

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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FOR RELEASE:

Friday, August 10, 1962
or after

Olatunji and Company will give the ninth Jazz in the Garden concert at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, August 16, at 8:30 p.m. Performing in a program of African folk music and American jazz, the percussion group consists of Olatunji on conga, log drums and thumb piano; Hosea Taylor, oboe, flute and saxophone; Clarence Stroman, trap drums; Calvin Ridley, bass; and George Young, Robert Crowder and Stacy Edwards on conga drums and the African shekeres.

Admission to the Museum is \$1.00; members free. The jazz concert is an additional 50 cents. In case of rain, the concert will be cancelled; tickets will be honored at the concert following. Other Museum activities continue as announced until the 10 p.m. closing. Dinner and refreshments are available in the Penthouse restaurant.

Michael Bababunde Olatunji, a native of Nigeria, says that his musical development was influenced by "three B's - Benny Goodman records, B.B.C. broadcasts, and Baptist hymns. We used drums in church during services," he says, "and played hymns like 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'Rock of Ages,' but with African orientation." Olatunji came to the United States in 1950 to study at Morehouse College in Atlanta on a scholarship from Rotary International. He first appeared as a performer at the college. In 1958, he made his first professional appearance at Radio City Music Hall as soloist in his own "African Drum Fantasy." Since then he has played in night clubs and, with his own company of dancers, drummers and singers, in concerts at many colleges throughout the East and at Carnegie Hall, Kaufmann Concert Hall, and the Berkshire Music Barn in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Jazz in the Garden is presented by the Museum in cooperation with the United Nations Jazz Society. Gary Keys, Herb Snitzer and Richard Jennings are in charge of programing and production. The series of ten Thursday evening promenade concerts will continue August ²³16 with the Max Roach Chorus and Orchestra with guest star Abbey Lincoln.

The 1951 film, The Thing, with Kenneth Tobey, Margaret Sheriden, and Robert Cornthwaite will be shown in the Museum auditorium at 8 p.m.

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, New York. Circle 5-8900.