

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 122A
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/10/72: AN EVENING FOR STUDENTS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
MADE POSSIBLE BY MOBIL FOUNDATION

The Cornbread Players, a professional acting company devoted to the presentation of plays that relate to the Black experience, will be a major attraction at The Museum of Modern Art on November 10, when the Museum will be open from 7:30 to 11:30 pm exclusively for students. Other highlights of the evening will be songs by Benny Kalanzi, an East African folksinger, and jazz singer Leon Thomas, as well as short films made by young New York filmmakers.

"ELEVEN TEN SEVENTY-TWO," as the student evening is called, is presented by the Junior Council of the Museum and made possible by a grant from Mobil Foundation, Inc. Admission is \$2 (with student identification); \$1.50 for Student Members of the Museum.

All the galleries will be open and, in addition to the Museum Collections, seven temporary exhibitions will be on view, including AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS and PHOTOGRAPHS BY DIANE ARBUS.

The Cornbread Players will perform "JAZZNIGHT," written by Walter Jones, a noted playwright and actor who was featured in the original New York production of "No Place To Be Somebody." "JAZZNIGHT," one of the first professional productions of the group, opened to unanimously favorable reviews at the Public Theatre in New York in 1969.

Singer Leon Thomas believes that "the voice can be the most evocative of all instruments; but as I hear things, for that to happen requires going into the most ancient forms of musical expression -- what the pygmies and others sing in Africa; India ragas; music of the Himalayas. If you listen, although some people regard these people as 'primitives,' what they're doing is really very complex and subtle but at the same time it's also a very free expression of the

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voice." Thomas is searching as far into himself as he can go for spirits known and unknown and is creating new dimensions of vocal expressiveness to bring these spirits, or feelings, into the experience of others. Born in East St. Louis, Illinois, Leon Thomas has performed throughout the United States and Europe and has recorded with Count Basie, Mary Lou Williams, and Pharoah Sanders, among numerous others.

The music of Benny Kalanzi, like all typical African music, is folk music in the true sense of the word. It is the music of people, for the people, intended for their entertainment, instruction, and sometimes their amusement. Benny Kalanzi plays 12 instruments in all; his favorite is the bowl-lyre, a native instrument, on which he composes typical folksongs. Born in 1938 in Uganda, he is the first Ugandan to take a doctorate degree in music and is one of the very first Ugandan composers. He has widely performed and lectured on East African music.

The film program features the work of several independent filmmakers and includes films made by students at city film workshops, including the N.E.T. training school, the Young Filmmakers' Foundation Summer Workshop for the Bureau of Art, New York City Board of Education, the Movie Club at the Henry Street Settlement and the Harlem Prep School. The 10 short films were selected by the Young Filmmakers' Foundation with the assistance of Peter Zabriskie, who will introduce the films and filmmakers.

The exhibitions on view for this evening are: AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS (made possible by the generous assistance and support of the National Endowment for the Arts and of Exxon Corporation), PHOTOGRAPHS BY DIANE ARBUS, PHILADELPHIA IN NEW YORK: 90 Modern Works from the Philadelphia

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Museum of Art, DUBUFFET: PERSONS AND PLACES, ETCHINGS ETC., PHOTOGRAPHS BY
HENRY WESSEL JR., GASTONE NOVELLI, LANDSCAPES, and MASTERS OF MODERN ART
FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS.

11/3/72

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon,
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