

# The legend lives on

ISLAND Records have marked the third anniversary of Bob Marley's death — he died on May 11 1981 — with a trio of releases generically titled 'Legend'. The package comprises an album, a video cassette and an audio cassette. Song titles on all three releases are essentially the same, though there are minor variations, comprising Want More/Is This Love /Jamming/Could You Be Loved/No Woman No Cry/Stir It Up/Get Up Stand Up/Satisfy My Soul/I Shot The Sheriff/Buffalo Soldier/Exodus/Redemption Song/One Love — People Get Ready/Three Little Words/Waiting In Vain/Easy Skanking/Punky Reggae Party.

Of the trilogy, the video — for which you should pay no more than £19.50 — is the most desirable item. Compiled by Don Letts, it



The Hon. Robert Nesta Marley O.M. 1945-1981

features thirteen songs and includes concert footage, studio/touring/interview clips, promo videos and excerpts from TV broadcasts. The earliest footage finds Bob, with Bunny Wailer and Peter Tosh, performing "Stir It Up" for BBC2's *Old Grey*

*Whistle Test*. Of particular interest too is the early *Top Of The Pops* broadcast of "Satisfy My Soul", hilarious in its thoroughly inappropriate backdrop of a New York skyline, and with the I-Threes temporarily reduced to two by the absence of Rita Marley. It's

a well put together package which makes a fine visual memento of a man whose music remains very much part of our contemporary experience.

Plexus Publishing's 'Bob Marley: Reggae King Of The World' biography is reviewed on page 8.

## AFRICAN NIGHTS

LONDON AGAINST RACISM GLC


Thursday 17th May  
**SAM MANGWANA AND THE AFRICAN ALLSTARS**

Thursday 24th May  
**LES QUATRE ETOILES** Starring NYBOMA/SYRAN/BOPOL/WUTA-MAY

Thursday 31st May  
**TOURE KUNDA**

Thursday 7th June  
**PIERRE AKENDENGUE**

Tickets £5.00 Available from the Venue Box Office, Sterns African Record Centre, Premier, London Theatre Bookings, Stagegreen, Keith Prowse £4.00 Concessions for UB40'S Students, OAP's - Venue Only. Don't Miss Be There



160, 162 VICTORIA STREET LONDON SW1  
TICKETS FROM THE VENUE BOX OFFICE TEL: 01 828 9441 AND USUAL AGENTS

## SUMMER FUNK

LONDON promoters Asgard have announced an upcoming programme of touring American artists under the title Summer Funk. Included in the package are visits from Nona Hendryx, Womack & Womack, Bobby McFerrin, Fatback, Brass Construction and Casiopea.

Dates and venues are:

- NONA HENDRYX:** London Dominion July 4.
- WOMACK & WOMACK:** Luton Pink Elephant June 6; Brighton Dome 7; Southend Cliffs Pavilion 9; London Dominion 10/11.
- BOBBY McFERRIN:** London Shaw Theatre July 23/24/25.
- FATBACK:** London The Venue June 3.
- BRASS CONSTRUCTION:** Watford Bailey's June 18/19; Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall 21; Glastonbury Festival/Rayleigh Pink Toothbrush 23; London The Venue 24/25/26.
- CASIOPEA:** Luton Pink Elephant July 18; London Hammersmith Odeon 19.

● Further to the STEVIE WONDER tour dates announced last month, additional dates and venues have now been confirmed. Wonder's UK itinerary now reads: Birmingham NEC June 20/21/22; Brighton Centre 26/27; London Earls Court 29/30; Dublin RDS Hall July 3/4; London Wembley Arena 7/8.

TBA International presents

# CAMEO

+ Support

Saturday 26th May at 7.30pm.  
**HAMMERSMITH ODEON**

Tickets £6.50 £5.50 £4.50 available from the Box Office 01-748 4081 and usual agents.

# UPFRONT

CHRIS MAY talks to drummer, bandleader — and now promoter — JULIAN BAHULA about a new attempt to bring African music to the British people

## HOME IS WHERE THE MUSIC IS . . .

AS surely every member of the BM African music posse would agree, the British club and concert scene has never been healthier. In recent months we've had visits from Fela Kuti, Franco, Sunny Ade, Segun Adewale, Ebenezer Obey, the African Brothers and Kanda Bongo Man. And in the next few weeks we can look forward to Les Quatres Etoiles, Toure Kunda and Pierre Akendegue. We've never had it so good, a veritable feast of top artists and exciting music.

But the picture isn't quite as healthy as it looks on the surface: all the artists listed above are visiting artists, concentrating on a handful of major venues in our biggest cities. For African music to

really take off in this country we need to develop a nationwide gigging circuit for the growing number of British-based African bands, a network of places where Afrophiliacs, bands and audiences can grow together.

The good news is that someone has now taken the initiative to bring just such a situation about. That someone is Julian Bahula, the South African drummer who's best known as the leader of Jabula and Jazz Afrika. Now Julian has added another string to his bow, and another few hundredweight to his briefcase, as the guiding light of the Tsafrika organisation, a club and concert booking agency specialising in African music.

As a musician himself, Julian is well qualified to meet the needs of other musicians, and as a British resident for the last twelve years he has an abundance of music business experience to draw on. He's been organising African music gigs on and off since 1976, and last year, of course, put together the African Sounds Festival at London's Alexandra Palace which featured the first performance in this country by Hugh Masekela in twenty years. But compared to Tsafrika's present busy schedule, these past activities are little more than a warm up . . .

Top of the list is the ongoing series of gigs Tsafrika are staging at London's 100 Club. Following the launch party on April 27, Julian is presenting live African music at the club practically every Friday night,



Julian Bahula: pushing African music as far as he can

from 8 'til 3. Among the bands already booked are Supercombo, African Waves, Hi-Life International, Gadzoh, Ojah, Muma D & Sweet Medicine, Jazz Afrika, District Six, Dudu Puwana's Zila and African Connection. And that's only between now and the end of the June!

"I want to make the 100 Club the London home for African music," says Julian, "a place where people know they can go every Friday night to hear the music. I want to push it as far as I can. There's so much latent talent in this country,

and such a mushrooming audience, that we need to establish our own version of the Beatles' Cavern Club. And there's no point in waiting for the existing music business to do it, because they don't understand the scene. We've got to do it ourselves."

It all looks more than good already, and it can only get better. So let's support Tsafrika and take the British African scene onto a new, higher level of activity and achievement.

Tsafrika can be contacted on (01) 935 8660.

## bookshelf

**BOB MARLEY: REGGAE KING OF THE WORLD, Malika Lee Whitney & Dermott Hussey (Plexus paperback £6.95).**

Biographies of Bob Marley haven't exactly been thin on the ground over the past couple of years, but to date they've all been written by American or European enthusiasts, and however well researched they've been, they haven't really captured that special magic Marley generated amongst his own people.

Now that's all changed. Malika Lee Whitney and Dermott Hussey are Jamaican broadcasters and journalists who've put together a well informed and immensely evocative picture of Marley and his era. Their strictly biographical chapters will not, perhaps, tell many BM readers anything they don't already know about Marley's life and

times, but their fulsome use of original interview material — with Skill Cole, Judy Mowatt, Cedella Booker, Rita Marley, Cindy Breakspare and Family Man among others — covers substantial new ground. And when it comes to photographic content, this latest book is unbeatable — there are over 100 colour shots and 200 more in black & white, many of them previously unpublished, and most of them previously unseen outside Jamaica. There's a particularly outstanding series of colour portraits of the early, pre-dreadlocked Wailers, taken by Astley Chin, which any confirmed fan will just have to have.

Altogether, *Bob Marley: Reggae King Of The World* is a valuable addition to the late master's bookshelf — and how good to see Jamaican writers making a contribution. — Chris May.

GOSPEL VOICE

JOY

A Festival presented with

24 MAY 7.30pm  
**THE TRUMPETS OF ZION and the 60 strong ANGELICAL VOICE CHOIR**

25 MAY 7.30pm  
**THE LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR and THE DOYLEY BROTHERS**

26 MAY 7.30pm  
**THE INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR**

27 MAY 7.30pm  
**THE ESCOFFEREY SISTERS and THE LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR**

TICKETS: £4.50 (£3.50 concessions)  
SEASON TICKET £14.00

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