

Dub Poets bring Jamaican dancehall sound to life

By College Press Service

There must be something about the cold weather that makes record executives want to hear Caribbean music. Whatever the reason may be, the last few frigid months have brought on a wave of reggae reissues that are sure to keep your blood circulating freely as we wrap up what has been, for most of the country, a brutal winter season.

Here are some blood-warming highlights from the current release lists: "The Never Ending Wailers" is an aptly titled reunion album which manages to be both a reissue and a collection of new material at the same time. Produced and arranged by Bunny Wailer (of Bob Marley's original Wailers, which also included the late Peter Tosh), this disc consists mostly of old Wailers vocal and instrumental tracks beefed up with new overdubbed drums, horns and backing vocals.

An all-star cast including Sly & Robby, Bobby Ellis and Tosh's son Andrew updates such classics as "It Hurts To Be Alone," "Nice Time" and "I'm Still Waiting" (rendered here as "I'm Still Wailing"). The songs written for these sessions, "Coolie Plum Tree"

and the gratingly predictable "Together Again," tend to be self-indulgent and annoying, but overall this is a thrilling disc that resurrects some classic early reggae.

RAS is also keeping up with more modern sounds with its release of "Best of the Best, Volume 1," a nifty compilation of tracks in both roots and dance hall styles produced by Tappa Zukie. Artists include Sugar Minott, Brigadier Jerry (who contributes a red-hot track called "Bangarang"), J.C. Lodge (who contributes the regrettably smarmy "Between the Sheets") and such legendary artists as U-Roy and Gregory Isaacs. Rarely is a producer compilation as consistently fine as this one. This disc would make a great introduction to reggae for your skeptical roommates or family.

Ice Records, a relatively young company headed by pop reggae star Eddy Grant and dedicated to the promotion of calypso and soca, has just begun a reissue series celebrating Lord Kitchener, one of the most important calypso singers of all time. If volume one in the series ("Klassic Kitchener") is any indication, these will be important and exciting documents of Kitchener's prodigious talent.

The end of 1993 brought a quirky

delight in the form of "Soldering," a classic example of vintage 1970s reggae featuring the strange squeak of singer Stanley Beckford. The album's title track was a huge Jamaican hit in the mid-'70s, and the rest of the LP's original tracks are augmented on the CD by the number of dub versions and disc jockey combinations. Beckford's voice is an acquired taste, but every reggae fan will find something to love on this Heartbeat disc.

In a similar vein, Heartbeat has also just released a collection of both older and newer tracks by Leonard Dillon and the Ethiopians, another important reggae act. Titled "Owner Fe De Yard" and produced in cooperation with the legendary Clement Dodd (whose longstanding relationship with Heartbeat has produced some of the finest reggae recordings available in this country), this disc covers sessions from as far back as 1966 to the late '80s.

One listen will tell you why Dillon is so highly regarded in the reggae community. His powerful spiritual and political vision comes through loud and clear, even where 1960s-era recording technology conspires to dampen it. Though this collection clocks in at under 45 minutes, it's still

well worth the money.

For those with more modern tastes, Heartbeat has also reissued Andrew Tosh's "Original Man" debut, a fine coming-out release for the son of the late Peter. This young man has got a lot going for him, not least of which is a keen sense of how to combine rootswise consciousness with a more modern sound.

A few years ago it was possible to find a wonderful compilation of dub poets (i.e., Jamaican poets who read or chanted their writings with a reggae accompaniment) on Heartbeat's "Word Sound 'Ave Power" LP, and companion dub LP title "Dub Poets Dub" was also available. After years of waiting, these have finally been compiled into one CD ("Word Sound 'Ave Power": Dub Poets and Dub" CD HB 15) and reissued for digital generation, and it is a must-own for anyone who is serious about reggae. Mutabaruka, Breeze and other lesser-known dub poets all contribute, and it actually turns out to be the unknowns who makes the strongest impact: Tomlin Ellis' "Drop It" is a stirring two-minute, anti-drug lecture, while "Blood Shout," by Navvie Nabie is a stereotypical, but no less galvanizing, political rant.

What's Up?

Two one-act plays, Harvey Fierstein's "Forget Him" and Lanford Wilson's "A Poster of the Cosmos," are being presented by USC's Puppet Regime theater group as a part of the Stages of Spring Theatre Festival.

The plays take a comedic look at the pre-AIDS era as well as the effect of AIDS on today's society. Shows began Thursday and will show at 8 p.m. today and Saturday and April 14 through 16 at Benson Theatre on Bull Street across from Bates House. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students.

The Columbia City Ballet, South Carolina's oldest and most attended ballet company, will be holding auditions for full company and apprentice members at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Columbia Conservatory of Dance located at 1128 Taylor St.

Positions are available for men and women, apprentice through soloist. The 28-week contract begins August 22 and is for both paid and non-paid positions. Casting for the 1994-95 season will be selected from company and apprentice ranks first. Following the selection will be an open call for each production throughout the year. The city ballet's scheduled perfor-

mances next season include "Beauty and the Beast," "Dracula," "Nutcracker" and "Aladdin." Currently booked performances outside Columbia will be in Sumter, Orangeburg, Florence and Aiken.

For more information, call the Columbia City Ballet office at 799-7605.

"Playboy" magazine is coming to USC April 11-12 to interview female students for a pictorial run in the magazine's fall back-to-school issue.

"Playboy" photographers David Chan and David Mecey are spending two days at each Southeastern Conference school.

For more information, call Elizabeth Norris at (312) 751-8000, extension 2460.

Welcome the spring season and enjoy some of the best food and music in town Sunday, April 17, as the Columbia Restaurant Association presents the 12th annual Taste of Columbia at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

Booths representing 27 of the Midlands' finest eateries will serve everything from sauteed shrimp to chimpoquitos to cinnamon apple sticks a la mode. Serving hours are 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. Food tickets, sold in 50-cent increments, will go on sale at 10 a.m. in the zoo's grassy knoll.

Visitors also will enjoy the band Mutual Fun, performing Motown, beach, country and popular tunes during the afternoon.

Admission is free with regular zoo admission. For more information, call Riverbanks at 779-8717 or 779-8730.

The City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce a special Piccolo Spoleto and MOJA Arts Festival retrospective Exhibition of the Mayor's Purchase Awards from both festivals spanning 1984-1993.

This retrospective exhibition will be held at the City Gallery, located in the Dock Street Theater Building, at 133 Church St. This is a component of this year's Piccolo Spoleto 1994 Visual Arts program.

The exhibit will be open with a special reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 21. Regular hours of the exhibit during the festival will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 22 through June 5. Admission to both the reception and exhibit will be free to the general public.

Extravaganza Productions will pre-

sent the comedy, "Scrambled Eggs," to benefit Harvest Hope Food Bank. The play, directed by Robert Harrelson, will be performed at Springdale Elementary School on Watling Road in West Columbia.

There will be two 8 p.m. performances Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, and a matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. Canned goods for the emergency Food Box Program will also be accepted at the door. Items needed most are canned meats, dried beans, dry milk in one-quart packages, infant formula and larger paper grocery bags.

For more information, call Robert Harrelson at 957-4337 or Elaine Frick at Harvest Hope Bank, 765-9181.

Want to become a part of something really special at a spectacular place? Then join the excitement as a volunteer at the S.C. State Museum.

The museum is recruiting volunteers for many positions and will hold orientation sessions April 18 and 28 for those interested in learning more about the world of museums.

For more information, contact Nan Ford at 737-4999.

Datebook

Friday, April 8

"Africa Night," with African food, cultural performances and a fashion show from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Golden Spur. Sponsored by the African Students Association.

Saturday, April 9

Beta Alpha Psi, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., picnic at Sesquicentennial Park. Casual dress. 544-0396.

Monday, April 11

Housing signup for men and women wanting same room in same non-apartment building, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., RH Ballroom C. 777-4283.

"Labor Law and Virtual Reality: A Brazilian Trade Unionist's Quest to Realize the Imaginary," a presentation by John French of Duke University, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 151. Reception will follow in Gambrell 428. Sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program and the History Department.

College of Journalism Peer Advising, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Coliseum lobby.

Tuesday, April 12

Housing signup for men and women wanting different room in same non-apartment building, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., RH Ballroom C. 777-4283.

Japanese Cultural Exchange Club meeting for election of new officers, 7 p.m., Gambrell 305.

Public Relations Student Society of America meeting, "Resumes, Interviewing and Getting Hired." 5:30 p.m., CEO Room in Coliseum.

Wednesday, April 13

"What Can I Do With a Major in... Philosophy?" 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Gambrell 152.

Beta Alpha Psi social, 5:30 p.m., followed by meeting at Ernst and Young (1611 Devonshire Drive) at 6 p.m. Topic is "Stress in the Workplace." Wear professional dress. 544-0396.

College of Journalism Peer Advising, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Coliseum lobby.

Thursday, April 14

Housing signup for women wanting different room in different building, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., RH Ballrooms B and C. 777-4283.

Friday, April 15

Housing signup for men wanting different room in different building, 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., RH Ballrooms B and C. 777-4283.

Beta Alpha Psi field trip to Policy Management Systems, 10309 Wilson Blvd., Blythewood. Wear professional dress. 544-0396.

College of Journalism Peer Advising, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Coliseum lobby.

Saturday, April 16

Outdoor benefit for the Women's Shelter, noon to 7 p.m., Immaculate Consumption, 933 S. Main St. Live music by Marlee McLeod, The Losers and The Drivers, as well as food and drinks. Tickets are \$5 plus a canned food item. 779-4706.

Icehouse beer and Rock 93.5-FM present karaoke day at The No Brainer, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Donations of \$2 per song or joke benefit Connections for Youth, a nonprofit organization that assists runaway, homeless and at-risk youth. Prizes will be donated by area merchants. Call Jean at 256-3637.

Weekly Meetings

■ Sundays, Ballroom Dancing Club, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., P.E. Center.

■ Mondays, Bible Study, 6:50 p.m., Baptist Student Union, 700 Pickens St.

■ Mondays and Wednesdays, free income tax assistance, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., RH lobby. 777-4710.

■ Tuesdays, gay, lesbian and bisexual students support group, 4:30 p.m., Counseling Center.

■ Tuesdays, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, 8 p.m., Humanities 403.

■ Tuesdays and Thursdays, free tutoring for accounting students, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., BA 402. 777-4710.

■ Wednesdays, Student Outreach (USC admissions recruitment program), 5:30 p.m., Leiber College, Call Leigh Stoen at 777-4080.

■ Wednesdays, College Republicans, 8 p.m., Gambrell 250. Call Eric Dell at 926-7902 or Chip Payne at 750-5162.

■ Wednesdays, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association, 8 p.m., Gambrell 402.

■ Thursdays, Common Ground, 4:30 p.m., RH 203.

The deadline for Datebook is two days before publication date. Submissions are free and printed according to available space.

Jane C. Doe

Objective: To obtain a position with much public involvement

Education: B.A. Journalism University of South Carolina GPA 3.0

Experience:

Hobbies: Reading, Golf, Tennis, Writing Poetry

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