



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

DOUG SEROFF LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO COLLECTION

21-015

Creator:

Seroff, Doug (February 21, 1947 -)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, Photographs, Trade Catalogs, Manuscript and Commercial Audio/Visual Materials

Physical Description:

1.5 linear feet, including:

- .5 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

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 tapes, VHS tapes, and 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.

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.*

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was donated to the Center for Popular Music by Doug Seroff, along with

the purchase of the Doug Seroff Alabama Africa American Gospel Music Collection on May 11, 2022. Seroff collected and 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

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 1.5 linear feet of materials. The materials relate to South African singing group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and South African record label, Shifty Records all collected and created by researcher and author, Doug Seroff. Seroff created correspondence, photographs, and manuscript audio/visual materials 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.

This collection consists of two series:

- Series I: Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- Series II: Shifty Records

Collection Contents (Box/Folder List):

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

Box 1 Manuscript Materials

Series I: Ladysmith Black Mambazo

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 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 35mm negative strips, and corresponding contact sheets, all photographs taken by Roby 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

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. Joseph Shabalala and Albert Mazibuko autograph the cover

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 Seroff 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

South African Labor Bulletin, September 1985
Weekly Mail (Jo'burg), July 1988
New Musical Express (G.B.?), September 1986
Voice (N.Y.C.), July 5, 1988 – full page article on Mzwakhe and his Shifty Records LP
Keskidee, No. 2, 1990, with Seroff 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 Middle Tennessee State University 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 - “Amaqhawé”
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 – “Umkhumbé 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)
Ezomdabu BC 186 – “Ezinkulu” (1976)

Non-Commercial Cassette Recordings

Middle Tennessee State University 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)

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), and Center for Popular Music Miscellaneous Interviews: Joseph Shabalala (88-058).

Other related collections include 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.