



## Messages

Rudi and I met in 1979 to form the Rag Dolls with Tomi Svorinic and we played all over SA, then we became the Leatherette with Pete Brough and then Rudi left for Germany to first form the group Volkswagen and thereafter the great 12DD. They did really well with their first album playing everywhere, being covered on the front page of the New Melody Maker and getting brilliant critics from all over the world. They produced a second album and I was able to join him again for the 12DD album Loveless - which was a brilliant band and production experience! Thereafter Rudi went back home to start his family and we all started our families and lived our lives - which is good! Today I still play with Kurt and Pete with The Wide in Germany and we often talk about the great songs and the good times we've had with Rudi! In fact last XMas we performed two of Rudi's songs and we will continue doing so - because great songs and words stay forever!

Rudi meant a lot to me and to many other people too. He was a great lyricist, songwriter, singer and performer! Plenty of his wild live performances will be remembered by many! He was also a loving and caring friend - always honest, sensitive and full of empathy - even though he had so many of his own struggles - the effects of the health issues. But even then, he always was in good spirits - what a positive and brave example of a good human being he really was! Thank you so much for the rich times spent together Rudi - if any of us deserve a VIP seat with the angels in heaven, it's you! Rest in peace Rudi!

**Hermann Eugster (Drummer, formerly SA, then Germany, now Switzerland)**

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Dear Geraldine, It is so sad to hear from Heidi that Rudi has left us to be with his Lord, whom he never lost faith in, no matter what trials he had to go through. He's at peace now. Thank you for your support during this very difficult time. Thinking of you and all the family at this very sad time. So sad to have lost my brother. Love to you all. **Ingrid (Rudi's sister in Australia)**

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Hi Geraldine, we were sorry to hear the very sad news about Rudi passing away earlier on today. I have been in touch with Heidi and she gave the news to me. We are glad that Rudi's daily health struggles and discomfort have now come to an end and that he can be at peace in a wonderful place with no more suffering. Wishing you, Jesse, Danielle and Tahila peace and strength at this difficult time. **All our Love, Paul & Jo x ✨☩ (Rudi's nephew and his partner)**

God has personally sent him (as an angel?) for me to get back to a loving relationship with HIM. If for that alone, your life was worth it. Thanx forever.

**Thomas Quast (Germany)**

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Rudi and I first met in 1983 during a concert in Rudi's home town of Monchengladbach, where I was playing in the Christian rock band Pieces. At an event organised by Rudi's local church. We were pretty progressive for those times. Make up, big hair and leather trousers ... This cool guy bounded up to me after the gig - it was "man love" at first sight. He was so friendly and different from all others around.

Despite living a fair distance from one another, we stayed in touch. Over the years a close friendship developed. We shared a common faith and deep passion of music.

In the late eighties Rudi and Kurt of 12DD, invited me and my drummer friend Michael Witzel to some jam sessions. We all were very excited about this get together. There was an immediate musical chemistry between us that was both organic and explosive. As a front man, Rudi was an incredible force. The words just flowed out of him as we jammed; his lyrics were innovative, playful, shocking and poetic. We produced the fourth 12DD Album (CD release title "Heroic Feet" to be digitally released as "Jewels In The Jungle" a title Rudi has chosen) which to this day, we are all very proud of. We played some fantastic concerts, the audiences just loved Rudi's entertaining and energetic performance and the powerful band sound. He was the ultimate front man, a true talent and one of the most electric performers I have ever seen, let alone worked with.

He had an ego, of course, as every lead singer must, but he was also a bit of a comedian and never took himself completely seriously.

Once we played at a German city festival, Rudi was on full form. During a song, he spotted a huge lime tree next to the stage and without hesitation, during my guitar solo and managing to upstage me, he climbed up the tree and remained there singing until the end of the song. The crowd went mad! He managed to drive us crazy sometimes with his diva-like demands; once, just 3 minutes before we were due to go on stage, he impulsively declared, "I need chicken" and disappeared for half an hour to find a KFC. He had an insatiable appetite for music .... and fried chicken.

Our friendship remained close and strong throughout the years. After months or years of no contact, we would pick up as if we had only spoken yesterday. He was a soul partner. Despite our rock n roll tendencies, we both were fortunate to find strong partners and have long marriages with wonderful inspirational children. As families we were blessed to spend a long holiday together in South Africa at Neil's wonderful beach house. These precious memories will stay forever in our hearts.

Rudi, we love you and we will miss you.

**Tom E Morrison, Nun Monkton - UK**

Rudi was a darling. He had a smile that would melt the iciest of hearts, he could disarm with his charm. His eyes danced and laughed. He was such a wordsmith, a true writing talent and an electric performer.

To this day I remember when he was visiting us in London, telling him jokes from a Private Eye magazine, him begging me to stop as he fell to the floor of our landing, curled up and laughing in pain and I continuing to assault him with humour; we both almost died laughing. He was a special one, unique and utterly lovable. **Rachel Morrison**



*Rachel with Rudi (and the rest of the family) in South Africa*

Hey Auntie G. I'm so sorry to hear about Uncle Rudi 🙏 sending condolences to you and the family during this difficult time. He was truly a remarkable man, so loved and respected by all who knew him. I will always remember him for the kind-hearted, talented, passionate person he was. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers, lots of love ♥ **Angela Sharrock**

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We have heard the very sad news that Rudi passed on last week. Our deepest condolences to you and your family. May you find peace in the wonderful memories you cherish. May Rudi Rest in Peace. 🙏

**Eric (PBHS class of 72) and Dot Nikitas**

Hallo mom my condolences I just heard about Dad, you tried your best to give him support he needed, we loved him but God loves him more may his soul rest in peace. We will all miss him 🥺🥺🥺🥺🥺

**Fanzo (Caroline from Malawi's sister)**

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What a great loss. He was a very fine guy and a kind-hearted person. His time in Germany as the frontman of 12 DD will never be forgotten. You will always remain in my heart and will remain unforgettable for me... R.I.P. Rudi ❤️

**Christoph Skowronek, Germany**

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So sorry. We loved Rudi so much. We're going to miss his dolphin 🐬 texts but we know we'll all be reunited in heaven! No more pain, no more tears. Our prayers and condolences to you and our extended family. Please reach out anytime if you'd like to chat. Love you! **Dub and Shelly Kruse (USA)**

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It is always sad to say goodbye but I know he is with his eternal Father in a place of no more pain and suffering and at peace. What an amazing legacy he leaves, a wonderful father, husband, sibling, friend and man of God. We do rejoice a life of splendour and now he is home! Love to you all during this sad time and may the beautiful memories of fun, laughter and joy remain forever. Xxx

**Sue Kirkland Smith, Pretoria**

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Oh my goodness!! I am so sorry Geraldine. Rudi was one of a kind, a really special soul.

**Lynne Smit (formerly SA, now UK)**

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Our friends the Frohling's !!!! What a joy to have been part of your lives for almost 30years. Our deepest condolences to you all!! Rudi always brought joy and encouragement to those around him. He used his talent singing touching many people's lives. His singing Prophetic voice brought comfort and encouragement to the church! We will always remember the beautiful gift 🙏

**Caroline and Kevin Coughlan, Pretoria**

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Rudi... what a legend. I will never forget the big hugs he gave. Thinking of you all at this difficult time. You're in our thoughts and prayers. May God bring you comfort and surround you with his peace.

**Kim Midgley (formerly Pta, now Madagascar)**

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Geraldine, I'm so sad to be reading this news. Rudi was a terrific person and I was lucky to have known him before his illness, during and after it. What a strong man he was, In later years our contact diminished its true but we still had occasional calls and messages. My condolences to you - its been a very long time since we last met - you have been his rock I know and your children were everything to him. In my remote way I will miss him too; he made such an impression on me and I still from time to time, play his 12DD records.. RIP Rudi

**John Waller (friend from music industry, UK)**

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May our great, great Lord be with you all. May His grace fill you and comfort you through this valley, and know that many are mourning and praying for you...we are so blessed to have known Rudi and the Frohling family. God bless and comfort you. **Mike McMeekan**

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So so very sad to hear this news. Rudi was truly one of a kind who coloured our lives. Most heartfelt condolences. Praying peace and comfort to you and all your family at this difficult time. Much love 💞💞

**Helenmary McMeekan (formerly Durban, now Australia)**

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So sad to hear this such fond memories of Rudi singing at our wedding almost 30 years ago! Our deepest condolences to you Geraldine and family! 💞🙏 May God comfort you in the loss and be a joy in the union he has with Jesus!

**Daphne Nel (formerly Pta, now USA)**

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Geraldine sad news indeed fond memories of Rudi from my time at Glenridge as well as meeting him through Heidi. Be comforted by the spirit of Jesus, love

**Jonathan Foley (Dbn)**

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Very sad to hear this news, Geraldine. What a special man Rudi was. We mourn with you, and send much love to you and your children 💞

**Peter Grenfell (formerly Pta, now CT)**

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So sad to hear this, Geraldine. You were both such an integral part of the flavour of the early 3ci church plant. I'll always be glad we share those memories. Much love to you and the family. **Joanne Grenfell**

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Back in the day, in the 70's, Rudi was a friend of my sister and used to visit quite often. This was in Sunnyside in Pretoria. I remember him as being a super guy. My heart goes out to all his loved ones. **Linda Navon**

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Rudi was in the same residence with me at Natal University, Durban in 1975. Condolences to all. **Robin Phipson**

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RIP. Rudi was quite a character and a cool dude we looked up to at school and a great cross country runner till a health issue put a stop to that. Then his time in Germany and the band ! In about 1980 he brought a friend from Germany to me at optometry school in Joburg to fit her with contact lenses. ( she was a challenge but Des Fonn helped and showed how it's done and in fact as an aside I had lunch with Des and Anita last Sunday in Sydney !) Rudi was dressed like a punk in a sex pistols T shirt and while we did the contact lens fitting he lay on the bench in the waiting room and had a sleep. My lecturers asked me who this long haired punk was sleeping in their waiting room ! Goodonya Rudi ! 🙏🙏  
**Axe Saxe**

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Ah Geraldine. He certainly leaves a wonderful legacy in your beautiful children. He was certainly proud of them all and so he should be. Well done you strong gorgeous woman you are. As you mourn I pray you'd be comforted. Thinking of you all, 🙏  
**Carole Nel**

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So sorry to hear about Rudi!! He was truly one of a kind and such a lovely person . Thinking of you and your family in this difficult time. 💞💞💞  
**Marie Seeliger**

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So sorry to hear 💞 got to know amazing Rudy in Germany - condolences 🙏  
**Maria Jogerup**

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Thinking of you, Danni, Tahila and Jesse and their families sending much love and comfort to you all. You were a witness that a family can have much joy and grow in God's love in the midst of suffering. You're in our prayers ... Rudi was a legend 🙏💞  
**Elinor Hitchcock**

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So sad to hear this.

What remains are beautiful memories of a very special person. 🙏  
My thoughts are with him and his loved ones.

♡♡♡ **Anouschka Hendriks**

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Dearest Geraldine, I am so sad to hear your news of Rudi, I ask Abba to hold you even closer and to carry you through this valley. I know he suffered but a room was empty without him .. much love to you, Jesse, Danielle and Tahila 🙏🌹

**Kirsten McKillop Wright**

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We are so sorry for your loss. Rudi will be for ever in our hearts

**Katina Hoolmans**

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My condolences to you and your family. What a man of God. He has gone home now, but he will be missed. **Gareth Hill**

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Condolences from Germany to You and your Family - 🙏

**Tanya Sund**

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I am shocked to this very sad news. My condolences. I met him in the 80's as the lead singer from 12DD. He shall stay in my heart forever. What a wonderful guy he was ♥ **Tania Masham**

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So very sorry to hear this sad news. Thinking of you all and sending love and condolences. So many years since last seeing Rudi in Germany, and fond memories. **Ruth Leminsky Fry**

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So sorry for your and your family's loss. Dienie, you have been an unwavering support in Rudi's life. You are all in our thoughts and we send you our love. RIP Rudi ♥

**Dordie and Judy de Villiers** ♥

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My condolences, Geraldine and family. Treasure all the precious memories of the past years. Nobody can take those away from you.

**Marlene Rabe Gaskin**

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My condolences. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Rudi was a school friend from back in the day. May he rest in peace with the Father. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. **Rob Grant**

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We have many wonderful memories from the time with Rudi in Mönchengladbach, Germany. Praying for you and the family. // Tommy and Waltraud in Sweden  
**Tommy Sandqvist**

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Ah Geraldine... so saddened by this news... sincere condolences to you and your family... Rudi was such a special person, and will remain so in our memories forever.. but he is at peace.. my wish for you is that peace and comfort will envelop you like a warm huge blanket... my prayers and thoughts are with you at this unspeakably difficult time... RIP RUDI 🙏🙏🕯️❤️  
**Joseph Arthur**

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So sorry about your loss, I have such great memories of Rudi! Much love from afar,  
**Peter Schwerzel**

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Geraldine, my heart goes out to you. I rejoice in knowing that Rudi is performing for his Lord. Praying God's comfort over you all.  
**Deon Crafford**

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Sorry to hear this is sad sad news Geraldine! Rudi was such a larger than life character, and he will be missed. My sincere condolences to you all. Sending much  
💖 **Anne Crafford**

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Sad news. What a special guy. So sorry for your loss. **Alan Frow**

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My sincerest condolences to you Geraldine and to Heidi and the family. Rudi was a good friend. May he rest in peace now. 🙏 **Grant Nordin**  
Rip Rudi , hero of a lifetime, much love from Germany. **Jorge A Schneider**

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I am so so sorry for your loss! I will always remember Rudy as a teenager having to sing at family events. Sending love and condolences. **Ralph Frohling**

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Condolences to the family. He was in my matric class and I remember his excitement on receiving a Scholarship for athletics in the USA. Had contact with him when he was in Germany playing for the band twelve drummers drumming. He sat next to me at our 50 years on PBHS celebration, which is when I last saw him sadly. RIP Rudi my mate ! **Poenie Vienings**

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Dear family, my sincere condolences to such a dear man, father and husband. In deep respect and strength wished with this loss. Rest in peace dear Rudi 🙏❤️  
**Carlo van Putten**

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Gerry I am thinking of you so much and remembering the gift Rudi gave us for our wedding! That song he sang will always be remembered with such love! It was so special! **Heather Iggulden**

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So very sorry to hear..... Rudi was an awesome person (from Carol and Wendy)  
😞😞😞💔 **Carol Schwegman Blom**

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Very sad news. Rudi was my neighbour in M. Gladbach, Germany and was a very kind and friendly guy. He was especially kind in helping a family member of mine who, when visiting me became ill and was sent to hospital. Well played Rudi and my thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time. **Rory Higgins**

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Our deepest condolences Geraldine to you and your beautiful family family. We remember you both with such fondness. Much love **Sonja Bowles**

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Aww Geraldine, this is such sad news. Our deepest condolences for you and your family! **Gisela Lindeque**

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Sending all our love to you and your beautiful family, Geraldine Frohling. We have the sweetest memories. Going to miss that sparkle in his naughty eyes that felt like he knew something most didn't. We are deeply saddened by your news.

Thank you, Rudi, for moments, songs, words, living large, stories, records, and records. Watching "We'll be the first ones" with tears in my eyes.  
[https://youtu.be/DX4RFvy5d4k?si=QTUiZ\\_zPSGHkmxS1](https://youtu.be/DX4RFvy5d4k?si=QTUiZ_zPSGHkmxS1) Tears of respect. What an absolute legend. Strength and peace to you Geraldine, Danielle, Tahila, and Jesse.  
**Heinz and Mandy Schrader**

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We are so sad and send our deepest condolences. Rudi gave deep emotions with his voice and his music to the world. The lyrics he wrote will always be in our minds. He will stay in our hearts forever ♥ R.I.P. Rudi ♥  
**Louis & Bettina Spillmann**

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Bless you Rudi. You looked after my wife and I in Germany (Mönchengladbach) at the peak 12 Drummers Drumming. Took us to Cologne and Brussels. Will never forget the crazy fun times we had. Rest in peace (and in the security of our loving Saviour), now my brother. Lots of love support and prayers to you Geraldine and the kids. **Terry Roderick**



Besuch in Leun: Rudi Edgar Fröhling mit einem befreundeten Ehepaar aus Südafrika - Mönchengladbach

Oh, Geraldine, such sad news! I remember your wedding well and Rudi's love for people. Sending condolences across the miles and lots of love ♥  
**Lisa Carelse**

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Such sad news.  
Strength to the whole family.  
He will be missed by many including you and the children.

**Dirck Pont**

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Wow...Such sad news...Thinking and praying for you Geraldine Frohling and all the family...Condolences to all his family and friends...Rest In Peace Rudi...

**John Bowles**

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We met Rudi in Mönchengladbach over 30 years ago. When he returned to South Africa we visited him a few years later in Pretoria and were warmly welcomed. We are deeply saddened by Rudi's death. He was a wonderful person and musician. We will always think of him. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

**Miko and Andrea Sochanik**



Ah, Geraldine Frohling, heartfelt condolences to you and the kids. What a legend!  
Sending love, **Lisa-Marie Keyser**

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So sorry for the loss of your best friend and wonderful human being. Sending lots of heartfelt love. **Les and Ant Redman**

So sorry to hear of Rudi's passing, Geraldine. He has been the most incredible person living life to the full even with ill-health many times over, but always bouncing back. You have been an amazing support and encouragement to him

always being there by his side. Rudi will be so missed by all who knew him, and especially your family. We send our loving condolences to all of you. Much love,  
**Lynne and Roy Atkins.**

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All thoughts with the family - years at Boys High running against you and always seeing your kind and generous persona ♡ **Keith Macivor**

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Condolences to Heidi & Rudi's family a hero of mine whilst a school girl ♡  
**Jayne Haybittel**

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I'm so sorry. Rudi was a good friend of mine during our years in Germany. He was a part of our church and was a great helper in song and Music. May he rest in peace. And my love and prayers go out to you as his family and friends. ♡🙏  
**Lasse Vacklen**

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Our sincere condolences to you Geraldine & to all Rudi's loved ones. May the Holy Spirit comfort you all. He was a very special friend to us 🙏🙏  
Much love **Ági & Martin Bundred??**

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So very sorry for your loss Geraldine, Jesse, Dan and Bang Bang.  
May God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time 🙏  
**Ingrid Swanepoel**

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Thinking of you and the family Geraldine Frohling. Such sad news and Bert Myburgh and I have such fond memories of Rudi. Sending huge hugs and kisses from all the Myburghs in Aus. Xx **Bernice Myburgh**

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I first met Rudi around 1994 when he joined a few of us on the streets of Durban evangelising in the Point Road area. It was easy for him and I to act silly and have huge laughs but we also took the gospel seriously. Rudi understood and 'got' Jesus and he showed me that Jesus in my early Christian days, and I am forever grateful. Over the years when I have seen Rudi it was so easy to step back into that jovial, fun-loving friendship. Going to miss you "Big Brother" you're one of a kinda.... **Louise Bulley**

Beautiful soul, charismatic man, magical songwriter, spiritual rock-star—how I miss you. You were an endless source of inspiration, a fiercely loyal friend, and the keeper of memories I will never let fade.

In 1993, when I'd just landed my first record deals and was still living in my parents' basement, we would sit up all night talking about the world, writing songs, and filling endless tapes with ideas.

Two of those songs eventually saw the light of day on major labels like Sony and Warner. Every line bore your unmistakable magic and religious core.

RIP, my friend; you will always be part of who I am.

**Marc Mozart**

My warmest regards, I will never forget your visit and having your beautiful daughter with us. Like you said, may he dwell in the heavenly kingdom and live on in your memories. A great artist he was. Au revoir, Rudi.

**Regina Gedeon**



*(Regina and Marc with Rudi, Germany 1996)*

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My thoughts and prayers will be with all his family and friends. I knew Rudi from a very young age, (he was around 6 yrs old) when his family used to visit his cousins in Durban and we were neighbours. They came down to Durban every year and Rudi and Heidi would come over to our house to play. Thinking of you all. With love from Spain. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️ **Cheryl Den Heyer Houseman**

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Dear Rudi, you wonderful person. I wish you all the best on your journey to heaven, and know you are looking down on us with love, with your beautiful smile. I am



grateful to have known you, and grateful to be able to keep glimpsing the stages of your life via Facebook. To see your wonderful family, to see you in their circle, a happy person. Thank you also for the last conversation we had after years, a few months ago, I felt it was a farewell. I feel honored that you spoke to me once again. We, here in Düsseldorf, your very old friends, will think of you tonight and put a candle in the window. We are grateful to have known you, your talent and your kind, loving nature towards people and animals will remain in our memories. I wish your family much strength and send my heartfelt condolences. In gratitude for this friendship, **Estelle Klawitter**



Dear Geraldine and families.  
Our condolences and sympathies to you all. May God comfort you all during these days. Love **Manette and Rob Anderson**

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Such sad news, RIP Rudi, my sincere heartfelt Condolences to his family and friends 🙏🥀🥀 **Paul Bowles**

Sometimes we wrote each other a birthday greeting. We never met in real life, but I always followed and collected your records/music. Later I was the singer together with your former band. Somehow it always felt like I followed you up. But we

cannot replace another. You were special and unique with your beautiful voice. Everyone comes and goes at their own time, or in your case so suddenly and especially much too soon. I always saw your proud contributions on facebook about you and your family. You had found your happiness. I wish them a lot of strength with the loss of you. I once wrote in a song:

*"in deep respect, of love and grace  
without regrets, I'll leave this place  
In higher hopes of what will be  
My spirit flies eternally"*

I dedicate this to you today. RIP Rudi. **Carlo van Putten**

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RIP Rudi! Our brother in Jesus Christ 🙏  
**Bernadette & Lars Johansson**

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My sincere condolences to you and your family. Rudi was one of a kind 🙏  
**Many Maher**

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*Continued*



## Google form messages:

There was one moment where I could pray for Rudi late in the evening. It was about 10 pm when Rudi was signalling that he was in pain.

I prayed for peace and relief. It kinda felt like he was praying with me.

**Mehlrend du Plessis**

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Blessed to have had Rudi as my brother ... ❤️

**Heidi Fröhling Stroink**

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Ah I remember going to watch Rudi when he was in the Ragdolls playing at Slippers Boogie Palace in Durban .....they were so good and Rudi's singing was awesome 🙌🙌🙌 Rudi was always so sweet and kind to me 😊 he had such a lovely goofy upbeat personality that will be missed !!!!! RIP Rudi 🥀🥀🥀🥀

**Unknown**

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I'm so thankful for the friendship we had during our years in germany. Rudi made an impact on our church and on me. I remember when he was hospitalized in London and four of us went there to encourage him.

When the band had releaseconcert with radio-, tv- and newspapers he presented me as his pastor. He was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I was so proud of him. Now he is in the presence of Jesus. And some day we're gonna meet!

Blessings to all of you.

RiP My friend ❤️

**Unknown**

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I remember Rudi sending me a voicemail on my landline in about 2001 with an idea for a song, singing it into the recording and finishing it off with "something like this, something like that".

Nothing came of it, because it was stored on a remote service that I lost access to, but that memory had struck with me.

**Leon van der Westhuizen**

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Thinking of you during these tough times following Rudi's loss. Remember him well from school esp.the Gilbert & Sullivan plays and his achievements on the sport fields. May he RIP.

**Dennis Schaffler**

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I fondly remember singing Soprano with Rudi in the PBHS choir and followed his music career with interest. He will be sadly missed - God speed Rudi.

**Don Roos**



Many happy memories of Rudi from his days in Twelve Drummers Drumming when signed to Phonogram - Mercury Records in the 1980's. Great sounds, great gigs and great conversations whilst in London. A truly amazing man who survived everything life threw at him. **From John Waller in the UK**

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Rudi was a class mate of mine at PBHS and I recall what a musically minded athlete he was. We caught up at the big reunions at the school and he will be sadly missed. Strength to you all. RIP Rudi from **Rod (Budgie) Cairns**

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Sending love & prayers to all Rudi's family as you celebrate his life today 🙏❤️ Rest in peace, love **Peter & Gigi Straeuli in Wartburg**

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Rudy was warm and welcoming when we first joined Bible study in Midstream. My husband Phil and I got fond of him and we would often chat about different topics. Rudy always about our sons and ready to tell of the love of God. It was an honor to meet Rudy and his family, who have become friends. We will miss Rudy and may his soul rest in peace.

**Blessing and Phil.**

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Ein Sommer Gruß in Gedenken an einen hervorragenden Sänger und Menschen. Ruhe in Frieden Rudy. Ein letzter Gruß **Markus Brietzke**

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Rudi was an extraordinary man.

He was one of the very rare men who was able to have lived his dream and have been blessed with the most amazing love and family in his lifetime.

A talent that touched the world and left a legacy in his beautiful children.

I can only imagine how absolutely free he is now, at the height and pinnacle of the person God created him to be now, enjoying the Lord and eternity in way only Rudy can.

Rudi was such a good friend, a huge encouragement and example to me. I am so thankful I had the privilege of knowing him in my lifetime. I will always honour and remember him. Love **Grant Waterston**

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I will never forget his overflowing support and love for his children. I will never forget how he enjoyed his coke and watching his sport. His determination was contagious! He was a good good man that will be dearly missed.

**Murray Dickerson**

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Rudi was a great guy! He loved Abba passionately.

**Renate Dippenaar**

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He always had time to talk, and he enjoyed telling his stories and I enjoyed listening. **Gemma**

Rudi was a man of contrasts that challenged many Christians to expand their ideas about the freedom we have in Christ. He combined outrageous showmanship with attractive humility, extreme impracticality with an extraordinary musical gift, and confidence behind a microphone in front of a crowd with grace and gentleness one-on-one. He challenged so many of our stereotypes for what it means to live your life authentically before an audience of One. His prophetic gift set many people free, and he opened up a whole new world of living out the Christian faith as an artist.

He was naturally disarming, eccentric, and endearing.

When we first met, for some reason that I can't remember, Rudi always had a bottle of cayenne pepper - I think a sniff of it enabled him to briefly relate to 'normal' people.

One of the most memorable moments was Rudi's green bellbottoms worn at his wedding, and my overhearing a Catholic priest's response to what he was witnessing (the priest was in the park, and, curious about what was going on in our tent, entered the back of the tent; he stood staring for a few moments, and then turned and walked out muttering in disbelief, 'he was wearing green trousers').

Rudi was a delight to be around. Full of surprises, and always, from my very first interaction with him, someone that, to this day, makes me smile whenever I think of him.

There are few men I have been so fond of, and I can't wait to sing and dance with him again, in the presence of Jesus. And when we meet again, I will be able to sing like Rudi!

Rudi leaves a Christ-centred legacy of faith in the faithfulness of God, that Geraldine and the children can live off for the rest of their lives.

**Jonathan Wild**

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May his legacy of colour, crazy and love forever shine in your family. You were blessed to have him in your life, but he was so blessed to have a family like yours. I pray that God will hold all the hearts in the family and restore every broken piece, as God has restored the husband, brother, uncle, friend of the family completely.

**Mieke**

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Rudi, We have been blessed to have been a part of your life. You were such a great example of always looking to God for strength for each day. There were many times spend together in lifegroup (bible study) and family occasions. We will miss you my friend. **The Eales Family**

## Memories of Rudi by Kurt Schmidt

Kurt was Rudi's fellow founding member of 12DD and bass guitarist in the band. The two of them formed the core of the band, with different band members coming and going over their four albums. Kurt knew Rudi for over 13 years and has a few memories he wanted to share ....



Rudi was a very funny guy. For example, he insisted on always having tomatoes, chicken, and bananas on stage, which often resulted in little pieces of banana sticking all over the stage which earned him the nickname "banana fingers."

Another funny story happened in Hook End Manor recording studio in England where the band was accommodated during the recording session. Before bedtime, Rudi used the toilet and fell asleep. When he woke up, he tried to get up, but his legs had gone numb, so he fell forward and hit his head on the sink. The next morning, he woke up with a black eye.

As you probably know, Rudi could talk like a waterfall. At our first meeting with the Phonogram CEO Louis Spillmann, who also could talk without stopping, he stated at the end of the meeting that Rudi was the first person who had ever managed to silence him.

One evening Rudi visited Pete at home. Rudi was chattering incessantly for almost three hours. Pete had to leave for work early the next morning, so he asked Rudi to say goodbye. Rudi ignored Pete's request and continued talking incessantly. Pete became more assertive and steered Rudi out of the apartment. To Pete's surprise, Rudi continued talking in the stairwell behind a closed door.

Going to a restaurant with Rudi could be quite adventurous. After a day in the recording studio, Rudi and I decided to go to an Italian restaurant for dinner. I had a Margherita pizza and a glass of wine... Rudi had a starter, sole with two side dishes, a dessert, a bottle of mineral water, and a ginger ale. When it came time to pay, I had to pay 11.20 marks. Rudi's bill came to almost 60 marks, which led to him harshly asking the waiter how it was possible that he got such a high bill and I had to pay so little. The waiter explained it to him calmly at first, but Rudi wouldn't

accept it, and the argument escalated until Rudi insisted on speaking to the manager. He did show up, and the argument continued with him. In the end, the owner banned us from the restaurant.

Sometime in 1984, we travelled to England with the whole band to play some gigs. Upon arrival in Calais, passports were distributed, but by mistake, the passports of Rudi and Colin's South African wife, who was travelling with us, were swapped.

Since there was still some time before the ferry departed, Rudi, Ralf, and I went to a bistro for a drink. When we got back, the ferry had already departed with the other band members and Colin's wife and we had to wait for the next ferry, not knowing that Rudi had the wrong passport.

When we arrived in Dover, customs noticed that Rudi had a woman's passport and we were locked in a small room with some other guys for two hours and interrogated. The rest of our group wondered why we weren't on the ferry and were worried. Unfortunately, there were no cell phones back then, so we couldn't inform them about what had happened. Somehow we convinced the officials that a passport mix-up had led to the situation, and they let us go. When we met up with the others, it turned out that Colin's wife had been able to enter England with Rudi's passport without any problems. 😂

*Continued*



## Memories of Rudi by Thomas Quast

These are a few stories about Rudi written by Thomas Quast, one of his closest friends in Germany. Thomas shared Rudi's same off-the-wall, crazy sense of humour and love of words. They instantly became friends when 12DD was signed to Phonogram in the early 1980s and Thomas was the A&R (Artist and Repertoire) Manager. **Note:** Not everything should be taken literally! But those who knew Rudi well would relate 😊



The Phonogram team and 12DD, 1984. Thomas Quast (middle row left) and Rudi (back centre)



Rudi and Thomas in Mönchengladbach, 1991





Rudi and Thomas outside Rudi's flat in Mönchengladbach, 1995



Thomas' visit to SA, 2000

## Rudistory No 1

### **Let's face it**

Rudi could be a real nuisance.

On and on he would rap and banter if he had a subject he was certain of, his mouth going on until your ears fell off and the last train had left the station.

Like this:

All musicians had already laid down their tracks, all well played and nice sounding. Then ...

in came Rudi – „The Singer“

(meaning: the only one who doesn't know how to play an instrument) – and would start:

*„Ahem, guys –  
what about playing it a little bit faster,  
and that solo maybe a bit shorter  
and the bassdrum more in the foreground  
and less echo on the guitar.“*

The others – all professionals – looked up in wonder, raised an eyebrow with suspicion and grumbled. „No, Rudi, we think it sounds just fine“.

„But! „... Rudi would reply ... and you guess it: five nights later they all hate him and want to kill him – but can't, because he is „The Singer“ .

Finally they start all over again.

For those moments a wise friend of mine once told me:

„Thomas, there're people who need love,  
and there're people who need e x t r a love“.

Unfortunately – for all who know him – quite often Rudi happened to be right. Ouch.

## Rudistory No 2

### **The Driver**

While visiting him, he wanted to take me to a pop festival out in the wilderness, where he had played with his first band „The Sunlit Silver Angels“.

We went there, him driving with his old Volkswagen Golf 'Desertbrown'. We enjoyed the night under the African skies to mediocre bands but still had fun.

Then he drove us back.

Flying through the pitch dark night at a hundred miles per hour on single lane country roads with potholes sprayed on them like measles. Lit only by the headlights of the car. Every half eternity some car would appear and vanish in the dark like a ghost.

While rattling along at breakneck speed he would sort of lean forward towards the windscreen for better view and talk non-stop.

Didn't he see those millions of death-dangerous potholes???

Didn't he care??!!

„Bamm“ ... the car crashed into the next one.  
Here I was, listening to him talking, but my mind was somewhere else:  
*„Can he drive at all with that thing in his brain?“*  
*„Now I know why his wife didn` t join us“*  
*„Is his medicine maybe making him careless going at this speed“?*  
*„Surely any minute we` ll have a flat tire or the suspension busts – then we` ll be stuck in the African wilderness with nothing but darkness and hungry lions sneaking up from behind!!“*  
*„This car is old already, it won` t be able to take another fifty potholes at this speed!!“* „We` ll be dead any minute, either by crash or as prey of some wild nightbeasts !!“

Rudi didn` t care, his mouth going as fast as the car.  
Suddenly came this rattling sound from the car. Rudi stopped on the roadside to check.

*Those small pairs of white dots in the dark ... could they be the eyeballs of a hungry lion?*

Something had gotten loose and rattled. We could fix it before we were eaten up.  
Back into the car and off we go at 110 to make up time.  
Sometime in the wee hours we arrived back home.  
In my room I fell on my knees, all soaked up in sweat, and prayed a thousand thanx and rosaries.  
The door opened, Rudi peeped in: „Good night“ he smiled.

### Rudistory No 3

#### **Spiderman**

One night we were out and about in the German town he lived in called Mönchengladbach (don` t even bother to try to pronounce it). It was maybe three at night when we arrived in the street he lived in, an apartment in an elegant oldish house, first floor with a balcony to the street. I stayed at a hotel.  
We couldn` t part at the club already because Rudi had so much to tell that I had to accompany him for his walk home through the sleeping town to soak up all the words pearling from his mouth like a waterfall.  
Finally we stood in front of the house.

„Shucks“, he` d go, „I have no key“.

What could he do? Attack a friend at three o` clock for a place to sleep? Try to find a hotel room and pay for it?

He looked up to his balcony: „Hold your hands like a loop“ he said „so I can step into them.“

Then – silent as a prowling cat, with utter elegance and the elastic skills of a trained sportsman – he would hold on to the wall, find little corners and stonepieces to cling on to and just like a lethal creepycrawly spider he glided up the house.

Had anybody watched us, they would have called the police thinking two professional burglars were at work.



Higher and higher he crawled, not a sound, not a crumble, not a crunch, until he grabbed for the railing of the balcony. And with the swing of a high jumper at the Olympics he landed on his balcony where he knew the door was left ajar.

He looked down to me with one of those 'Rudi grins':

„Good night“ he smiled and disappeared into his apartment.

## Rudistory No 4

### **The Restaurant**

The worst thing to do with Mr. Rudi Edgar Fröhling is to go to a restaurant.

Everybody hungry ... after the show, after the recording session, after long hours of work ... we enter the place, sit down, grab the menu and find 56 nice meals to choose from. Two minutes later everybody knows what he wants, is hungry and ready to order.

Except Rudi Edgar Fröhling.

He had just kept talking all the time with his mind set on millions of things other than what is listed in the menu.

The restaurant specifies in - let`s say - all sorts of egg.specialties: fried, boiled, scrambled, white, brown, spotted, from chicken, peacocks and quails.

What they d o n` t have is „Appalachian Egg Stew“

„Your order, please“ the waiter politely turns to Rudi.

„Ahem.... do you have „Appalachian Egg Stew?“

A first growl can be heard from the grim faces of the others.

„It`s not on the menu, but I can ask“, the waiter replies with a polite waiter`s smile.

„But I need exactly three and a half eggs. Is that okay?“

„I think we can arrange that, too“

„And the plate pre-heated to 35 degrees?“

Another silent growl from the group.

„I note it down, sir“.

„Is it guaranteed the eggs are from a bio-farm?“

„I` ll ask the cook, but as far as I know we get all our stuff from bio-farms, sir“

„Hmmm ... okay, that sounds good“.

A sigh of relief from the hungry guys floats across the table. The waiter turns to go.

„Excuse me, one last thing: the eggs have to be only from hens with darkbrown feathers! - because of their higher amount of de-toxicating carbo-sulphane“.

The waiter tries to keep his face intact.

„Oh, I` m afraid we can` t guarantee that, sir, nobody has ever asked for that“.

*„So you don` t have it then?“*

*„I` m afraid no, sir“*

*„No problem“, Rudi leans back with a charming Rudi smile, „I` ll take the noodle soup instead“.*

A final roar of anger erupts, all guys with their knives between their teeth. But again, they can` t kill him, as he is „The Singer“.

## Rudistory No 5

### **The Wedding Singer**

In February 1989 I married a sweet woman from a small village in the Black Forest. That` s pure woodchoppers and farmers country high up in the mountains in the middle of nowhere. We had our wedding party in some small village in the neighbouring valley.

There gathered a most colorful and diverse crowd:

- the big city relatives from the northern port town where I come from,
- the down-to-earth farmer relatives from the dark woods of the south,
- all our christian friends, some raving pentecostal, some pious conservatives in their humble life-style based on old traditions,
- our friends from all over the world including the U.S.A.,
- my wife` s colleagues from school and kindergarden where she worked
- and my friends from all ways of life including rock musicians from my time in the record industry. Rudi (and musician friends) came too.

That party was full of great food, lots of laughter and dance, but also packed with contributions from our friends: like poems, games, memory quizzes, sketches ...

And then came Rudi.

He had a song for us accompanied by his piano player friend. in English. Half of the (farmer) people spoke no english (although their german dialect somewhat sounded close to it...)

The piano played the intro and then Rudi started to sing. Within a split second there was dead silence. The farmers, the uncles and grandmas, the people of faith (pious or pentecostal), the children, the cows, the horses and the dogs, all under the joyfull spell of „The Singer“. He rendered a wonderful ballad, ... skillfully, emotionally, wonderfully.

Tears started to flow – from farmers` faces, rockers` faces, waiters` faces.

He bowed down, gave us a hug and went back to his chair. Applaus.

This gives you an idea of what aura he had as a performer. Not only the lyrics, not only the melodies – it was the „rudiness“ in which he could wrap up his art and fascinate those around him from the moment he climbed on stage.

When his brain problem ended his career, all musicians around him never managed to come back anywhere close to where they had been with him.

He was a lightweight person (when he was still healthy), slim, fit, jumpy – like a buzzybee around your nose.

But he was a jumbo as an artist and performer.

I feel privileged to have witnessed that.

## Rudistory No 6

### **The Dancer**

One sunday he took me to his church. In Pretoria I think it was. A big bright hall near a shopping center.

In the hall there was an unsusally wide empty space between the first row of seats and the stage. What I didn` t know was that these pentecostal christians celebrate god not only with songs but also with dance – whoever feels like it.

The music started and not long after Rudi would get up from his chair and join the crowd, swaying and dancing and singing and raising their arms.

Suddenly Rudi returned, grabbed one of his kids and sat it on his shoulders, rejoining the swaying crowd.

Him being a great dancer, and a wild one too, getting into the groove – of the rhythm and the holy spirit – he started to move wilder and wilder. The poor kid on his shoulders whirling and swirling around high up there clinging desperately to father`s hair. feeling like out on the open sea at storm force ten – or on a monstrous roller coaster gone loose.

When the Holy Spirit hit Rudi full force and brought him to the ground, I thought:

„Oh my, he`s crashing onto the floor with the poor kid on his shoulders!!“.

But friends who must have know him, jumped at his side, grabbed him just in time for a soft landing and caught the kid off his shoulders right in the very moment, it could have gone down crushing its bones.

So when you ask his kid „When did you first meet Jesus?“ don`t be surprised to hear something like „I first felt the power from heaven on a wild rodeo ride on the shoulders of my father.“

## Rudistory No 7

### **The Life Guard**

During our stay in South Africa Rudi had arranged accommodations for us in private houses of friends who were away at that time. In Pretoria we could stay in a wonderful home with a pool and everything.

So one night we said 'good night' to him to go and sleep in that house. As it was our holidays, I explicitly asked Rudi to be considerate and let us have our rest and longer holiday sleep in the morning.

You guess it: at 7 o` clock in the morning the telephone rings – loud and right next to my head on the bedside table. Being waken up brutally my wife and I look at each other with sleepy eyes.

*„It`s that darn Rudi, I`m sure“* I grumble. *„Why can`t he just let us sleep?“*

Despite the notorious ringing I decided to ignore it and not pick it up. We cuddled back under the blankets, but unable to fall asleep again, because we were angry. Ten minutes later „Rrrring! Rrrring!!“ ... another Rudi telephone attack. We sit upright in our beds, staring at the phone with looks from hell. Rudi, the notorious one, lets the phone ring till the end of time. But my will is stronger and I don`t touch it. THAT will teach him a lesson to never disturb his friend again.

Rudi gave up. The telephone stopped. Silence. Finally.

But not for long.

All of a sudden we hear a knocking on the window of the large glass front of the sleeping room leading onto the lawn. The curtains were closed.

Me being what we call a „naked sleeper“ (with no clothes on in bed), grabble for my underpants, ready to kill Rudi, who obviously found it funny to come around and personally drag us out of bed.

With a face of no mercy and in my underpants I pull the curtains aside: and stare into the muzzles of three machine guns pointing at me.

Carried by 'Star Wars' kind of uniformed fighter men with black shades and helmets.

If you have ever experienced something like that – in underpants – you will never ever forget that intense sensation.

Somehow I managed to stay cool (as in 'dead') thinking „This could be it“, having heard those South African stories of 'They are killing a white man for his record player.'

I opened the glass door ready to die.

„ We`ve been informed that you might be in trouble, being raided, raped or robbed or something“, said the soldier.

„Who told you that?“

„We got a phone call from your friend Mr Frohling, who was worried that you were in danger because you didn`t pick up the phone.“

We didn`t know the „South African way of thinking“ with neighborhood watching, mutual controlling and 24-hour-guarding because of the crime rate in the country.

We learned that Rudi just wanted to be sure we had had a safe night and no one had stabbed us to death for a record player.

So instead of killing him for this, we thanked him and gave him a hug.

After all he had given us another one-of-a-kind unforgettable „Rudi experience“.