

# Oh Farryl!

PICTURE: JENNIFER BRUCE



South Africa's acoustic sensation, Farryl Purkiss, has just returned from touring Australia with Bob Evans, almost his Aussie counterpart. The two will be performing at Tings 'n Times in Pretoria tomorrow night

By **THERESE OWEN**

Girls! Farryl Purkiss is sooo hot in sooo many ways. He's hot as in you are 15 and he's like the hottest guy in school and not because he plays first team.

He's hot as in he's funny and wise beyond his years and those dreamy blue eyes understand your teenage angst. And love might follow.

He's hot as in you are in your 20s and there's no way you can have a one-night stand with him because, even though he is carefree, he understands your fears and those intelligent eyes of his will give you courage. And love might follow.

He's hot as in you are in your 30s and, even if you think of going "there" with him, those playful eyes will break your heart, because love just might follow.

At age 27, Mr Purkiss and his



MAKE THAT A DOUBLE: Bob Evans and Farryl Purkiss.

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beautiful looks are nowhere near settling down. Instead, his songwriting talent and his acoustic guitar tour the world. His record company, Sheer, and his legion of fans, believe he has what it takes to break into the international market.

Nibs van der Spuy, a fellow KZN acoustic guitarist who has established a cult following in South Africa, noticed Purkiss' talent and offered to collaborate with him. The result was Farryl's debut EP, *Chapter One*, which was released through Sheer in 2005. It was nominated for a 2006 Sama in the Best Adult Contemporary category.

An eponymous debut, two national tours and three Aussie tours later, which included a spot at *Big Day Out*, I finally get to meet the man.

At the photoshoot, his wit and love of life shines through between his serious glances at the camera. He comes across as a typical laid-back Durban boy (though he has moved to Cape Town).

He is also rather energetic, considering he's been on tour for the last three-and-a-half months, including France, Germany and Tasmania.

"Tasmania was beautiful, although I am not quite sure

what they do there. I asked them and I didn't really get an answer. They were all just really drunk."

He says that being on the road for so long is tough.

"I am 27 and have never taken drugs before, but I can understand why it happens. I'm lucky to have amazing friends and family. I had that realisation on the road. I was so lonely and there was no comfort factor."

"The response in Australia has been amazing. On this last trip I played 25 shows in 30 days, including *Big Day Out* with bands like Tool, The Killers and Muse."

So, what was it like playing on the same bill as such heavy artists?

"Two records influenced my life – Nick Drake's *Pink Moon* and Ben Harper's *Will to Live*. But, I fell in love with the acoustic guitar."

Like many musicians, Farryl finds writing songs therapeutic which, he says, is why many of his songs are depressing.

"I still get excited about the song writing process. Creating a song is a positive thing and I am a positive person. Everyone has issues, I just have other ways of expressing it."

He is currently touring SA with the Australian, Bob Evans. After the tour he takes a break before performing Paris and London. Towards the end of



## MERCEDES

The quintessential good girl who gets along with most everyone. Both the judges and her co-contestants were shocked to learn that the 21-year-old California waitress suffered from lupus (a chronic illness affecting the immune system). The disease often left her feeling poorly, but because she simply put on a brave face and got on with the challenges at hand, no one was any the wiser. It was this revelation that earned Mercedes everyone's respect and helped her score serious points with Tyra and co.



## SHANDI

With the amount of air time this little lady has received of late, there's not much more that can be said about her. Hard to believe that the sex-crazed sales clerk started out as a timid, gawky character, ne? The question is, will her personality change work for or against her?

the year he will tour Japan, Canada and the US. There are also plans to record his second album next year.

Will love follow?

"Right now, it is impossible for me to have a girlfriend."

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