



Regal tribal dancers are part of the primitive splendor on Air Afrique's new "Tour of the African Kings". Ten New York departures are planned for 1973 for the 35-day adventure to the great kingdoms and capitals of Africa.

Tour highlights African history

Experienced travelers are already onto the simple fact that there is more to Africa than game parks and natural wonders. Those interested in the history and lifestyles of this fascinating continent can now take advantage of a new in-depth tour program from Air Afrique aimed at discovering more about its civilizations.

Called "The Tour of African Kings", the 35-day adventure moves from Dakar and the land of the tall, graceful Senegalese across the continent to the Bantus' hilly kingdom in Bwanda. Along the way, the tour visits among the peoples of Mali, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Dahomey, Chad, the Cameroons and the Congo.

Designed for those already familiar with Africa, the escorted program includes visits to primitive, inaccessible areas as well as stops in the sophisticated capitals of West Africa with their deluxe hotels and restaurants. Travel within Africa is by air and by safari vehicles.

After getting acquainted with the people of Dakar and the legendary slave island of Goree, the tour proceeds to Mali and fascinating Timbuktu at the gateway to the Sahara. This remote city was once the capital of a large, dynamic and advanced desert kingdom.

The antiquities of Timbuktu are brought into sharp relief by the strikingly modern capital of Abidjan - the Ivory Coast Republic, the next stop on the tour. Following the palm-fringed Atlantic coast, the tour pauses at Lome, Togo's capital, and Cotonou, Dahomey. In the Cameroons, among the most unchanged of Africa's nations, visits are made to Douala, Yaounde, Oudjila, Mokolo, Rhamsiki and Maroua.

Chad, the desert kingdom with strong Moslem influences, is the program's jumping-off point for the Congo. Here dwell Watusis, Pygmies, Baluba and Bantu peoples. A highlight is a two-day cruise on the Congo River to Kisangani (formerly Stanleyville). The program ends in Rwanda, where crops grow on almost vertical hillsides.

The "Tour of African Kings" includes the aid of an expert tour manager, a la carte dining wherever possible, the finest accommodations available and many extras.

The "Tour of African Kings" is priced at \$1,995, covering only the land portion. Round-trip air fare from New York via Air Afrique is about \$1,100. The tours are limited to 25 persons each. During 1973, ten departures are planned between January 13 and October 6. For further information on the "Tour of African Kings", write Air Afrique, Box DC-8, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Taj Mahal makes film debut

Taj Mahal, who makes his film debut in 20th Century-Fox's "Sounder," premiering Dec. 20 at the Broadway Theatre, may be singing the blues, but he has no complaints. He meant it when he cut that LP record, "Happy Just to Be Like I Am."

"I'm not trying to get rich," he says. "Of course, I'm glad they're paying me, but if they weren't I'd be doing it anyway. Music's the only challenge to me."

In fact, he takes other musicians to task for charging so much for their services at music festivals, claiming it helps bring on violence. "They price themselves so high that the tickets have to cost from \$9 to \$14, and a lot of young people haven't got that kind of money. I know I never did. They hear the music from outside the fence, and it excites them. First thing you know, you've got trouble."

The tall and angular black singer (who took his professional name from the beautiful mausoleum which the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan built in memory of his dead love) got where he is today - and with the young people that's pretty high up in his profession - by dedicating his life to a quest for his lost roots, through music.

Born in New York and brought up in New England, he had the feeling as a boy that he was out of tune with himself - until the first time he heard the blues. Then it was as if something in his blood responded. "After that, I forgot about school and everything else for a while, and the guitar was where it was at for me."

"But the kind of blues I first got knocked out on was big hand blues, and it had almost gotten to be pop music by the time I heard it."

So he began studying the development of the blues. He sat at the feet of the Cow Cow Davenport, Leadbelly, Bo Diddley, Willie Brown, Charlie Patton, Kid Baileys; he haunted obscure record shops and scouted lyrics in the Library of Congress; he became a practitioner of the blues himself and ultimately achieved recognition as a genuine blues musicologist.

The country blues were the



TAJ MAHAL IN "SOUNDER"

final piece in the puzzle. "The country blues filled in a big gap and helped me to understand my own feelings, things I felt or knew or understood, yet didn't seem to have any background of information on."

"A great way to discover yourself is to start from the tradition that you came from."

And his experience in "Sounder" turned out to be part of that process of self-discovery. When he read the script written by black playwright Lonne Elder III from the award-winning novel by William H. Armstrong, he said to director Martin Ritt: "That little black boy is me."

The black boy, played by thirteen-year-old Kevin Hooks, is the central figure in the tale. The elder son of a black sharecropper in the Deep South, Kevin is inspired by a compassionate young teacher to make something of himself in the world for both his own sake and his people's.

Yes, Taj was spiritually that little boy.

So Taj went to the location in Louisiana to act in the film. Although the story is set in the Depression days of the 1930's, the period, except for a few vintage automobiles, might have been much earlier. For the central set was an authentic sharecropper's shack estimated by lumbermen to be between 80 and 100 years old, and there were black men and women working in the fields, eating corn bread and collard greens.

Taj put on a pair of aged overalls and a battered hat, and took up his guitar, like he sometimes made sound like a banjo, and sang to them the old country blues of the black man in America.

"I really lived that picture," he says. "Filmed in DeLuxe Color, 'Sounder' co-stars Paul Winfield, Cicely Tyson, Janet MacLachlan, James Best and Carmen Mathews."

America appears

AMERICA, one of popular music's hottest groups, will appear in Portland for the first time, Friday, January 19, at the Paramount Northwest Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

The three members of AMERICA, Gerry Beckley, Dan Peek, and Dewey Bunnell, began their musical career in 1967 in London, England, where the families of all three were living courtesy of the U.S. Air Force.

After playing local dates for a short time; the group split and each member went his own way. In 1971, the three re-grouped, forming the now internationally acclaimed popular music group, AMERICA.

Their clean, precise vocal harmonies and melodic interplay of their acoustic guitars were first recorded on the Warner Bros. album, "A Horse With No Name". The title song of which went to the top of musical charts both in the United States and abroad. Their second album, "Homecoming", includes "Ventura Highway", currently soaring to the top on current music lists.

Tickets for the one performance of AMERICA at the Paramount Northwest are on sale now at all Paramount Northwest outlets.

Center begins

The Northwest Black Arts Center has been incorporated by the State of Oregon. A non-profit organization, the Northwest Black Arts Center has as its purpose the promotion of the Black experience through the cultural arts and the promotion of awareness and of pride in their cultural heritage in the black youth of Oregon.

Officers of the board of governors are Dr. Almos Thompson, Directing Black Studies at Portland State University, President; James Rogers, Professor of Civilization and Black Studies at Portland State University, Vice President; Chad Dehman, President of the Northwest Black Arts Society, and John Toran, Legal Advisor.

Play Pool

Bob "Woody" Woodard of Inner City Development Company demonstrates the Marseillais pool shot at Geneva's Regulation Tables.

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Soul Sounds

By Joey Sasso

According to a trade paper, "Lady Sings The Blues" is the biggest grossing picture in the nation for the third consecutive week. Album sales have come to almost \$4 million in just the several weeks it was released. For such a little doll, Diana Ross packs a powerful wallop! The producers just presented Diana with CHADBOURN's new Bodywear Collection for the winter months ahead...

Sammy Davis, Jr. sent Frank Sinatra the new MAG-NAVOS ODYSSEY which is an all-electronic game simulator that hooks up to a TV set and provides the basis for a dozen different games of skill or chance...

Carmen RacRae on a recent Merv Griffin's Cole Porter-salute proved again she's a brilliant vocal musician... she and Ethel Merman were positive that if a songwriter doesn't want his lyrics to be heard, skip these two perfect enunciators...

In show business, there is normally nowhere to go from the top but down. But, that doesn't apply to Lena Horne. She just keeps climbing up-up-up performance wise. I don't think there will be ever a top to her mountain of talent. She picks and chooses her spots and only plays a few nightclubs every few years. Lena seems very relaxed off-stage and is smiling more than she did a few months back. I hope there is -- I know there is -- a man responsible for bringing back some joy into Lena's life, and that makes all her friends happy for her...

test songs. Her big songs have been "Mississippi Blues", "Blacklash Blues", "Revolution", "To Be Young, Gifted and Black" and "Four Women". Miss Simone changed her art in 1963 when the four young black girls were killed by a dynamite explosion at a church in Birmingham. It was when the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was leading massive protests against segregation laws in that city. "I remember that night so well," she told me. "I was very despondent and went off by myself. 'Mississippi' just came out. And my mother had told me all my life not to curse. But that was like throwing 10 bullets back at them. The song came out of my gut. I guess I've been singing protest songs every since. I've gotten in an awful lot of trouble because of this -- from blacks and whites." Despite controversy, her audience keeps broadening. Her followers include black, white, young, old, middle class, poor, students and laborers. They all share a disenchantment with contemporary life and a desire to change the world, and her art is a smoldering gathering point for all of them. Her concerts, filled with political directives, black consciousness, art and folklore, are extraordinary amalgams of musical fare and social commentary. She explains, "Art to me has one function -- to reflect the times and project the future. If an artist can combine the past, present and future, he's really out there. Kurt Weill, Beethoven, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis have all made statements about their future." Even though Miss Simone crosses several stylistic boundaries

(jazz, blues, folk, pop, rock, international), she is basically a popular performer. She has harsh words for many of her contemporaries, expressing admiration for Bob Dylan and the Beatles...

E. C. Soul Time

Top 10 Survey

This Week No.	Last Week No.
1. Loose Booty	Fun Kadelic
2. I'll Be A Round	The Spinners
3. If You Don't Know Me by Now	Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes
4. Good Times	Kool and The Gang
5. Memphis At Sunrise	Bar-Kays
6. If You Let Me	Eddie Kendricks
7. Work To Do	Isley Brothers
8. 992 Arguments	O'Jays
9. Superstition	Stevie Wonder
10. Innocent Until Proven Guilty	Honey Cones

Saturdays
11:00am to 4:15 pm

It's a hit! She's a hit!

"Cicely Tyson
plays the first great Black heroine on the screen. She is visually extraordinary. Her cry as she runs down the road toward her husband, returning from prison, is a phenomenon. Something even the most fabled actress would not have dared."
—Pauline Kael, The New Yorker

"Cicely Tyson's
performance is Oscar-deserving."
—Liz Smith, Cosmopolitan

"Cicely Tyson
is masterful."
—Kathleen Carroll, Daily News



"Cicely Tyson,
most exquisite of actresses is a warrior of inner fire. Hereby our nominations for Oscar."
—Judith Crist, New York Magazine

"Cicely Tyson
as the rip-cord-tough mother... a deeply affecting performance."
—Paul Zimmerman, Newsweek

"Cicely Tyson
superb. For its range and its richness and for its carefully portioned power, it is an indelible performance."
—Jay Cocks, Time Magazine

"A beautiful movie. It is a missing chapter from the 'Grapes Of Wrath' and of equal significance."
—Judith Crist, NBC-TV Today Show

"SOUNDER"
A Robert B. Radnitz/Martin Ritt Film
starring
CICELY TYSON PAUL WINFIELD KEVIN HOOKS co-starring TAJ MAHAL JANET MACLACHLAN
produced by ROBERT B. RADNITZ directed by MARTIN RITT screenplay by LONNE ELDER, III
based on the Newbery Award winning Novel by WILLIAM H. ARMSTRONG songs and music by TAJ MAHAL
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