

West African dancer to teach USC class

USC students to learn from arts expert in workshop

BY CAITLIN COKER
THE GAMECOCK

Sekouba Camara, an internationally renowned master of Guinean performing arts, will teach a West African Dance Master Class today from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Blatt Room 114.

The workshop is open to all levels of dance experience, from the West African dance beginner to the professional. The dancing itself is very low to the ground and earthbound, characterized by high knees, thrusting arms, and swinging heads. It is an energetic celebration of traditional West African music and life.

Camara, who will teach a dance from his native Guinea, began as a performer when he was selected as Ballet Djoliba's main

dancer and soloist. Once his skills in choreography were noticed, he became a director. He now nurtures traditional drum and dance in Africa by directing and choreographing many of Guinea's ensembles, including Les Ballets Africains, Ballet Djoliba, Percussions de Guinea, The National Instrumental Ensemble of Guinea and Ballet Matam, a private ensemble from Matam.

Camara has taught dance in almost every continent, lectures on West African musical culture, performs and choreographs. He first came to Columbia when Borenya, a local West African drum and dance ensemble, brought him to the United States to work on its winter show. An authentic, streamlined, and flat-out amazing ensemble performed a revamped show on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14.

Borenya co-founder Laura Rich is excited to be studying with Camara and said she is absorbing as much from him as she can.

"Sekouba is considered 'everyone's teacher,' because everyone can trace their Guinea dance training back to Sekouba. Even if they never studied with him directly, their teacher did, or their teacher's teacher did," Rich said.

From the beginning of Borenya's show rehearsals, Camara was there, fine-tuning the choreography and adjusting the drumming, transforming the show from great to mind-blowing.

This workshop will be the last chance to experience his extensive knowledge and experience regarding West African dance first hand.

For those who want to learn even more about African dance, there is a West African dance three-hour credit course offered at USC in the fall in the dance department.

The cost of the workshop is \$5. For more information, call Laura Rich at 782-1964.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

'Trojan Women'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

from the otherwise stark realism of the play. Talthybios and his men wear torn uniforms that look like Vietnam War era castoffs, while bearing ammunition belts and a variety of weaponry which in most cases appear to be World War I era — in one instance the weapon at hand appears to be a brown foam baseball bat. Menelaus, whose authoritarian presence is perfectly contrasted by his malleability at the hands of Helen, dons a maroon combat jacket and beret, while his men are dressed similarly, except with what appears to be English long-bows.

In the end, these costume missteps are only minor road bumps in an otherwise excellent production. As one of the characters observes, there is always a war somewhere, and "The Trojan Women" is proof that the horror of war has troubled humanity's thinkers for more than two millennia. As the plot plays out and the fates of these helpless women are decided, Euripides' message is clear: war is horrible for both man and woman, victor and defeated, and works of art that focus only on the triumphs of victory are missing more than half the point.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

'Burden'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

send their children to a newly integrated school, many blacks were still not expected to choose white schools.

The Carter's oral history makes up the film, but it is also a story of segregation, integration, and the present day southern and nation-wide problems. After seeing the film, one viewer questioned our emphasis on so-called correction over actual education.

The documentary is a follow-up to Constance Curry's earlier book about the Carters, "Silver Rights." Although the integration of the schools in Mississippi was not an easy task, there is no doubt that the Carters' decision was a huge step toward change. Seven of the Carters' eight children graduated from the University of

Mississippi. This film would definitely be worthwhile to anyone who wants to truly see what not only blacks but what everyone had to go through to get where we are today.

The film will be shown at the Nickelodeon Theatre on Thursday, at 7 and 9 p.m. Following the 7 p.m. showing there will be a discussion with the film's producer, Constance Curry, moderated by Patricia

'The Intolerable Burden' shows the hardship the Carter family endured during integration.

Sullivan, an associate professor of history in USC's African-American studies department.

Tickets for the show are \$6.50 for general admission, \$5.50 for seniors/students/military, and \$4.50 for Columbia Film Society members. There will be very limited seating, so early arrival is recommended. For more information call 803-254-8234.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

Music

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

ogy used is very much like that employed at rock or alternative concerts. Just as pop musicians use synthesizers, computer music composers use electronic instruments in their pieces. Programmers orchestrate their compositions with a variety of software, including MIDI, Pro-Tools and Cycling 74's Max.

Newcomers to the world of computer music can expect a very different concert atmosphere. Instead of highlighting a sea of black-clad musicians beneath blinding spotlights, the evening will be a casual affair, taking place in a dimly lit — if not pitch dark — room. The lack of lighting allows for fewer visual distractions as well as easing

some technological concerns.

Attendees should expect something different in terms of what they will hear and how it will be presented, Bain said.

"This year's concert will feature 5.1 surround sound. This is incredibly exciting for the composers, and the audience will be able to really experience the multi-dimensional effects," he said.

There is "no limitation" to what composers can create with computer music, Bain said.

They "make instruments from scratch," he said.

The program ultimately aims to infuse the audience with a new perspective on what music is and can be.

An assortment of sound bites and everyday noises are featured in many of the pieces, creating a sort of symphony out of day-to-day life. One such student composi-

tion, titled "Exit," combines sounds and live recordings to represent how people escape from stress frustration.

Two other USC student composers incorporate music from past and contemporary performers within their work. Seven pieces will be played, featuring seven different composers and two performers.

A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into producing a program such as "Current Beats." Performers and composers must know the technology, learn new software and set aside time to write a piece. It can take six months to a year to perfect a composition.

The School of Music does not offer a computer music degree program. Instead, the students work toward a degree in music composition.

Students have come from all over the United States and even from overseas.

Tonight's performance is free and open to the public. The show will feature a diverse group of USC students, professors from various colleges and two professional guest artists from other S.C. colleges.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

"This year's concert will feature 5.1 surround sound. This is incredibly exciting ..."

REGINALD BAIN
DIRECTOR OF "CURRENT BEATS" AND USC PROFESSOR OF COMPOSITION THEORY AND MUSIC

The South Carolina Bluegrass and Traditional Music Association presents in concert Grammy Award Winner

Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder



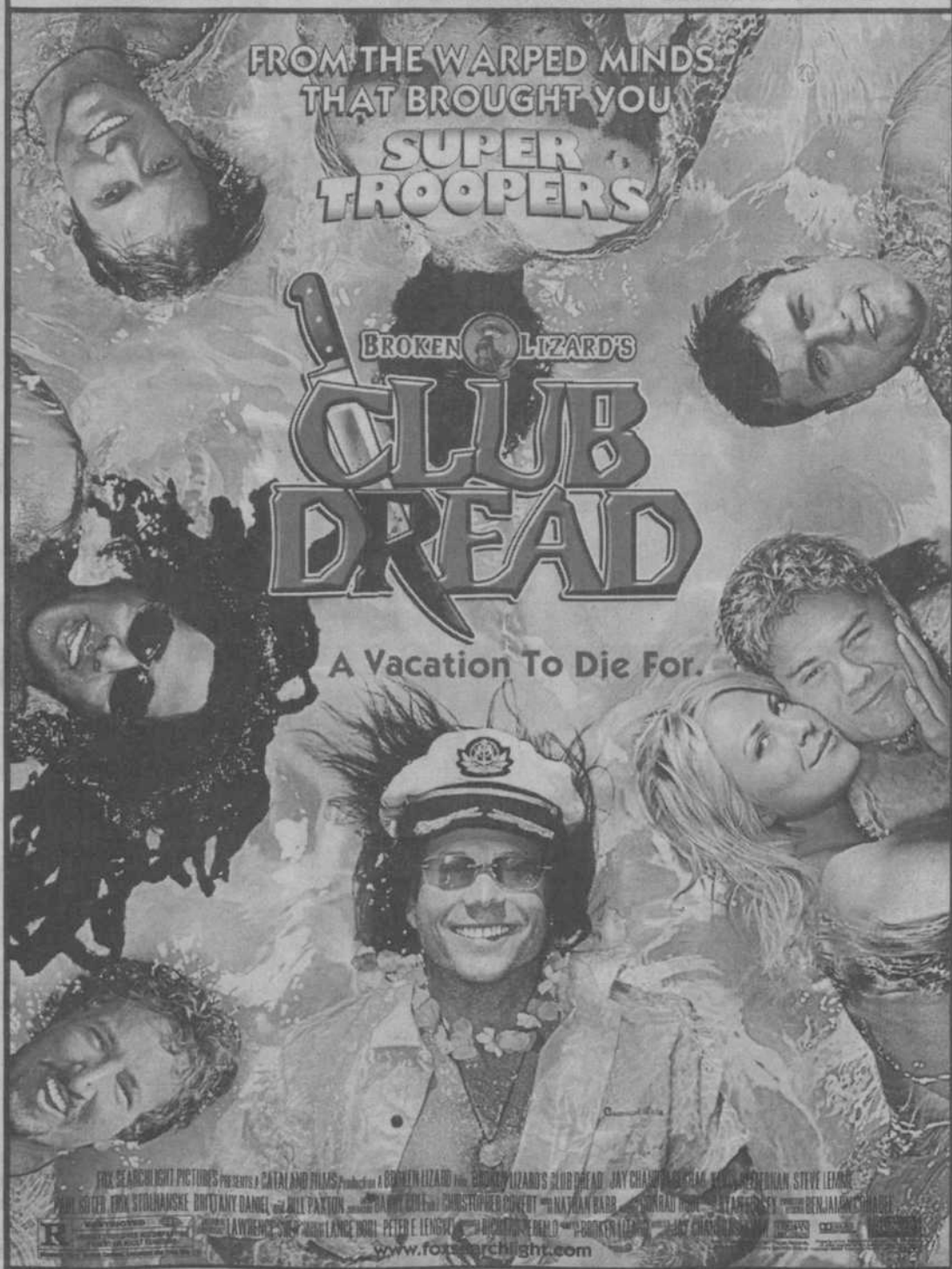
Sunday, February 29, 2004 — 7:30 PM

Koger Center For The Arts
Corner Greene and Assembly Streets
Columbia, SC
(803) 251-2222

Tickets — \$25.00, \$20.00, \$15.00

Tickets Available at Coliseum Box Office and all Capitol Outlets
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
Online at www.capitoltickets.com

FREE ADVANCE SCREENING



FROM THE WARPED MINDS THAT BROUGHT YOU SUPER TROOPERS

BROKEN LIZARD'S CLUB DREAD

A Vacation To Die For.

FREE MOVIE STUFF

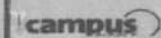
Thursday, February 26
8:00 PM
Russell House Theater

Pick up FREE Passes at
Russel House Info Desk

Carolina Productions
Cinematic Arts Commission

Win a DVD Player and CLUB DREAD Swag

Register at: campuscircle.net/clubdread



University Committees

Student Government is recruiting for University Committees. University Committees work on campus issues from academic responsibility to parking issues. There's something for everyone! If you are interested in working with staff, faculty and other students apply today! See a complete listing of committees at www.sg.sc.edu.

