**BORN OUT OF THE LOVE – SOULFUL HOUSE, THE UNDERGROUNDS**

What started as a beat making venture between producer friends, Marquees ‘Marqo’ Maloba and Dennis ‘Denny Nights’ Khumalo has seen the coming together of six artists who aren’t just performers but have formed a brotherhood rooted in the love of music. The Undergrounds was formed when the two friends alongside Tabakatose ‘TK The Black Knight’ Msindo recorded ‘Cold Shoulder’.

Although Marqo ventured on his own musical path, TK and Denny Knights were soon joined by their four artists, affectionately known as the ‘Zaas’. Lead guitarist Aubrey ‘Aubza’Mphahlele, bass guitarist Kabelo ‘Kabza’ Mathebula, Thapelo ‘Thapza’ Mochaki on keyboards and their latest addition drummer Steve ‘Stevza’ Thompson with the common goal to bring music lovers live deep soulful house music and live up to their tagline #wewillmakeyoudance.

The young musicians have each travelled their own personal music journeys which have finally seen them cross paths and embark on a quest to be a well-known music brand both on local stages as well abroad.

“We find ourselves going down this road because of music. We loved, we sang and danced in our hearts but that was not enough because our God given talents have brought us together. We are a live deep soulful house band making you move to the beat of music borne of our hearts and souls. We promise to take you on an unforgettable music journey and we guarantee that we will make you dance.”

Apart from being crowned the winners of THE SETUP on December 5 in 2013 at Tanz Live, The Undergrounds have performed in a variety of venues garnering followers with each one and they hope to keep their fan base growing from show to show. They have featured on the youth radio station YFM’s Live & Reyired show, which features established as well as upcoming bands, and on SABC 1’s television show Mzansi Insider . Among their memorable shows and performances, the band count the following as the ones that stood out during their first year together:

* Klipdrift Battle of The Bands 2013 (Carnival City) - Semi Finalists
* Emerging Sounds, Battle for Rumours 2013 (Rumours Lounge) - Semi Finalists
* Fred's Choice 2013 (Rumours Lounge) – Finalists
* The Setup 2013 (Tanz Live) – Winners
* Emerging Sounds, Battle for Rumours 2014 (Rumours Lounge) - Semi Finalists (November 2014)
* My Band Competition 2014 (Rooderpoort Theatre) – Finalists
* SKYROOMLIVE SABC1 OCTOBER 2014
* MZANSI INSIDER SABC1 2014

They have also played at popular Tembisa hangouts such as Tsalanang and Phillips Lounge and were part of the first Spring Colur Bash to be hosted in the East Rand at Dries Niemandt Park, Kempton Park and have featured on the bill of Mama’s Shebeen in Greenside, Rumours Lounge in Weltervreden Park and Tanz Live in Blackheath.

**WHO ARE WE DEEP DOWN – MEET THE UNDERGROUNDS**

**Dennis ‘Denny Nights’ Khumalo – The Beat (Percussions)**

Born and raised in Tembisa. I’m a self-motivated person and music is my passion, it keeps me going in life. At a young age I started mingling with some DJs ‘ekasi’ and decided to learn how to play house music in a way that could make people dance! This was not enough, I wanted to know how to make music and soon met Marqo and we both started learning from each other using different computer programs to make music. We met TK after he wowed us at a school function and decided to give him a few beats to work on. This worked out great but I wanted to develop more skills in music. Finally I found interest in percussion instruments particularly the Congas which I now play with a passion!

**Tabakatose TK The Black Knight Msindo – The Voice (Vocalist)**

Born and raised in Gweru (Zimbabwe) I grew up in a family with many musical differences but enjoyed singing along to any songs I found had catchy tunes I liked. All through my school years I won awards at many talent shows performing solos and in choirs. I used to be part of a Gospel acapella group back in high school where I started composing Christian songs too. I moved to South Africa where I met Denny and Marqo who inspired me to compose songs for deep house music we performed at different clubs and venues. I’ve always loved house music from the first time I listened to DJ Fresh’s Definition of House compilations. Although I always pay more attention to lyrical content in the music I find it interesting how lyrics can make an impact in people’s lives. I’m inspired by artists and groups like Tortured Soul, MiCasa , Liquid Deep and Zakes Bantwini.

**Aubrey ‘Aubza’ Mphahlele – The Rhythm (Lead Guitar)**

Born and bred in Limpopo province near Polokwane. I come from a Christian family so I developed an interest in instruments at church. I grew more attracted to a guitar. I started by making my own artificial guitar with a piece of wood and some strings and I would play with my brother! I began to play at church at a young age. I take my inspiration from heavyweights like George Benson, Selaelo Selota and Jimmy Dludlu. I wish my name will be mentioned amongst the best in the guitar playing world.

**Kabelo ‘Kabza’ Mathebula – The Melody (Bass Guitar)**

 Born and raised in Orlando (Soweto). I am a sound engineer, I developed the love of music when I was in primary school. I always dreamt of being behind the desk as a sound engineer in live festivals and concerts. In 2009 I started exposing myself to sound at church helping the sound engineer and learning. My love for instruments grew and I started playing bass guitar at church, I would love to see myself owning a big sound rental company! I am inspired by legends like Victor Wootens, Tommy Brown, Fana Zulu and Sbusiso "Spanish". I really want to see myself as role model to other young upcoming bass players.

**Thapelo ‘Thapza’ Mochaki – The Harmony (Keyboard)**

I grew up in Orlando East(Soweto) in a Christian family. I was influenced by my mother in the field of music because she was a singer. I always had a desire to play piano at an early age, I danced when I heard the sound of a piano at the age 2, my mother said. I always won trophies for my school in music competitions! Although I started by playing a recorder and ended up playing saxophone it was not for long because my passion was the piano! I started playing piano at church and ended up as a session pianist not only playing gospel but other genres like house, jazz and Afro Pop.

**Steve’ Steveza’ Thompson – The Pulse (Drums)**

A drummer from Eldorado Park, he was born and raised in Johannesburg. Having worked with many upcoming artists, his style an skill have proved wonders as his first performance with The Undergrounds led to the group’s win of THE SETUP in December 2013 and in his own words believes that “Nothing is impossible with God”. Inspired by many local and international artists he looks forward to taking South Africa by storm and believes that #wewillmakeyoudance.Born and raised in Tembisa. “I’m a self-motivated person and Music is my passion, it keeps me going in life. At a young age I started mingling with some Djs “ekasi’ and decided to learn how to play House music in a way that could make people dance! This was not enough, I wanted to know how to make music and soon met Marqo and we both started learning from each other using different computer programs to make music. We met Tk after he wowed us at a school function and decided to give him a few beats to work on. This worked out great but I wanted to develop more skills in music. Finally I found interest in percussion instruments particularly the Congas which I now play with a passion!”Born and raised in Tembisa. “I’m a self-motivated person and Music is my passion, it keeps me going in life. At a young age I started mingling with some Djs “ekasi’ and decided to learn how to play House music in a way that could make people dance! This was not enough, I wanted to know how to make music and soon met Marqo and we both started learning from each other using different computer programs to make music. We met Tk after he wowed us at a school function and decided to give him a few beats to work on. This worked out great but I wanted to develop more skills in music. Finally I found interest in percussion instruments particularly the Congas which I now play with a passion!”