ten during a state of emergency, called for the release of Nelson Mandela from Robben Island and spoke to a generation who had never seen photographs of the struggle hero because images of him were banned.

Twelve years later, Clegg was speechless when Mandela surprised him by appearing on stage in Frankfurt, Germany, while

Clegg was performing the song.

Today, the R16 edition of the Sunday Times publishes the 21 Icons portrait of Clegg by photographer Adrian Steirn.

Clegg brandishes a spear with the words "the music" and "anthropology".

The portrait was shot in the veld at the Cradle of Humankind, northwest of Johannesburg.

Clegg's signed portrait will be auctioned at the end of the series and the proceeds donated to the charity of his choice.

SABC3 will flight a short film about Clegg and his portrait at 6.57pm tonight. Clegg talks about learning Zulu, stick fighting, praise poetry and war dancing.

The 21 Icons project celebrates 21 outstanding South Africans.