

# TONIGHT Gauteng

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## SA at the Grammys

February 13, 2004

By Tonight Reporter



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Among Sunday night's winners at the prestigious Grammys was Cape Town-born Gavin Lurssen, now one of the leading audio engineers in Hollywood.

It is Lurssen's second Grammy - the award given out annually by the American recording industry to its top performers, writers, producers and technicians. He won his first for his work as mastering engineer on the CD soundtrack for the Coen Brothers' movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* The CD was selected as album of the year at the 2001 Grammy awards.

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The latest award for Lurssen is for his work on CDs that accompany an American Public Broadcasting System series on the history of blues music, presented by movie director Martin Scorsese. It was judged best in the historical music category.

In addition to his own Grammy awards, Lurssen was the mastering engineer on the CDs of three of the five best film nominations for this year's Oscars.

Lurssen (37) attended Wynberg Boys High and Westerford High in Cape Town before completing his high-school education in the US . He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in film scoring at Boston's Berklee College of Music, which recently presented him with its distinguished alumni award for his achievements.

Lurssen has emerged as one of the top mastering engineers in the US and has worked on the recordings, either current or re-issue, of performers such as Jackson Browne, James Taylor, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Pink Floyd, Tom Waits, the Everly Brothers, Simon and Garfunkel, Blink 182, Green Day, POD and many others.

He is also a performing musician and his album of acoustic guitar instrumental music - *Restless* - was issued by Zebra Records.

His father Neil was for several years Washington correspondent of Argus Newspapers, the previous name of Independent Newspapers, owners of The Star. - Tonight Reporter

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