

# Striking a note in the South of France

Most things in the Languedoc happen by chance. But this really takes the overture. Musician Kent knocks on musician Ged's door (he doesn't know him), asks if he can borrow his microphone and a band is born! Not just any old band but a trio of guys who have played with famous musicians over the years and now have people rocking and rolling across the Languedoc.

The word eccentric doesn't even begin to sum up 'Rip it Encore', the name of their band. To start with - Rip? You couldn't possibly do that while they're playing! Indeed, 100 plus people kick up their heels, sing and dance in the street every month when they play at the Bar de Vin in Pezenas. RIP - get away with you...

But who are they?

Well, Ged Kingsford plays drums - congas, tympani, marching drums, hand drums, African Djembe and cymbals. Jed was born in Stockport,

London and after living in poverty for a while ended up playing with Metabolist which was featured on the John Peel show and enjoyed reviews in New Musical Express, Melody and Sounds.

After a successful spell playing on the

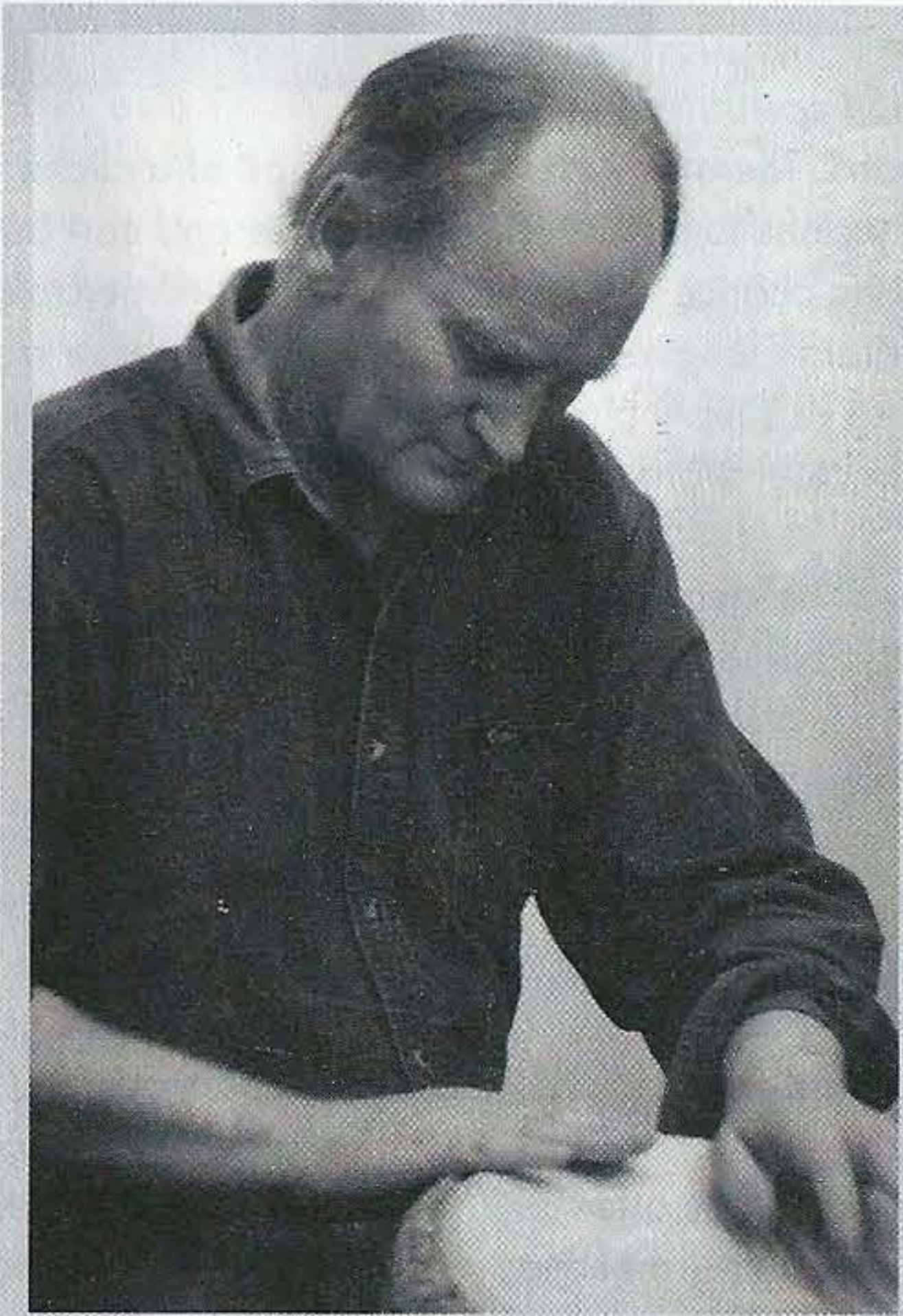
he says. 'I was always writing my own material.'

After studying IT, Jake graduated but took temp jobs in factories before moving to Paris where he played in various bands and signed up with Universal Publishing before returning to the Languedoc.

'I still play solo and have done concerts in Paris and Nice but working with Rip it Encore is like a breath of fresh air. We play a whole mix from my songs to jazz, pop, blues, the Beatles, Elton John, Presley and Chuck Berry.

'If we like a song, we play it. And if you sing along and dance with us, we're happy.'

Kent Terry, (the muso who needed a mike) has a nomadic history, London, Sussex, Ireland, Finland - to follow a teenage love - and Sweden. There, he married, had two children and pursued his love of music by playing piano on cruise ships and in bars all



seafronts in Sussex, Ged moved to Cornwall where he played in arts centres and at concerts, with among others the Hendrix Tribute band and Motor Head. He recorded with lots of artists for radio broadcasts, then he and his wife, Anna, decided to move to France and now live in Pezenas. Ged does solo concerts and continues to play with different musicians but after Kent knocked on his door he started playing with him and 'we were totally in tune with each other', he says.

Jake Watt, a 30-year-old who plays guitar and sings, called into the Bar Vin to drop off a CD of his music. He met Ged and Kent and they started 'jamming together'. 'It's all about fun otherwise I wouldn't do it. We share a sense of humour,' he says. 'We take our music seriously but when we play we enjoy ourselves.'

Born in Edinburgh, Jake moved to the Pyrennes when he was four then grew up in Toulouse. His father played drums and Jake started playing music when he was 11. 'I was into folk and R&R, Dylan and The Grateful Dead,'



England. His mother, Enid Barnett was a soprano jazz singer and his great granddad was a composer who wrote the wedding music for the wedding of King Alfonso of Spain. At age 10 he went, by chance to see the Duke Wellington Orchestra play.

'I grew up with music, jazz, big band and listening to my mum singing. The effect was enormous,' he says. By the age of 18 he had his own band, Exhibitee but then went to live in



over Europe. He had his own band, Lights of Wishes, recorded with them and appeared on TV but 'I never made any real money', he laughs. Now living in the Languedoc, Kent sells Japanese cars on the internet, borrows microphones, has started a popular band and entertains all who meet him - whether he has his fingers on the keyboard or not! A more unlikely trio we've yet to meet.

[www.myspace.com/ripitencore](http://www.myspace.com/ripitencore)