

S'FISO STEALS THE LIMELIGHT!

By **DOREEN MOLEFE**

S'FISO KHANYILE is ready to put his name on the world map after almost five years as a backing vocalist.

He was the voice that was hidden behind some of the most prominent performers – Thandiswa Mazwai, Simphiwe Dana, Sibongile Khumalo and Swazi Dlamini.

Khanyile launches his African jazz-inspired album on 28 February at the Soweto Hotel, Joburg.

After establishing his solo career, he wants to be recognised as one of the musicians who has contributed to the development of South African music.

Although he is not related to the late Jabu Khanyile, he said many people compared the two of them.

“When I was still in school, people used to ask me if Jabu was my brother or father,” he said.

And S'fiso was happy when he finally met the legendary singer.

S'fiso studied music at the Durban University of Technology. He majored in voice, composition, arranging and harmony.

Born in Mbali township, Pietermaritzburg, he decided to relocate to Joburg in 2003 – and build his music career.

It wasn't long before he was discovered by Joyous Celebration and other artists

who fell in love with his melodic tenor voice. “I was featured on recordings of Judith Sephuma, Ntokozo Mbambo, Jimmy Dladlu and Siphokazi.

“And I was also on two albums by Mthunzi Namba,” he said.

S'fiso said he was already established as a backing vocalist.

So he decided to stop working with most of the artists when he started recording his own album.

“The only big artist

that I continued

to work with

was Mam

Sibongile

Khumalo.”

And that's

because

she's on

the level

where

I want

to see

myself

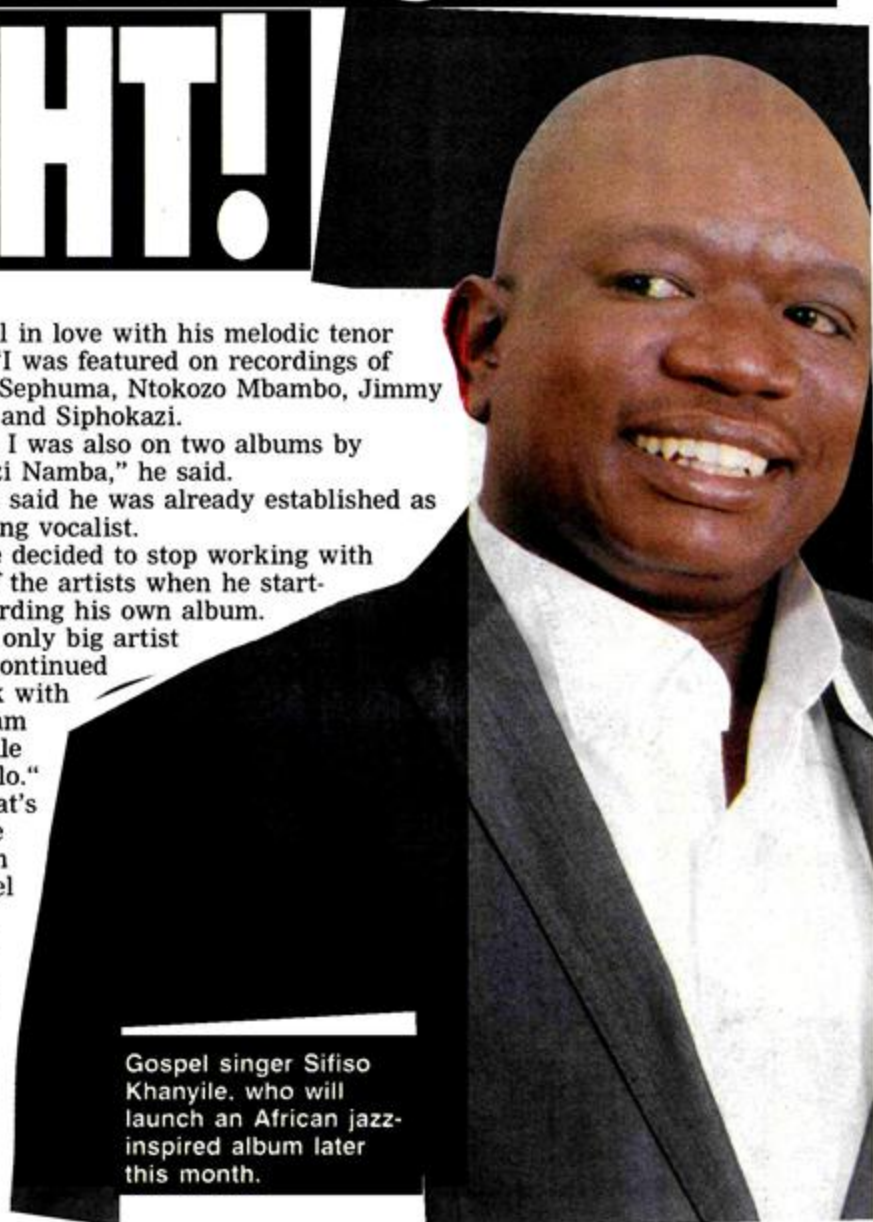
in the

near

future,”

said

S'fiso.



Gospel singer Sifiso Khanyile, who will launch an African jazz-inspired album later this month.