



THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,
MURFREESBORO, TN

DOUG SEROFF LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO COLLECTION

21-015;
89-028

Creator:

Seroff, Doug (February 21, 1947 -)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, Photographs, Trade Catalogs, manuscript and commercial audio/visual materials.

Physical Description:

2 linear foot of manuscript material, manuscript papers, manuscript and commercial audio/visual material including:

- 1 liner foot of manuscript materials including correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings and other research materials
- 1 linear foot of audio/visual materials including
 - 2 VHS tapes
 - 20 commercial LP records
 - 13 commercial cassette tapes
 - 9 manuscript cassette tapes

Languages:

English
Zulu
Creole

Dates:

1977-1993, bulk 1985-1992

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, articles and newspaper clippings, manuscript and commercial audio-visual materials including cassette tape, VHS tape, 33 1/3 sound recordings relating to the singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and South African record label, Shifty Records. The materials were collected and created by Doug Seroff from about 1985 to 1993 for his own research and interest.

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Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. *All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.*

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Doug Seroff Ladysmith Black Mambazo Collection, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was given to the Center for Popular Music along with the purchase of the Doug Seroff Alabama Africa American Gospel Music Collection from Doug Seroff on May 11, 2022. Seroff collected generated these materials throughout many years of research.

Subjects/Index Terms:

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Folk music South Africa
Songs, Zulu
Shifty Records
South Africa.
Gospel music--South Africa
Caribbean music

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Doug Seroff, born February 21, 1947 in Newark, NJ, and currently residing in Greenbrier, TN, has been involved in recording, researching, and promoting African American vernacular music since the 1970s. He has written a number of books on the subject, as well as many liner notes for reissues of older music. Mr. Seroff has also been a consultant with television and radio documentaries about the gospel quartet tradition, as well as a promoter of gospel quartet performances.

Scope and Content:

This collection is comprised of 2 linear foot of materials. The materials relate to South African singing group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and South African record label, Shifty Records collected and created by researcher and author, Doug Seroff. Correspondence, photographs, and manuscript audio materials were created by Seroff mostly between the years 1985 and 1993. The collection also contains many commercial sound recordings of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and releases by Shifty Records.

Arrangement:

Original order of the materials has been maintained in so far as possible. In the case where there was no obvious order, the processor devised the basic organizational scheme for the collection, reorganizing the materials within component groups where necessary. Most descriptions and folder titles were written by Doug Seroff.

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Series Description:

Series I: Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

.5 l.f. (box 1-2)

Correspondence, photographs, research clippings, and manuscript audio materials were created by Seroff mostly between the years 1985 and 1993. The collection also contains many commercial sound recordings of Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Series II: Shifty Records

.2 l.f. (box 1-2)

Correspondence, photographs, research clippings, and commercial audio materials were created by Seroff mostly between the years 1985 and 1993 relating to South African Shifty Records.

Series III: African & Caribbean Music

.5 l.f. (box 3)

Photocopies of clippings and programs relating to African and Caribbean music. This portion of the collection was added as an addendum to the collection. The items in this series was donated in 1989, and added into this collection for better ease of access and topical similarities for research.

Collection Contents (Box/Folder List):

Box # Folder # Title / Description [from Doug Seroff]

Series I: Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Box 1

Folder 1 "Letters"

Six personal letters from Joseph Shabalala to Doug Seroff (1985-1989)
Copy of 4/27/94 letter from Doug Seroff to Joseph Shabalala
Four letters from J. Shabalala's son Msizi Shabalala to Doug Seroff (1991-1993)
(Msizi Shabalala is a member of the recording group Mshengu White Mambazo)
Copy of 3/21/90 letter from Doug Seroff to Albert Mazibuko, tenor of Ladysmith Black Mambazo.
Letter from Ivor Haarburger, GRC A&R Director, August 1985. In response to one from Seroff, about ordering Ladysmith Black Mambazo LPs.
Play-lists for six cassette mix tapes Seroff made for Joseph Shabalala.

Folder 2 "Photographs & Negatives"

Three 8x10 promo photos from Warner Bros. and Gallo Records.
Three 5x7 b/w copy photos of Ladysmith Black Mambazo album covers; one of Black Mambazo with Paul Simon - the cover of the Rolling Stone.
4x6 photo of Joseph in MTSU cap, signing the "Home of the Heroes" program booklet for Dr. Rawn Spearman. (Lynn Abbott).
5x7 b/w Black Mambazo packed in WWOZ-New Orleans radio station (Lynn Abbott).
Eight 5x7 b/w of Black Mambazo at their impromptu May 4, 1990, appearance

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and performance of at Fisk University Chapel. (Roby Cogswell)
Six 5x7 b/w of the workshops that were part of the Alabama portion of the "Home of the Heroes" event, in Sardis Baptist Church, Birmingham. Three priceless shots of the Birmingham Sunlights rehearsing under Joseph and Black Mambazo. Three shots of Joseph leading a dance workshop with children and adults. (Roby Cogswell)
Three 5x7 b/w Ladysmith Black Mambazo in performance, Louisville, Kentucky. (Roby Cogswell)
5x7 b/w Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Birmingham Sunlights, on stage together at Home of the Heroes. (Roby Cogswell)
Five 5x7 b/w of Doug Seroff interviewing Joseph Shabalala, Louisville, Kentucky, March 3, 1990. (Roby Cogswell)
56 b/w 33mm negative strips, and corresponding contact sheets, all photographs taken by Robert Cogswell: at Black Mambazo's May 4, 1990 appearance at Fisk University Chapel; Seroff interviewing Joseph Shabalala in a Louisville hotel room (3 photos include Bruce Nemerov and Albert Mazibuko); and on-stage at the Kentucky Center, March 3, 1990; album cover reproductions used in "Home of the Heroes" program booklet.

Folder 3 "research materials"

twenty-two-page transcript of interview with Joseph Shabalala, conducted by Doug Seroff in Louisville, Kentucky, March 3, 1990; including additional questions from Roby Cogswell and Bruce Nemerov. (audio cassette of interview in manuscript audio box)
Draft text, and copy of Doug Seroff's review of Ladysmith Black Mambazo LP "Ibhayibhli Liyindlela," for Goldmine, October 25, 1985.
Photocopy of text of a lecture on "Cothoza Mfana" (isicathamiya) given by Joseph Shabalala, possibly at U. of Witwatersrand, in 1990.

Folder 4 "Newspaper and Magazine Articles"

About two dozen additional magazine and newspaper articles about Ladysmith Black Mambazo, 1977-1989; including Time Magazine (with color photo), New York Times (three Jon Pareles features), Drum (S.A. July 1977, "Joe's boys hit the golden jackpot"), Tennessean (one by Robert Oermann, one by Jay Orr, with photo of Joseph and Seroff)

Folder 5 "Graceland Reviews & Commentary"

more than fifty newspaper articles – from various publications/places - about the "Graceland" tours, including many critical of Paul Simon's breaking the cultural boycott of apartheid South Africa.

Folder 6 "Home of the Heroes / Singing In Two Worlds events 1990"

Two programs and articles/ reviews of events, Alabama Folklife News Fall 1990 issue that previews the events

Folder 7 Promotional Materials

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Program for March 2, 1990 Black Mambazo performance at the Kentucky Center in Louisville.

WHPK (Chicago) magazine, Winter 1989, with a feature on Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Omega Institute catalog, Summer 1988. Joseph Shabalala conducted a 5-day workshop

Cover of Rolling Stone, July 2, 1987, with Paul Simon and Black Mambazo. The cover is autographed by Joseph Shabalala and Albert Mazibuko

promotional material about Mambazo from "night after night, Ltd.," their U.S. booking agent. This includes an early GRC (Gallo) promotional two-page promo sheet; a five-page Warner Brothers promo; an extensive discography of Mambazo's South African LPs; a tour itinerary for September – December 1988; full-color promo sheet for the "Journey of Dreams" video documentary; press releases, and newspaper adverts.

Obituaries for Joseph Shabalala from New York Times and Guardian.

Promotion for "Singing in Two Worlds" Seminar at The Center for Popular Music, October 2, 1990.

Two different business cards of Joseph Shabalala.

Tickets for five different Ladysmith Black Mambazo shows, including "Home of the Heroes," and a backstage decal for an Atlanta concert.

Series II: Shifty Records

Folder 8 "Photographs"

5x7 b/w Shifty director, Lloyd Ross in mobile studio

5x7 b/w Shifty recording group Sankamota

5x7 b/w Shifty recording artist "Winston's Jive Mixup"

5x7 b/w Shifty recording artist Noise Khanyile

5x7 b/w Shifty (and Rounder) recording artist Mzwake Mbuli

Folder 9 "Letters to and from Lloyd Ross and Warrick Swinney"

Note: Warrick Swinney worked with Lloyd Ross at Shifty and headed the protest rockers, the Kalahari Surfers.

Nine letters from Lloyd Ross to Doug Seroff, October 1985 to June 1988.

Copy of my letter to L.R., April 29, 1987, with Shifty records order.

Letter from Boogie Gottsmann, sales manager of Shifty Records, June 1987.

Scratch track-lists, for three "mix cassettes" of world music that Seroff sent to Lloyd Ross.

Nine letters and a photo postcard from Warrick Swinney to Doug Seroff, July 1988 to June 1991.

Copies of four of Seroff letters to Warrick Swinney, December 1989 to July 1991.

Track-list for four mix cassettes of black gospel and world music sent to Warrick.

Folder 10 "Shifty Catalogs & Newsletters"

9 items including newsletters and trade catalogs published by Shifty Records.

Folder 11 Shifty Articles and Reviews

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South African Labor Bulletin, September 1985.
Weekly Mail (Jo'burg), July 1988.
New Musical Express (G.B.?), September 1986

Articles

Voice (N.Y.C.), July 5, 1988 – Full page article on Mzwakhe and his Shifty Records LP.
Keskidee, No. 2, 1990, with my article, "Shifty Record Company."
Unedited draft of the article, written in 1987.
"People's Radio" – "Letters From America" Programs (1-6)
Program play-lists and script for six radio shows Seroff completed for this ultimately aborted project. Two cassette tapes of the finished programs. Composed and narrated by Doug Seroff, recorded by Bruce Nemerov at MTSU studio.

Box 2 Commercial and manuscript Audio/Visual materials

Commercial records & tapes

VHS tape – "Journey of Dreams" – a video documentary on Ladysmith Black Mambazo, which, Seroff believes, was not commercially released.
VHS tape – Paul Simon's "Graceland" concert in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's South African LPs (Gallo Records family)

Motella LPBS 14 – "Amabutho" (Their first LP. Very scarce.)
Motella BL 18 - "Imbongi" (1973) (Their 2nd album)
Motella BL 27 – "Isitimela" (1974)
Motella BL 81 - "Amaqhawe"
Motella BL 86 – "Ukusindiswa" (1976)
Motella BL 91 – "Shintsha Sithothobala" (1975)
Mavuthela BL 22 – Empageni Home Tigers (2 tracks by Black Mambazo)
Mavuthela BL 23 – "Umama Lo!" (1974)
Ezomdabu BL 153 – "Indlela Yase Zulwini" (1978)
Ezomdabu BL 205 – "Intokozo" (1980)
Ezomdabu BL 253 – "Nqonqotha Mfana" (1980)
Ezomdabu BL 393 – "Induku Zethu" (1983)
Ezomdabu BL 504 – "Inkazimulo" (1985)
Ezomdabu BL 548 – "Ezulwini Siyakhona" (1986)
Ezomdabu HUL 40131 – "Zibuyinhlazane" (cover is autographed)
Gallo BL 613 – "Thandani" (1987)
South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) 12" Transcription LT 19 949 (1984) With seven tracks by Ladysmith Black Mambazo
GRC BL 691 – MSHENGU WHITE MAMBAZO – "Umkhumbe Ka-Nowa" (1990)
(This group consists of Joseph's sons. Msizi Shabalala enclosed a handwritten note when he sent this. His letter is inside the sleeve.)

Black Mambazo's Commercial Cassettes, with original j-cards

Motella BC 92 – "Pezulu Emafini" (1976)

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Ezomdabu BC 186 – “Ezinkulu” (1976)

Non-Commercial Cassette Recordings

MTSU concert of October 2, 1990 (Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Birmingham Sunlights, Princely Players). 2 high quality cassettes.

“Home of the Heroes” (Bessemer) concert of September 30, 1990. Three 60 minute cassettes, recorded from the audience by Bruce Nemerov.

NPR Radio Program recorded at the “Home of the Heroes” concert. Nationally broadcast on the “Afro-Pop” show, January 12, 1991.

WWOZ-New Orleans, radio interview and studio performance by Joseph Shabalala and Ladysmith Black Mambazo, November 28, 1988.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo’s unscheduled concert in Fisk University Chapel, May 4, 1990. Recorded from the audience.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo at the Cannery in Nashville, March 4, 1989. Two cassettes recorded from the audience.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo at S.O.B.’s in New York, May 1, 1987, recorded from the audience.

Joseph Shabalala leads the Omega Institute S.A. Choral Music class (with Tony Backhouse & Doug Seroff), Summer 1988.

Dr. Rawn Spearman’s lecture at “Singing in Two Worlds” seminar at the Center for Popular Music, 10/2/90.

Shifty & Subsidiaries Commercial Records & Tapes

LP Records

SHIFTY 1 – Sankamota (1984, S.A.)

TUSK 2 (Shifty subsid.) – Noise Khanyile – “Itwasa Lika Puzu Shukela Namagugu Akwazulu” (1989, S.A.)

ROUNDER 4023 (1986, U.S.) – Various Artists – “Forces Favourites” (leased from Shifty)

Commercial Cassettes (with original “j-cards”)

SHIFTY 4 – Mahlabatini Bekimbazo Brothers – “Enhlambamasoka”

SHIFTY 6 – Various Artists – “FOSATU Worker Choirs” (with translated lyric insert)

SHIFTY 16 (1986) – Sankamota (w/Simba Morri)

SHIFTY 18 (1986) – Mzwakhe – “Change Is Pain”

SHIFTY 24 – FAWU K Team COSATU (East Rand Cultural Group)

SHIFTY 26 (1988) – Steve Newman – “Tananas”

SHIFTY 36 – Winston’s Jive Mix-Up

SHIFTY 38 – Music: Shaun Naidoo; Speeches of Nelson Mandela (1990)

SHIFTY 222 – Kalahari Surfers – “Urgent Release”

SHIFTY (no #) – The Humming Bees

NOISE 12 (1986, Shifty subsid.) – Jo’ Burg City Stars – “Grooving Jive” (no j-card)

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Series III: African and Caribbean Music

Box 3	<u>African and Caribbean Music addition</u>
Folder 1	Gramophone Records of African Music Catalogue July 1952 [photocopy]
Folder 2	Africa Beat Spring 1985, Summer 1985 magazine [photocopy]
Folder 3	African Music Clippings
Folder 4	Zimbabwe / Sene-Mali / Zaire / Cameron / Nigeria
Folder 5	Latin American Clippings
Folder 6	Soca/Reggae Clippings

Materials Cataloged Separately:

No items from this collection are cataloged separately from this finding aid.

Location:

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

Related Materials:

Other related materials in the Center collections include the CPM created collections "Home of the Heroes" records [audio] (90-035), "Singing in Two Worlds" records [audio] (90-036), Black Music: Singing in Two Worlds [photographs] (90-036), Center for Popular Music Miscellaneous Interviews: Joseph Shabalala (88-058).

Other related collections: Doug Seroff African American Gospel Quartet Collection (10-026), Doug Seroff Black Gospel Disc Collection (89-009), Doug Seroff Collection of Negro Harmony Singing (89-031), Doug Seroff Film Collection (95-055), and Doug Seroff Master Tapes of Negro Quartet Singing (94-087) and commercial sound recordings and vertical files.

Collection processed and finding aid written by Olivia Beaudry, CA August 2022. Series three added and updated January 2024.