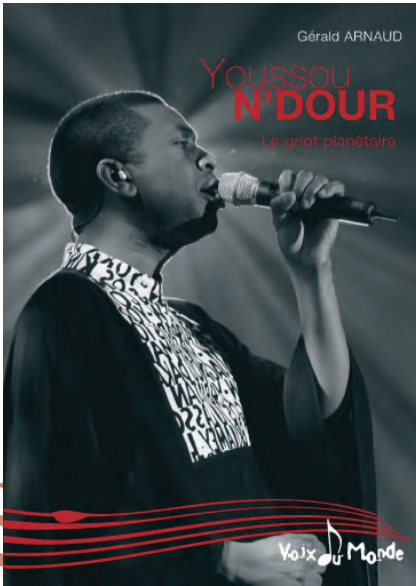


> **March 15th, 2008**

## Youssou **N'DOUR**, *the Worldwide Griot*

by Gerald ARNAUD



*About the Author.*

**Gerald ARNAUD** started out selling records, then became editor of *Jazz Hot* magazine. He is now an independent journalist with a special interest in African music and culture.

He contributes to the review *Africultures* and *sudplanete.net*. Gerald has directed many documentaries on music and archeology, and has authored several books, of which the latest is *Musiques de toutes les Afriques*.

## Senegal

**Youssou N'DOUR** of Senegal has an unusual distinction: he is the first African musician to attain world star status without emigrating. "You", as his countrymen like to call him, has always loved Dakar, the capital city where he was born and has always lived.

"You" comes from a famous dynasty of *griots* or African story tellers, and he is very much a traditional singer, yet with many cultural influences: Peul, Toucouleur, Wolof... Youssou already attracted praise as a child for his extraordinary singing talent. After becoming one of the most popular singers in posh clubs patronized by local elites, he moved on from their favorite music – jazz and salsa – to promote the uniquely Senegalese style of *Mbalax*.

With his "Super Etoile" orchestra, **Youssou N'DOUR** toured the world, collecting praises, prizes and Golden Records, working with rockstars like Peter GABRIEL and Paul SIMON, yet he never strayed away from his roots. Better still, he made his music into a national enterprise to promote various humanitarian pan-African causes. This dedication got him a spot on *Time Magazine's* Top 100 most influential people last year.

*The Worldwide Griot* book tells a story out of the ordinary: a Third World artist, almost untutored who became one of the main spokespeople of contemporary Africa thanks to his sheer musical genius.

A series of biographies dedicated to the leading figures of World Music. The collection *Voices of The World* aims at acquainting the reader with the wealth of musical cultures our planet harbours. Each title focuses in depth on one particular artist, exploring all too often little known aspects of his or her life so as to reveal its trajectory.

These portraits provide rare and precious insights, especially as major artists are all prominent symbols of their countries. The books are colourful creations by experts with a passion and deep understanding developed over many years. The reader will gain a better understanding of the creative process of these artists through their cultural background, the events which shaped their lives, and the people whom they in turn influenced and worked with...

The purpose of this collection is to introduce the life and works of the most fascinating World Music artists to a wider public. This collection will be of interest well beyond the community of World Music enthusiasts, and awake an interest in everyone in wider musical horizons.

**Éditions Demi-Lune**

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## ***Youssou N'DOUR, the Worldwide Griot***

by Gerald ARNAUD

> **Text:** Gerald ARNAUD

- In French
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- Soft cover with 2 flaps
- 160 pages; 16 black & white photographs
- ISBN : 978-2-917112-04-5

> **Price:** (France) 14 € (5.5% VAT included)



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