AT THE MOVIES

By Fred Douglass

Anger seethes through one's body while watching "Mountains of the Moon," a movie based on the 1654 expedition in search of the source of the Nile river by English explorers Captain Richard Francis Burton and Lieutenant John Hanning Speke.

Ostensibly, the movie is about two men who form an intensely strong bond during their adventures; a bond that one man continues to honor despite the betrayal of his friend.

But, peering beneath the surface, we find this story to be a glorification of those explorers who intruded into the continent of Africa, mapping the rivers and paving the way for future plunderers who continue to pillage the mother country of its diamonds, oil, and other riches.

And while some of the early explorers were dreamers merely seeking the challenge of charting the unknown continent of Africa, they brought with them fortune hunters who sought to corrupt the tribal chiefs as well as runaway slaves so that they could more easily claim the abundant wealth of the so-called Dark Continent.

The major Black actor featured in the movie is Paul Onsongo who plays Sidi Bombay, the African guide who leads Burton and Speke on their trek through Africa.

One of Kenya's best known performers, Onsongo was inspired to take to the stage by watching his father entertain fellow villagers where he was raised near Lake Nairobi.

He says "[illegible]. I thought it would be nice if it happened to me, so I got involved with drama in the local school."

Delroy Lindo, who portrays Mabruki, the runaway slave whose life is saved from a clawing lion by Burton, is the other major Black actor in "Mountains of the Moon."

While Lindo initially balked at playing a role of a man whose words are few and mostly incomprehensible, he came to feel that it was an important role.

While the movie marquee lists Patrick Bergin and Lain Glen as the stars of "Mountains of the Moon," savvy moviegoers will want to keep their eyes on Lindo and Onsongo because what happens to these two men and their native land is what makes it worthwhile to go see this movie about imperialism.

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Andre Thomas & Renee Robinson in Revelations. Photo by Jack Mitchell

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Making the rounds

with Bonnie Matthews Butler

The start of summer is upon us for this is the Memorial Day weekend (a long weekend, mind you) and we're sure you'll be making the rounds to your favorite spots.

While there are plenty of activities to keep you in the partying spirit, we hope you'll remember why the holiday was started in the first place. Think about it.

Now, enough of the serious stuff. On to the parties!

IN BALTIMORE: At the Odyssey Lounge on Presstman St., Jimmy and Mary Ellen Griggs are hosting a birthday party for their daughter Lynn on Saturday, May 26 beginning at 9 p.m. Alma T is preparing the food and for those of you who haven't tasted Alma's wares, you'll be in for a treat for this lady can "burn."

Hennessey and the Sportsmen's Lounge on Gwynn Oak Ave. are hosting an all-star jazz jam benefit for Rosa Pryor on Monday, May 28 beginning at 7 p.m. All of the proceeds will go toward her medical expenses for Rosa will have surgery shortly and will be confined to bed for at least three months.

The Gentlemen Ten on Edmondson Ave. has the Crosswind Band tonight (25) and the Gentlemen Ten Jazz Band on Sunday (27). For those of you who haven't made the sets at this club yet, then do yourself a favor and put this on your "must do." Don't be fooled by the outside of this spot for inside.....you be the judge.

Napata Promotions are hosting an African Liberation Day, an evening of music, song and dance at Wall Street on Maryland Ave. tonight (25). Jazz singer Lolita Williams is the special guest.

KoKo Taylor will appear at Max's on Broadway May 31.

The amazing and talented Brenda Alford performs at the Cross Keys Inn on Falls Rd. every Friday and Saturday. This lady, known for her smooth vocals and fine one woman performances of artists such as Billie Holiday, will brighten up your night with song.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Washington Performing Arts Society and Charlin Jazz Society are presenting "Jazz Tap" — the perfect combination starring dancers Harold Nicholas, Howard "Sandman" Sims, Savion Glover and D.C.'s Baakari Wilder this weekend (25 & 26) at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theatre. Nicholas is half of the famous Nicholas Brothers, Sandman Sims can be seen every week on "Showtime at the Apollo" when the amateurs are booed by the audience and Glover starred in the movie "Taps."

The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre performs at the Kennedy Center Opera House May 29-June 3. Former dancer Judith Jamison is artistic director.

The Winans along with Vickie Winans perform at Constitution Hall Friday, June 1 at 8 p.m. Kid Creole and the Coconuts are at the Lisner Auditorium June 3 at 8 p.m.

Blues Alley on Wisconsin Ave. have Pieces of a Dream May 25-27 and Marcus Roberts May 28-30.

Anton's 1201 Club on Pennsylvania Ave. have the mighty, mighty Drifters May 29-June 10.

And, if you want to take a trip for your holiday, The Isley Brothers featuring Ronald Isley are at Kings Dominion Sunday, May 27.

June at the Smithsonian

New Exhibits

Pre-Hispanic Foods of Mexico. Photographs of foods eaten by people of Mexico before Columbus' arrival in the New World. Ripley Center. (June 1-Sept. 30)

Missouri Portfolio: The Drawings of George Caleb Bingham. Fifty-five drawings. Museum of American Art. (June 8-Aug. 19)

The Doghouse. Twenty-four ready-to-use doghouses designed by leading architects and designers. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. (June 8-Oct. 14)

The Five of Hearts: Henry Adams and His Washington Circle. Portraits of a 19th-century circle of friends in Washington. Portrait Gallery. (June 9-Nov. 4)

Working for TIME: The Covers of Robert Vickrey. Portraits from the covers of TIME magazine. Portrait Gallery. (June 9-Nov. 4)

Bay Area Figurative Art, 1950-1965. Paintings by San Francisco Bay area artists. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 15-Sept. 9)

Kids on Bikes, by David Park

Gorilla: Struggle for Survival in the Virungas. Photos taken in Uganda by photographer Nick Nichols. Museum of Natural History. (June 15-Aug. 12)

Presidential Scholars in the Visual Arts. Art work of six high-school students. Museum of American Art. (June 18-25)

Directions: Christian Marclay. Sculptures using record covers, discs and other recording equipment. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 27-Sept. 30)

From Parlor to Politics: Women in the Progressive Era, 1890-1925. Women's roles in shaping public policy. Museum of American History. (June 28-June 1991)

A Piece of Mars. A mini exhibit of a rock thought to be from Mars. Air and Space Museum. (June 16-Indefinitely)

Films

Art and Life in Mali. Museum of African Art. (Throughout June. Free. For details, call 357-4600.)

Jungle Pharmacy. Exotic species of the Amazon's rainforests. Museum of Natural History. (June 1 at noon. Free)

Wim Wenders. Highlights of this West German director's career. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 1 at 8 p.m. Free)

Buddhism. Three films. Sackler Gallery. (Free)
- *Preserving the Monastic Tradition* on June 1 and June 4 & at 12:50 p.m. and June 9 at 2 p.m.
- *Observing the Breath* on June 11-15 and June 18-22 at 12:50 p.m. and June 24 at 2 p.m.
- *Visualization of Padmasambhava* on June 25-29 at 12:50 p.m. and June 30 at 2 p.m.

Ethnographic Films. This series probes nuances of encounters between Western filmmakers and Africans. Museum of African Art. (Free)
- *Lovers in the Spirit: Batule Statuary* and *Found Objects: Lobi Art and Commerce* (June 3 at 5:30 p.m.)
- *Rise Up and Walk* (June 10 at 5:30 p.m.)
- *A Great Tree Has Fallen* (June 17 at 5:30 p.m.)

Crafts. Two films about the crafts of Albert Paley and Wendell Castle. Renwick Gallery. (June 7 and 21 at 11 a.m. and 12:15 and 1:30 p.m. Free)

Journey to the Forgotten River. The interplay of predator and prey in the Linyanti region of Botswana. Museum of Natural History. (June 8 at noon. Free)

Crisis in the Atmosphere. Global warming, ozone holes and mysterious gases. Museum of Natural History. (June 15 at noon. Free)

Asian Visions Film Series. "My Love Has Been Burning." The contributions of women to Asian cinema. Japanese with English subtitles. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (June 17 at 2 p.m. Free)

Family Events

Southeast Asian Stories. By Ann Mesriz. Sackler Gallery. (June 2 and 16 at 1 p.m. Free)

African Art Club. Youngsters, ages 9 to 13, learn about Yoruba beaded crowns. Museum of African Art. (June 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Registration required; call 357-4600.)

Native American Craft Demonstrations. Museum of Natural History. (Cornhusk hat and basket weaving on June 9-10 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Sioux doll-making on June 30 and July 1 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Free)

African Folk Tales. Museum of African Art. (June 9 and 30 at 1:30 p.m. Free)

Tracing Your Family Tree. The Wellington-Worthington family presents an original play about the history of their family. Anacostia Museum. (June 20 at 1 p.m. Free)

Smithsonian World

"The Quantum Universe," the last show of the season, probes 20th-century quantum theory as new scientific discoveries push back the frontiers of time and the universe. The program will air June 6 at 8 p.m. on WETA, Channel 26, and other public broadcasting stations. Check your local listings.

Lectures

Monthly Sky Lecture. "Space, Time and Gravity." Air and Space Museum. (June 2 at 9:30 a.m. Free)

Yoruba Gods. Louisiana State University's Femi Euba discusses gods in Yoruba art forms. Museum of African Art. (June 2 at 5 p.m. Free)

American Furniture. Symposium in conjunction with the "New American Furniture" exhibit. Renwick Gallery. (June 2 from 4 to 5 p.m. Free)

Yoruba Beaded Crowns. An adult workshop. Museum of African Art. (June 3 from noon to 5 p.m. The $10/$5 registration fee includes lunch. Fee needed two weeks prior to workshop. For details, call 357-4600.) The museum is also offering a free lecture at 2 p.m. on the same topic.

African American Clayworks. Discussion by Renwick Fellow Winifred Owens-Hart. Renwick Gallery. (June 3 at 5 p.m. Free)

Strategic Bombing. General Curtis LeMay will host the lecture "From Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay." Air and Space Museum. (June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Calligraphy. Four calligraphers demonstrate their works. Renwick Gallery. (June 9 from noon to 5 p.m. and June 10 from noon to 2:30 p.m. Free.) A two-hour free lecture follows the June 10 demonstrations.

George Caleb Bingham. In conjunction with the exhibit, three lectures. Museum of American Art. (June 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. Free)

Annual Festival of American Folklife

Join the fun at the Smithsonian's 24th annual Festival of American Folklife, where you'll find music, food and crafts from the U.S. Virgin Islands and Senegal. The "Musics of Struggle" will feature performers from around the world. This Festival runs June 27-July 1 and July 4-8 on the National Mall. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and all events are free. For details, call 357-2700.

Performers from around the world will perform the "Musics of Struggle" during the Festival of American Folklife on the National Mall. (Photo by Jeff Tinsley)

American Painting. An all-day symposium in conjunction with the "Albert Pinkham Ryder" exhibit at the Museum of American Art. Museum of American History. (June 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free)

The Five of Hearts. In conjunction with the exhibit, author Patricia O'Toole discusses this circle of Washington friends. Portrait Gallery. (June 12 at 7:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2729.)

Poetry Reading. Authors Patricia Garfinkel and Elisabeth Murawski read from their works. Air and Space Museum. (June 15 at 8 p.m. Free)

American Indian Art. A two-day symposium. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 16 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Free. For details, call 357-2700.)

Nagasaki, Yokohama and the Opening of Japan. Princeton University's Marius Jansen discusses how early encounters with Dutch traders at Nagasaki aroused interest in the West. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (June 14 at 6 p.m. Free)

Yoruba Naming Ceremonies. Rituals that accompany the naming of a child. Museum of African Art. (June 16 at 2 p.m. Free)

Two Views of 19th-Century Japan. Japan as seen through woodblock prints and photographs. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (June 21 at 6 p.m. Free)

Exploring Space Lecture. "The Center of Our Galaxy." Air and Space Museum. (June 21 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Victorian Costumes and Customs. The gallery's Allen Bassing will discuss this topic. Renwick Gallery. (June 22 at noon. Free)

Dian Fossey. National Zoo's Benjamin Beck discusses Fossey's contributions as a scientist and her research on the gorilla. Museum of Natural History. (June 22 at noon. Free)

Yoruba Masquerades. The museum's Veronika Jenke discusses this topic. Museum of African Art. (June 23 at 2 p.m. Free)

John Hay. The Honorable James Symington discusses his great-grandfather's life as politician, poet and more. Portrait Gallery. (June 26 at 7:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2729.)

Focus: Nathan Oliveira. This California artist discusses his work in the "Bay Area" art exhibition. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 27 at 6:50 p.m. Free)

Senegal Today. The Smithsonian's John Franklin leads a discussion on life in this nation. Museum of Natural History. (June 29 at noon. Free)

Performances

Ragtime. The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra performs. Museum of American History. (June 1-2 at noon and 4 p.m. Free)

Cultures in Motion. "Words Between Two Friends." Readings highlight the friendship of writers Henry James and Edith Wharton. Portrait Gallery. (June 10 at 2:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2729.)

Iranian Classical Music. Mohammad Reza Lotfi performs. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (June 19 at 8 p.m. Free. Reservations may be made beginning June 4; call 357-4880.)

Sunset Serenades. Bring your blanket and picnic lunch for live concerts on the grounds of the National Zoo. (Thursday evenings, June 21-July 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. For details, call 673-4717.)

Hours/Information

Ride Metro to the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo.

General Visitor Information. Call 357-2700 or 357-1729 (TDD). An audio cassette edition of this calendar is available by calling 357-1037 (voice) or 357-1696 (TDD).

Museum Hours. The following museums are open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily: Air and Space Museum, Arts and Industries Building, Hirshhorn Museum, International Gallery, Museum of African Art, Museum of American Art, Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History, Portrait Gallery, Renwick Gallery and Sackler Gallery. The Anacostia Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The National Zoo's hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (buildings) and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (grounds). For information on the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City, call 357-2700. The Smithsonian Information Center in the Castle is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

For confirmation of all Smithsonian events call 357-2700.

***Resident Associate Events**. Advance tickets are usually required; call 357-3030 for availability. Discounts for members.

The July 1990 calendar will appear in the Washington Afro-American June 23, 1990.

RAP Has Something For Everyone!

The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program has exciting performances, intriguing lectures, films, tours, Afro-American Studies programs, events for children and much more. Listed below is a sampling of events and programs offered by RAP. To become a member, or for additional information on events, call 357-3030.

Ruby Dee. This award-winning actress reads her personal poetry. Museum of Natural History. (June 15 at 7:30 p.m. $15*)

Explorations on a Tall Ship. Two-hour tour of a 110-foot-long vessel that is a reproduction of John Paul Jones' first war command in 1776. (June 16 and 17. Location on tickets. Children, ages 12 and older, may also register. $44*)

The San Francisco Art "Beat." In conjunction with the "Bay Area Art" exhibit. Hirshhorn Museum. (June 19 at 6:30 p.m. $10*)

Music of the Andes. Sukay performs music from the heart of what was once the Inca empire, using native and ancient instruments. Museum of Natural History. (June 21 at 7 p.m. $16*)

Jazz Dance. The flying Lindy Hoppers, the premier jazz dance company of the United Kingdom, revive the jitterbug. Museum of Natural History. (June 25 at 7 p.m. $16*)

May Pools. This French film with English subtitles focuses on a prestigious family as members gather for the funeral of their matriarch. Museum of Natural History. (June 26 at 8 p.m. $7.50*)

Mama Jama Courtyard Concert. This sextet performs, combining the rhythmic excitement of African, Caribbean and New Orleans music. Courtyard of the Museum of American Art and the Portrait Gallery. (June 27 at 7 p.m. $16*)

Actress Ruby Dee will appear at the Museum of Natural History on June 15 at 7:30 p.m.

My Father, My Country. In this film, Margaret Taylor, ambassador of Papua New Guinea, discusses her father's 1938 expedition into Papua New Guinea when it was an almost trackless jungle. Museum of Natural History. (June 15 at 6:30 p.m. $7.50*)

Elephants, Rhinos and Gabon. A slide-illustrated lecture of Gabon, its development and conservation needs. National Zoo Education Building. (June 14 at 7 p.m. $10*)

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2. Listen to "Naturally Speaking" on WEAA (88.9 FM) each Tuesday and Thursday at 12:57 PM. They'll be lots of invaluable beauty tips/suggestions for Black Women.
3. Between May 28th and July 5th, "Naturally Speaking" will focus on Hand and Nail Care/Beauty.
4. "The After Photo" (also taken at WEAA or the Afro American) must be taken one week after the date of the last "Naturally Speaking" Nail and Hand Care special segment Friday, July 13th.
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