

# ROUTES

A Guide to African-American Culture

September 2-8, 1991

(212) 627-5241

Vol. I No.15 \$1.00

**LISTINGS INSIDE: ART • CABARETS • CONCERTS • DANCE  
RESTAURANTS • FREE-FOR-ALL • THEATER**



*Djoniba.M*

## THE CALL TO THE DRUMS

### PART II

I have been a student of the drums for several months now. For me it has been the beginning of the real journey to self knowledge. My drum of choice is the djimbe. I'm at the very beginning stages of learning the language of the African drum; of learning how to surrender myself to its voice; of allowing my consciousness—my soul if I may—to journey with the heat of the drum to deep rich worlds hidden below ordinary consciousness. I have found the way of the African shaman—or witch doctor—as the Europeans so misnamed this powerful traveler of the inner realms. And it is my way. It fits. For I am African-American by birth and shaped perhaps by this modern western world but nonetheless African in the essence of my being. And as I continue answering this call to the drums. I am discovering layer upon hidden layer of meaning—within the very concept: African. It appears to transcend race, ethnicity and culture.

Those of you searching for a better way—seeking to reach down to the taproot of your own beingness—might want to explore the path of the African drum. There are wonderful African and Caribbean teachers right here in the Big Apple. I can recommend from personal experience, Ladji Camara (Guinea) and Djoniba.M (Martinique), both of whom teach several classes at various times during the week at Lezly Dance and Skate School. Don't be thrown by the name. Just follow the sound of the drums right up to the fourth floor at 626-622 Broadway (between Bleecker and Houston), and you'll swear the elevator has detoured straight into the heart of the African continent

*Papa* Ladji. as he is affectionately and respectfully addressed, teaches advanced drumming. He is such a master teacher, however, that I was able to follow his hands and reproduce the sound of his drum the very first time I laid hand to skin. He is an encouraging, inspirational and

magical human, drummer and teacher-surely one of the *ancestors*, in the flesh, come to teach us here on this side of the ocean.

Djoniba teaches basic beginning African drumming; essential for learning the proper placement of your hands in order to produce the various notes of the drum and avoid, or at least minimize injury to your hands. You can expect some pain in the beginning and eventual callousing-but as they say-no pain, no gain. And the gain in this instance, is well worth the initial suffering.

Then, of course there is the master of masters, Babatunde Olatunji under whom I had the honor of studying during a weekend workshop here in New York City. *Baba*, as his disciples call him, is Nigerian. He teaches and performs throughout the world. Olatunji teaches a written and spoken vocabulary of the drums that enables a beginner to play actual songs and accompany African dancers immediately.

For information on workshops and performances by Babatunde Olatunji, contact Paul Skiff at (212) 580-7737.

*Open Lessons at Lezly Dance and Skate School. 626-622 Broadway, NYC, (212) 777-3232.*

—Toni Roberts

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## DRUMS AT THE TOMB



*Djoule African*

Almost every Wednesday evening in summer Grant's Tomb, Riverside Drive between 121st and 123rd streets comes alive with festival sights and sounds reminiscent of Mardi Gras Carnival, Harlem Week and church. It is reminiscent of every occasion when people, in droves, congregate to support and celebrate something.

This evening renown vibraphonist Milt Jackson, sponsored by Jazzmobile, performs before a sardine packed audience. At 9:00 pm, the headline act ends, but not the night's festivities. Djoule African, a drum ensemble sets up on the backside of the tomb and beats out a fast rhythm that creates an irresistible urge to join them in a *bembay*: West African celebration-human voices responding to the call of the drums, bodies swaying to and fro with the beat, feel moving out of control in a dance that is inspired by the drum.

Standing in a circle the drummers link with the cosmic vibrations that govern the ebb and flow of water, that rotate the earth that expand and contract the universe that pump the heart and move a baby to birth. Everything is suddenly One, one life, one feeling, one voice, one body with many extensions moving at once away from and into the whole. Successions of young men and women inspired to enter the drummer's

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circle freely dance and pound out a barefoot response to the call of the drums. A baby in his mother's arms, too small to walk or talk, grins as the drums speak to him of his powerful roots and promising future. And he begins to bounce and clap in syncopation, responding to the call. An old wasted vagrant leans heavily on his stick-cane, his face raised skyward wiggling his arthritic hips in time with the familiar, harmonious meter of a glorious past. He slowly lowers his head, the twinkling pulse of dimming light in his eyes tells us that for the first time in a long, long time he is home. The drums have brought him home. In a throbbing tongue common to every life, we are all called home.

The last homecoming celebration was August 28th. But the final fading beat only served to remind us that home is not a place it's a feeling. It feels warm and friendly, safe and free. Djoulé African easily tapped that feeling within us.

If you've missed this *bémbay* don't worry. There's next summer. Or sessions performed by Djoulé African throughout the year. Call Director Gene Osbourne, (212) 831-3946, to find out where.

—Perri Gaffney

## **CABARETS**

• Suzanne Klewan & Trio  
Aug. 26

• Rudy Linka Quartet  
Aug. 27

• Don Bennett Trio  
Fred Hopkins  
Leroy Williams  
Jessie Davis  
Aug. 28 & 29

• Ralph Moore Quintet  
Steve Nelson  
Renee Rosnes  
James Genus  
Billy Drummond  
Aug. 30 & 31

Sets 9pm, 10:30pm & midnight

Birdland 2745 Broadway /  
105th St. 749-2228

Dizzy Gillespie  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1

Sets 9pm & 11:30pm  
The Blue Note 131 W. 3rd St.  
475-8592

Kenny Barron, *piano*  
Ben Riley, *drums*  
Ray Drummond, *bass*  
Aug. 26-Sept. 1

Bradley's 70 University  
Place / 11th St. 228-6440

• Ray Bryant Trio  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1

• Clifford Jordan Big Band  
Mondays

Condon's 117 E. 15th St.  
254-0960

Phyllis Yvonne Stickney,  
*comedian*  
Aug. 29, *midnight*  
Cotton Club 125th St. / West  
Side Highway 663-7980

Queen Bee & the Blue  
Hornet Band, *blues*  
Aug. 24  
Delta 88 332 8th Ave. / 26th  
St. 924-3499

George Coleman, *Tenor Sax*  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1  
Fat Tuesday's 190 3rd Ave.  
17th St. 533-7902

• Walter Bishop, *piano*  
Don Pate, *bass*  
Aug. 28

• John Hicks, *piano*  
Don Pate, *bass*  
Aug. 29-31

Knickerbocker Bar & Grill 33  
University Place 228-8490

Toots & the Mytals, *reggae*  
Sept. 1

Lone Star Roadhouse 240 W.  
52nd St. 245-2950

• El Gran Combo, *Latin*  
Aug. 26

• Mor Thiam's Drums of  
Fire with Oliver Lake  
Aug. 28

• The Mighty Sparrow  
Aug. 31

• Ras Isley Stalin  
Sept. 1

S.O.B.'s 204 Varick St. / W.  
Houston St. 243-4940

• Nat Adderley Quintet  
Vince Herring  
Rob Barga  
Walter Booker  
Jimmy Cobb  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1

• Eddie Chamblee Quartet  
Saturdays, 2-6pm

• Doc Cheatham  
Sundays, 3-7pm

Sweet Basil 8 Seventh Ave. /  
Bleecker 242-1785

Marvelettes  
Aug. 30 & 31  
Sweetwater's 170  
Amsterdam Ave. / 68th St.  
873-4100

C. J. Chenier & the Red Hot  
Louisiana Band  
Aug. 29, 8 & 11pm

Tramps 45 W. 21st St. (Bet 5th  
& 6th Aves) 727-7788

Ray Barretto Septet  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 9:30 & 11:30pm  
Village Gate Bleecker /  
Thompson Sts 475-5120

• Mary Osborne Trio  
Aug. 27-Sept. 1

• The Vanguard Jazz  
Orchestra  
Monday nights

Sets at: 9:30pm, 11:30pm &  
1am

Village Vanguard 178 7th  
Ave. So. 255-4037

• Eddie Henderson Quartet  
Aug. 26

- **Vini K.**, *vocalist*  
Aug. 27
- **Ron McClure**  
**Eddie Henderson**  
**Bill Stewart**  
**Vincent Herring**  
Aug. 28 & 29
- **Carlos Ward Quartet**  
**Michele Rosewoman**  
**Chulo Gatewood**  
**Pheeroan Akla**  
Aug. 30 & 31

Visiones 125 MacDougal St.  
673-5576

**Rufus Reid**  
**Kenny Werner**  
Aug. 26-31

Zinno 126 W. 13th St.  
924-5182

### • Brooklyn •

Wednesdays, open mike for  
vocalists and comedians

Sportin' "Life" 13 Greene  
Ave./Fulton St. 718 797-2099

### • New Jersey •

**Houston Person & Etta Jones**  
Aug. 30 & 31. Sept. 1 & 2

Trumpets 6 Depot Square  
Montclair 201 746-6100

### CONCERTS

**Nancy Wilson**  
**Billy Eckstine**  
**Jimmy Smith**  
**Freddie Hubbard**  
Sept. 1. 5 8c 9pm

**Amateur Night**  
Every Wed. 7:30pm

Apollo Theatre 253 W. 125th  
St. 864-0372

**The Village People**  
**The Tramps**  
**Musique**  
**Carol Douglas**  
**Sharon Redd**  
**Tavares**  
August 28, 8pm

Palladium 126 E. 14th St.  
727-8149

### • Long Island •

**Nancy Wilson**  
**Joe Williams**  
**Freddie Hubbard**  
**Stanley Turrentine**  
**Jimmy Smith**  
Aug. 28, 8pm

Westbury Music Fair 516  
334-0800

**Diana Ross**  
Sept. 1. 8pm

Jones Beach Amphitheater  
Beach 5 (516) 221-1000

### CRUISE

**Fantasy Band**  
Aug. 29, 7pm & 9pm  
Seaport Line South Street  
Seaport Pier 16 385-0791

### RESTAURANTS

**Abyssinia**  
*Ethiopian cooking, very  
informal*

35 Grand St./Thompson St.  
226-5959B. Smith's  
*Southern & American cuisine*

**Trendy**  
771 Eighth Ave. 247-2222

**B. Smith's**  
*Southern & American cuisines*

**Trendy**  
771 Eighth Ave. 247-2222

**Caribe**  
*Jamaican cuisine*

Pleasant and informal, cash  
only.  
117 Perry St./Greenwich St.  
255-9191

**Copeland's**  
*Southern cuisine*

A Harlem institution.  
547 W. 145th St. 234-2457

**Honeysuckle**  
*Southern cuisine*

**Trendy**  
507 Columbus Ave.  
Columbus Avenue 496-8095

**Jamaican Hot Pot**

Restaurant of 7-8 tables  
inside and 3 outside—has a  
large reputation for good  
food at bargain prices.

2060 Adam Clayton Powell,  
Junior Boulevard / 133rd St.  
491-5270

**Jerk Paradise**  
*Jamaican cuisine, Jerk  
preparation of meats.*

252 W. 29th St. 268-7020

**Jezebel**  
*Southern/American cuisine*

Scarfs, swings &  
sophistication.  
630 9th Ave./45th St.  
582-1045

**La Famille Restaurant**  
*Southern cuisine*

**Roomy & informal**  
2017 5th Ave./125th St.  
534-9909

**Livi's Restaurant**  
*Caribbean & Southern cuisine*

**Informal**  
29 E. 126th St./Madison &  
Fifth Avenues 831-4931

**Pan Pan**  
*Southern cuisine*

**Informal**  
1325 5th Ave./between 110  
& 111 Streets 996-1212

**Perk's**  
*Southern cuisine*

Elegant-Trendy Harlem  
Nightspot; Dancing  
Thursday-Saturday after  
11pm

553 Manhattan Avenue/  
123rd St. 666-8500

**Sylvia's**  
*Southern cuisine*

**Relaxed and informal**  
328 Lenox Ave.  
(126 & 127th Sts) 966-0660

**The Blue Nile**  
*Traditional Ethiopian cooking*

103 W. 77th St./Columbus  
Ave. 580-3232

**I WANT TO FOLLOW  
ROUTES**

**A Guide to African-American Culture**

Old Chelsea Station, P.O. BOX 20103  
NEW YORK, NY 10011

HERE'S \$36 FOR A 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Third World Café**  
*Third world cuisine*

Spices are from west Africa.  
A very special little café  
700 W. 125th St./Westside  
Highway 749-8199

**Wilson's Restaurant & Bakery**  
*Southern cuisine*

A Harlem institution  
1980 Amsterdam Ave. /145th  
St. 923-9821

• **Brooklyn** •

**Keur n' Deye**  
*Senegalese Traditional cooking*

737 Fulton Street parentheses  
S. Elliott St. & S. Portland  
Ave. (718) 875-4937

**McDonald's Dining Room**  
*Country home cooking - Tues.-Sun.*

327 Stuyvesant Ave.(718)  
574-3728

**Green Avenue Grill**  
*Grilled American and southern cuisines*

13 Green Ave. /Fulton Street  
(718) 797-2099

• **Queens** •

**La Detente**  
*Continental & Caribbean cuisines*

23-04 94th St. E. Elmhurst  
(718) 458-2172

**Manhattan Proper Cafe**  
*Southern cuisine*

217-01 Linden Blvd/  
Springfield Blvd (718) 341-  
CAFE

**THEATER**

**Language of the Soul**  
By **Cheryl Alexander**

Theater Arielle 432 West  
42nd St. 967-7079

**Final Departure**

August 24 & 31, 6pm

Gospel musical written by  
**David Allison** and directed  
by **Delbert Jones**. Starring  
**Bernita Ewing** from  
*Dreamgirls* and **Victoria**  
**Hamilton** from *Mama, I*  
*Wanna Sing*

Lambs Theatre 130 W. 44th  
St. Between 6th & 7th  
Avenues 368-1751

**Once on This Island**

A musical set in the  
Caribbean, about a poor

girl's passion for the son of a  
wealthy landowner.

Booth Theatre W. 45th St. /  
Broadway 239-6200

**Six Degrees of Separation**

*Courtney B. Vance*

Set in Manhattan, about a  
mugger who seeks refuge at  
an elegant dinner party.

Vivian Beaumont Theater /  
Lincoln Center Broad / 65th  
St. 239-6200

**The Good Times Are Killing Me**

*Previews through Aug. 7, Tues.-  
Sat., 8pm Mat. Sat., 2pm Mat.  
Sun. at 3pm*

A play with music, follows  
the comic coming of age of  
two girls, one white and one  
black, as they explore the  
mysteries of adolescence,  
music, divided families and  
racism.

Minetta Lane Theatre 425  
Lafayette St. 307-4100

**OPERA**

**Opera Ebony** performs *Così*  
*fan tutte* by Wolfgang

Amadeus Mozart

September 8, 4pm

Aaron Davis Hall at City  
College W. 135th St. /  
Convent Avenue 650-7100

**ART GALLERIES**

**Nanette Carter**

*Through Sept. 7*

Mary Ryan Gallery 452  
Columbus Ave / 81st St.  
799-2304

**Robertson's African Arts**

**Gallery of African art**

*By appointment only*

36 West 22nd Street, 4th Fl.  
675-4045

• **Brooklyn** •

• *To Tell You the Truth,*  
*paintings by Pat Bradley*

• *Three Visions: The Sacred,*  
*The Sublime, The Seminal*  
**Ché Baraka, Robergeau**  
**Duverger & Kelvin Fraser**

*Through Sept. 30*

Mon.-Sat. noon-6pm

Bedford Stuyvesant Center  
for Art & Culture 1368 Fulton  
St. 3rd Fl (718) 636-6948

**MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS**

***Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art***

Exhibit explores the  
continuing vitality of  
traditional art which coexists  
today with a modern art that  
is uniquely African.

The Center for African Art 54  
E. 68th (Bet. Mad. & Lex.  
Avenues) 861-1200

**Textile Works: Prints & Fabric Designs**

**A retrospective exhibition,**

**1986-1991**

**September 3-October 29**

**Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm**

**Reception: September 11,**  
**6pm-8:30pm**

Faculty Dining Room,  
Second Floor Wall gGallery  
John Jay College of Criminal  
Justice 445 W. 59th St.  
237-8698

***Designers to the Stars***

Costumes from the  
permanent collection,  
including *Ann Low: In*  
*Memoriam*; *TV, Films, Theatre.*  
Daily 12:30pm to 8pm, By  
appointment only, adults  
\$1.50 children \$.50

Harlem Fashion Museum 155  
W. 120th St. Bet. Lenox &  
Adam Clayton Powell  
Boulevard 660-1320

**Barbara Chase-Riboud**

**All That Rises Must Converge,**  
painting

**Horace Pippen**

**Victorian Parlor I, painting**

**Martin Puryear**

**Tango, sculpture**

Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Fifth Ave. & 82nd St.  
535-7710

**Robert Colescott**

**Emergency Room (1990)**  
presently on display.

Museum of Modern Art 11  
W. 53rd St. 708-9400

**The African Presence in the Americas**

**Through December**

**African-Americans In Space Science**

**Through December**

**Guided Tours by appointment only.**

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture  
515 Lenox Ave./135th St.  
491-2000

**Workshops for Groups:**  
**Block Printing Workshop**  
*August & September*

Design with cardboard stamps, printing inks and colored paper.

A two-part workshop using watercolors, acrylics and tempera. \$10 per person. Reservations required.

Studio Museum of Harlem  
144 W. 125th St. 864-4500

**American Life in American Art: Selections from the Permanent Collection**  
*Through Nov 10*

**Jacob Lawrence**  
*The War Series, 1946- 1947*

Whitney Museum of American Art 945 Madison Ave./75th St. 570-3600

**Painted Forms: Recent Metal Sculpture**  
*Through December*

**Melvin Edwards Asafokra**  
(1990) 96x168x120

Whitney Museum at Phillip Morris The Sculpture Court  
120 Park Ave. South 878 2550

## •Bronx•

**James Buxton, Painted Wood & Sculpture**  
*Through October 31*

Buxton's work involves such personally significant issues as religion and motherhood.

The Bronx Museum of Art  
Satellite Gallery at Hebrew Hospital for Chronic Sick 801 Co-Op City Boulevard  
379-5020

## •Queens•

### Art

**Renee Green, Multi-media works**  
*Through Sept. 7*

- **Mark Hassinger**, sculptor and installation artist
- **Greg Henry**, painter and sculptor.

- **Robert Craddock**  
*Voyage of Discovery: Journeys through the New World*  
**September 1 through October 5**

*Reception: September 1, 7:55pm*

### Film

**The Black Heritage Film/Video Festival: Struggle & Song**

**African Roots**  
*September 7seven, 3 PM*

- *Didn't We Ramble On*, 1990, 14 minutes

A new film by **Billy Jackson** which captures the vitality of African American marching band tradition and its roots in Africa is narrated by dizzy Gillespie

- *Families Across the Sea*, 1991, 58 minutes

The Gullah people of the sea islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia traces their lively cultural traditions including music. Back to Sierra Leone in this movie video.

*Speaker: Dr. Barbara Hampton*, Chair of the Music Department, Hunter College  
**Spiritual & Gospel**  
*September 8, 3 PM*

- *The Green Pastures*, 1936, 93 minutes (Selections) the famous Hollywood black cast feature which portrays a white man's idea of 20th Century African-American religious art is seized by the music arranged by how Johnson period
- *The Gospel According to Al Green*, 1984, 94 minutes this is an intimate and electrifying look into one man's music and the personal and social dynamics which pulled him between the sacred and the profane, the religious and the commercially popular.

*Speaker: Charles Hobson*, film and television producer, Vanguard films  
Jamaica Arts Center 161-04 Jamaica Ave. (718) 658-7400

## •Staten Island•

**Black Photographers:**

1840 - 1940  
*Through September 2*

**Gordon Parks, James Van der Zee, Austin Hansen**, and the **Goodridge Brothers**—nomads who roved in the late 1800s hundreds through New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan shooting portraits.

Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences 75 Stuyvesant Pl. (718) 727-1135

## FREE-FOR-ALL

**West Indian American Day Carnival**

*Sep 2, 10am-6pm*

Along Eastern Pkwy from Albany Ave. to the Brooklyn Museum at Washington Ave.

Costumers, floats, bands, celebrities, foods....

(718) 783-3077.

**Readings by Harlem Based Writers**

*Sep 8, 4-6 pm*

- **"Poe'tress" Nikki Williams** won the *Literary Content Award* in 1988 at the Afrikan Poetry Theater, and produces and hosts an arts program on WHCR (Harlem Community Radio) 90.3 FM on Sundays.
- **A. B. Davis** is a writer of poetry fiction and drama. She is a recent graduate of the creative writing program at The City College/CUNY, where her work has been published in the journals *Promethean* and *Poetry in Performance*.

Horne to Harlem 1 West 125th St 831-7367

Grant's Tomb. 122nd St. & Riverside Drive