

# OFF THE EDGE

## Programme



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# Biography



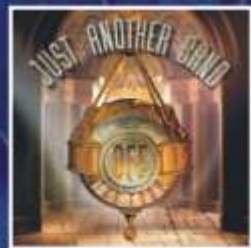
In a country hardly known for its progressive rock/conceptual bands, Off the Edge is a breath of fresh air to the South African music scene. Their roots go back to the early 80's when guitarist Peter Hanmer moved to Johannesburg from Cape Town and joined a hard rock band called "Boss".

He met bassist/vocalist Tony Groenewald and Off the Edge was formed in 1983. They released their self-titled debut album on a shoestring budget in December of that year. The album featured keyboard player Dave Sharp and various drummers. It was fairly well received and enjoyed a small amount of airplay.



The project then ground to a halt, with Hanmer and Groenewald moving to other bands. Sixteen years later saw Hanmer and Groenewald back together again in the reformed Off the Edge and a new album, "On the Run", featuring Judy Marshall on vocals, was released in 1999.

Two further albums, "Just Another Band" in June 2000, also featuring Judy on vocals and "Unfinished Business", featuring vocals by the talented Giselle Mynhardt, in June 2002, were released.



The future seems very exciting for the band, who now feature for the first time, a male lead vocalist in the amazing Clint Cunningham. Dave Sharp, rejoining for the fifth album, is a seasoned and respected keyboard player and Sherry Jones, who released an album with Peter Hanmer called

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“Age of Innocence” in February 2001, has developed into a confident and very good singer.

March 2004 saw the release of their fifth album entitled “Site Under Construction” with this current line up being reinforced with the addition of Glenn Welman on drums, Mike Dorea on Bass and Nicky-Lee Voigt on vocals for the live performances.



The artwork for each Off the Edge album was created by Mark Raats who the band regard as an “unofficial” member as he’s played a massive role in giving the band their own unique identity.

The performance on the 14th August 2004 is the first time that the band has ever performed live in its twenty year existence.

Leon Economides  
2004.



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## *Peter Hammer*

Peter moved to Johannesburg from Cape Town in 1980. He started out playing guitar in the hard rock band "Boss". The band changed its name to "Streetalk" and concentrated on playing cover material. In 1983 he recorded an album of original material under the name "Off the Edge". In 1984, after the demise of Off the Edge, he joined "The Mattisson Brothers". This was also a cover band.



He then moved onto "Domino" in 1987. This cover band lasted for roughly 3 years. Teaming up with Dave Sharp, the duo "Times Two" was formed and lasted until a change in Peter's career forced the duo to disband. In the meantime, Peter and Tony Groenewald put Off the Edge back together and Peter put live performances on hold to work on the Off the Edge projects. Peter is now also part of Clint's tribute bands, The Creedence Clearwater Revival Show and the U2 Tribute Show.

The live performance of Off the Edge in August 2004 is one of the first shows that Peter has performed with a full band since the early eighties.

## *Clint Cunningham*

Clint has been a professional entertainer for almost 17 years and has performed on the pub/club circuit as a singer/guitarist and entertainer for most of that time.



He has also written many of his own songs enjoying extensive radio play throughout the country especially with the song "Cry Baby Cry" several years ago. His second album "Soulfire" has sold well over 2000 copies and was only sold at live performances. His third album "Plastic and Steel" is currently in production and will be ready soon. In 2003, Clint joined Off the Edge and recorded the album "Site Under Construction". He now plays a major role as the front man in the live version of the band.

Clint has also had television experience as a presenter on shows such as "Ziwa-Mo-It's happening", the "Casper Rasper Show" and the soon to be aired "Paul Div Show". He is also currently starring in "Born on the bayou", The Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute Show and has launched "Rattle and Hum", the U2 Tribute Show.

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## *Dave Sharp*



Dave hails from Port Elizabeth and relocated to Johannesburg in 1981. He played keyboards for “The Mattisson Brothers” while at the same time becoming involved with Off the Edge’s first album.



Towards the end of 1984, The Mattisson Brothers broke up and Dave joined the pop/rock band Feather Control in 1985.

At the same time Dave was busy doing sessions for various other musicians. In 1995 Dave and Peter formed the duo “Times Two” and this lasted for roughly 3 years and concentrated on the corporate market.

In 2003 Dave re-joined Off the Edge to record the fifth album and consequently joined the band for the live performances as well.

## *Mike Dorea*

As is usual with most of the talented musicians in Johannesburg, Mike also has a wealth of experience with many cover bands over many years.



He was the bassist for the melodic rock band “Toxic Shame” and the other projects such as, “Mojo”, “Trylogee”, “Jezebel”, “Climbing Walls”, “Midnight Blue” and “Say Hello to Salvador” will give you some kind of idea of his vast experience.

He is also currently involved in the Tribute Shows (Creedence Clearwater Revival and U2) along with Clint, Peter and Glenn.

Mike has played on a number of recordings as well such as “Kicking and Screaming - Toxic Shame”, “Donkerkant - Wouter van der Venter” .and “Rock the Bedsprings - Old Mol”. He is currently busy at Sonovision Studios as a programmer but also producers and engineers various other sessions and projects.

Mike joined Off the Edge in July 2004 and is the ultimate solid bass player.

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*Sherry-Lee Jones*

Sherry's musical background began in Arts and Drama during high school. She sang soprano in a voice quartet and was involved in provincial choir competitions. She met up with Peter in 1996 whilst he was working in the duo "Times Two". They both realised that they had similar interests musically and decided to take it further by recording the album entitled "Nowhere Land" under the band name "Age of Innocence".



A few further songs were recorded for a possible second album but were put on hold when Sherry joined Off the Edge, singing back up vocals for the album "Site Under Construction".

She also had a hand in some of the songwriting for the album and came up with the initial ideas for the ballad "Time will Tell".

Sherry has since become involved in the band for the live performances.

*Nikki-Lee Voigt*

Nikki-Lee formed her first band in 1999. It was a Cape Town based blues/rock outfit called "Nikki Lee and Blue Jam" and played covers and original material. In 2000 she formed the band "Nikki-Lee and Undercover".



The band concentrated on rock covers dating from the 60's through to present day material.

She is presently involved with two cover bands, "Nikki-Lee and The Vagabond" and "Undercover".

Nikki-Lee has also been involved in various recording projects such as singing backing vocals for Robin Auld, Roger Khoons and singing all vocals for "Guitar for All" on their training cd's. She's done various session work (TV ads) etc and joined Off the Edge as a back up singer in August 2004.

As well as singing Nikki-Lee plays guitar and percussion and is comfortable singing virtually any genre of music.

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## Glenn Welman

Glenn, currently working as a producer and engineer at Urban Rhythm Factory's Sound Studio, has also had much experience behind his kit. He plays guitar and bass but his speciality is percussion.

He has performed for the local original bands, "The Awakening", "The Blasting Scones", "Sacrifist", "The Outcast" and the cover trio "Over the Top".

He studied under Chuck Silverman of PIT College in Los Angeles and has composed radio ads for various companies such as Coke, Eveready, DHL, Castle and Nintendo.

He also backed Pop idol winner Heinz Winkler and is currently the drummer for the Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute Show and the U2 Tribute Show. He has also taken part in several other shows at The Showcase Theatre, The Performer Theatre and several "out of town" Barnyard Theatres.

Glenn joined Off the Edge in July 2004.

## Mark Raats

Mark has been involved with Off the Edge since the band's second album "On the Run". He has created all of the artwork for every album.

Mark's involvement with Off the Edge came from Peter and Mark working together. Mark owned a multimedia company and specialised in 3D and 2D animation and design. When Peter started on the second Off the Edge album, Mark expressed an interest in getting involved in designing the cover artwork. The relationship between Off the Edge and Mark has grown with the release of each album with Mark pushing the boundaries further and further.

The band regard Mark as an "unofficial" member but he has since emigrated to Australia and the relationship has had to be a long distance one. It's regrettable that he wasn't able to be at the band's first live performance as it's something that he really wanted to witness.

Mark's website: [www.markraats.com](http://www.markraats.com)



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*A special thanks*



The "RockIt Scientists", Leon Economides and Rafe Lavine. A very special thanks to both of you for your unwavering support both on and off air.



The band is indebted to both of you.



Brian Currin, co-editor of the South African Rock Digest and the webmaster for the Off the Edge website. Brian has been involved since the second album in 1999.

A huge thanks to Brian for keeping the site updated and for all his work behind the scenes.

Phil Wright for the show that he had on 5FM on a Sunday night. Phil played a huge part in giving Off the Edge their first radio interviews and giving the band the air time they so desperately needed.



Another huge thank you to Richard Jones at Radio 2000 for all of his support. Richard has given the band extensive airplay and a number of interviews.

A special thanks also goes to John Crawley and Leon Economides for their contributions which ultimately enabled Off the Edge to put out this booklet.

Thanks to Bryn Jones for some of the photographs.

Lastly, a huge thanks to everyone who has supported the band by buying our albums over the years and by following our musical careers.

Booklet design and compilation: Peter Hanmer.

Off the Edge's Website Address: [www.offtheedge.co.za](http://www.offtheedge.co.za)

