

'Rock' star turns to film-making

A FORMER Australian rock star, Ray Brown, who is currently visiting Canberra, has become involved in the production of a film, which deals with Australian Aborigines.

Ray Brown, with his group, The Whispers, hit the big-time in 1965 when his records, 'Twenty Miles', 'Pride' and 'In The Midnight Hour' had three successive number-one records. Since his three most successful years in Australia, 1965 to 1967, he has made two lengthy visits to the US, making records and touring.

He said yesterday that he still enjoyed the excitement of playing rock, but was exploring other avenues, and enjoyed playing acoustic music and found audiences attentive to that type of music.

Dabbled

He said that previously he had just dabbled in music, but now had found a direction. He had found in the US that most successful artists had been playing for 16 years. He had been playing for 12 years and thought that in four years or so he would have more defined ideas.

Ray Brown is now concerned with the production

of a film which will be called, 'Arunta Or Lost'. He said that the aim was to make an Australian film about Australia's "real" culture, that of the Aborigines. The film was being produced for an international



Ray Brown

market, and it should be finished within three years.

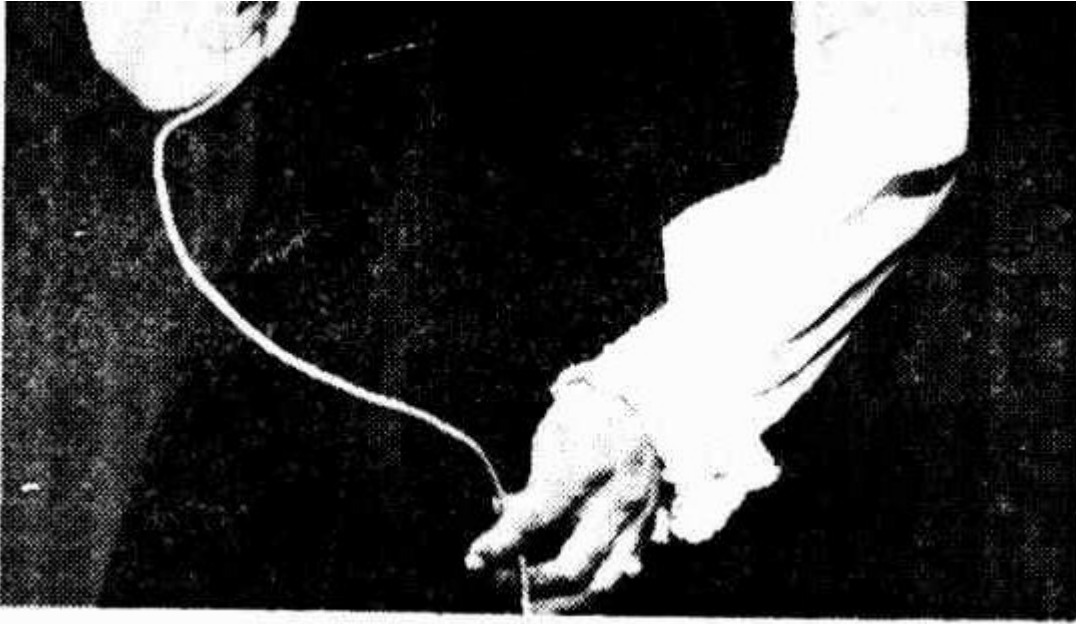
Mr Ray Rivamonte, of Melbourne, had the concept for the film about six years ago and he is now working full-time, writing and producing. About six months ago, Mr Rivamonte and Mr Brown lived with members of the Pitjantjatjara tribe for about four weeks on the Todd River near Alice Springs. Mr Brown is spending half his time working on the film and half on his music.

part of his music.

It is expected the film will cost about \$1.5 million to produce and some people have expressed interest in investing in it. It will show the past, present and future of the Aborigines.

Ray Brown, who will play at the Captain Cook Hotel tomorrow night, will begin recording an album next month. It will be called 'Heritage' and will include songs written by Ray Rynamonte and Ray Brown. It would be about the outback and its characters, Ray Brown said, and would use an orchestra and 40-voice choir.





Kamahl, who won two major record awards last year, is at present touring Australia. He will sing at the Canberra Theatre tomorrow, Friday and Saturday at 8.15pm and at a matinee on Saturday at 2pm.