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CV for Lucas Maree

Full name: Lucas Lodewyk Maree
Birthdate: 22 Julie 1952 in Johannesburg.
Qualifications B A Drama (UP)
National certificate for Film production Technicians
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From a very early age my mother was concerned about my capacity to sit around and do nothing. I had a very hard time to explain to her that I was THINKING, and thinking takes a lot of energy. She, on the other hand agreed with my dad when he said that too much thinking is not good for a person. He preferred doing, rather than thinking, unnecessarily. I went to University in order to improve my capacity for thinking. I liked being there. I liked it so much that I tried very hard to be and stay a professional student. I felt the need to try and study many things: English, French, Astronomy, Computer Science and a few other things. Therefore I sang in the evenings at various bars and restaurants for bread and study money. Singing 60's and 70's folk songs. I discovered that I actually like what I was doing and there was another benefit: I could actually survive doing something I loved doing. So I decided to become a professional musician instead and have been ever since. Maybe I should refrain that: I became an entertainer/musician/songwriter who eventually started writing and singing in Afrikaans, my home language.

Historical

- 1981** Married Ilse after establishing that I will be able to support her with my lifestyle. She fortunately wanted to keep working, and ended up being our breadwinner for some years to come. He He..!
- 1982** Wrote my very first song, an Afrikaans song, and I walked around very proud, playing it to anybody who would care to listen. Learned a valuable lesson: nobody really listens.
- 1983** Monica, my eldest daughter is born. Lucky me. I get to be the mommy in the house because Ilse was earning our bread during daytime and I was earning the butter (and jam sometimes) at night, play passionately at my gig.
- 1984** Made my very first record titled "Kiekies". Yes it was way back in the days of LP records. With this came new opportunities. Apart from doing the regular gig thing, I now also got to do the odd "concert" as well. These were by invitation, and people actually paid for tickets to come listen to me. He he he.. Me...!
- 1985** Started doing more "concerts" but I still did the regular gigs at bars and Restaurants. Playing for drunken people has its benefits: you gain a lot of insight into human nature; you learn ways to control a crowd without antagonising them; you learn to socialise with people without having to become drunk yourself; you learn most of all

to keep your cool. This experience has served me well in all my years doing "concerts" as well

**1986 -
1988**

A second album sees the light. It is a collaboration with Coenie de Villiers, Jannie du Toit and Nick Taylor. It is a tribute album with songs written by the recently deceased Koos du Plessis (Afrikaans songwriting pioneer) I do a lot of "concerts" and now I also start doing TV shows and videos of my own songs. Household name – me, and all because of Leon Schuster who made a fool out of me in a movie called "You Must Be Joking". I still get people reminding me of this "humiliating good fortune" to this day.

Linda, my middle child is born in 1987. My cup runneth over, as does my enthusiasm as the "mother of the house". We live, wonderfully secluded on a smallholding outside of Pretoria, on the eastern side. I procrastinate a lot. That is what Ilse calls it. I personally see it as an extension of my life as the eternal student. I study nature: birdlife, trees, human nature and the art of distilling liquor, which I use to make my famous Soutdoring likeur (liqueur made for ingredients gotten from the Sweet thorn Acacia tree.) Nirvana, Paradise, call it what you will, but I was in it. I even forgot to sing for a while there.

1989

I hear the wonderful news that we are pregnant again. We decide to move back into town mainly because of our transport situation. I kept on having these visions of me having to catch my own baby in the middle of Koos Opperman's Black wattle forest, because the Mazda had another, totally uncalled for, breakdown.

Carla, my youngest screams her way into the world and teaches us a lot about patience and the art of infant communication.

I team up with Anton Goosen, Helena Hetteema and Carlien van Niekerk to for a group called "Die Komisie van Ondersoek. We work hard and produce a well received album. On the home front things were slightly turbulent, though. Anton and I don't see eye to eye on a lot of things, and our ways split. I learn a lot about friendship and how it almost never is a good idea for friends to do business together.

**1990 -
1994**

I rejoin the "rat race" and get a job at the University of Pretoria. I become assistant theatre manager and lighting and sound technician at the resident theatre. I work hard. No more gigs. Got a steady job now! I am allowed to do "concerts". Best of two worlds. I work on new songs and eventually record a new album "Miljoen", my first CD!! Go overseas for the first time, together with Coenie de Villiers. We do a "concert tour" in the Netherlands and Belgium. First taste of international stardom. He he he

I leave the steady job for the greener pastures of the freelance musicians' lifestyle. I am a gypsy again!!! We move to Bloemfontein. The closest thing to Nirvana for a middle aged old so & so who started cherishing concepts like peace and tranquillity.

**1996 -
1998**

Record another CD, "Die kiekies konsert" the first LIVE Afrikaans album, so they say. It is a very popular album, because of the live elements and the stories I tell about and between the songs. I discover I have a knack for storytelling. I record a lot and do a lot of TV and release an album called "Mot om die Kers" which gets me the SAMA AWARD for best Afrikaans album in 1998

1999

I do a lot of shows ("concerts" – he he he) and collaborations with other artists (Coenie de Villiers, Mathys Roets)

2000

Got past the Y2K without a glitch.! Recorder an album "Blouberg" which became controversial because of the fact that the album consists of old Afrikaans Folk songs that I had rewritten in the 21st century, and some of the "fathers of the nation" felt that I had desecrated the holy cow. I also recorded an English album, with songs

from my Barroom era. It is well received and also contains two of my own compositions in English, both of which got played quite a lot on BBC 5, and in the Netherlands (Radio Hilversum)

2001 - 2005 Very active abroad. We star a festival in London called "Ukkasie". We annually go there for a week of South African Music. The highlight was a performance in the Royal Albert Hall. We do a lot of shows and festivals in Holland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Jetlag.! I release an album "Lucas & Kie" which is basically my Greatest Hits.. If only my mom could have seen and heard this.

I also build my own studio at home. Now I can record whenever it suits me. I can also start teaching my kids how to do it on their own. We also become involved in recording and scouting for young talent in the Free State.

2006 I star in a movie. "ouma se slim kind" and for the first time, after having gotten my degree in Drama, I actually do what I was trained to do: ACTING!

My songs are compiled and published in a book, and was very well received and popular.

2007 Lots of shows and again TV appearances. The highlight being the collaboration with the wonderful "**Soweto String Quartet**" who have also recorded some of my song on their latest album.

2008 This year finds me recording a new album of my own, in my own studio. There is also another collaboration with Mathys Roets and Andre Swiegers. This will be an album for Sony BMG called "Folk Buddies", an album of 60's and 70's songs performed by the three of us. The album will also be launched by a "concert"(He he) tour to the Major centres.

I am blessed. My Kids have all finished with school now. Ilse is still very busy at her job and in between gigs I find myself wondering if I will ever get the opportunity to be a good grandfather, or should I say grandmother.. He he he