



HIGH ATLAS -

- CANADIAN CULTURAL PACKAGE - AFRICA , 1973 -

In May, 1973, a group of Canadian musicians, artists, film makers plus a small crew will be travelling to North Africa to participate in two unique cultural events and to do preliminary research into the ancient sources of the art and music they uncover.

In a land where the archaic inhabitants were Phoenicians, Berbers, Romans , to mention only a few, lies the date palmed oasis of MARRAKECH, the snow capped peaks of the High Atlas in the distance. Every year during May is held the NATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, amid the ruins of an ancient palace. Thousands of people, Berbers from the hills, tribesmen from the Sahara, Blacks from south of the desert and white robed Sudanese all make the journey to Marrakech to take part in this musical and cultural melting pot. Colourful groups of dancers, musicians, acrobats and story tellers gather to celebrate cultural rights which are ancient and as timeless as the shifting of the dunes.

What was the common source of the various musical heritages we find in the world which remind us so insistently of each other? The similarities in the widely dispersed peoples of the world, their beliefs, their arts, their languages, and mythologies all lead us to surmise that there was a common cradle somewhere in the remote past. And in the obscure reaches of the Atlas the people still tell tales of that time, they celebrate the rights of Pan, and relate how their ancestors came to the Hesperidian shores after the sinking of Atlantis. Where better than Morocco to investigate the culmination of centuries of culture stemming from sources beyond the memory of most men ?

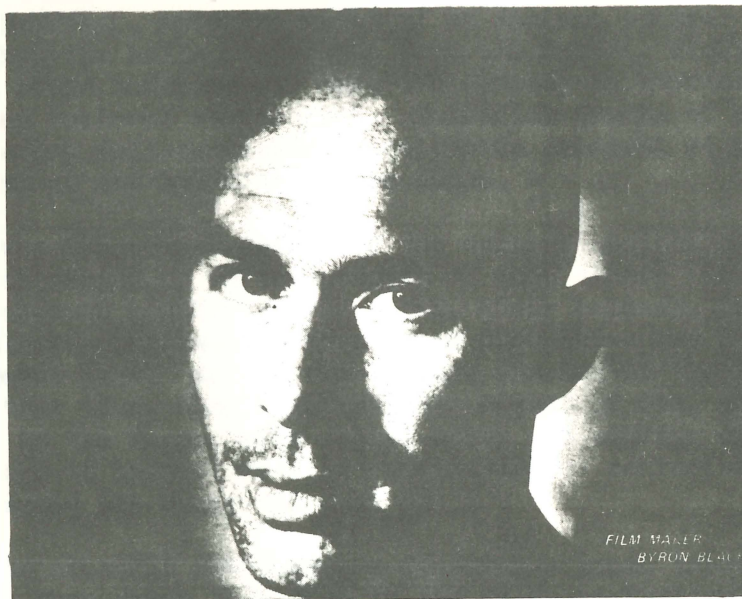
The NEW ATLANTIS HOUSEBAND, a Canadian - based improvisatory group whose ethnic influences have drawn them also to the Folklore Festival, will be there to promote musical exchanges with these ancient cultures. With their modern equipment and ideas they plan to set up musical encounters with groups of African musicians and to record the resulting juxtaposition. The tapes collected at the festival will later be released for distribution as a record package. And in addition there will be produced a 16mm. colour documentary-feature of the entire experience.



RICHARD ANSTAY, of the NEW ATLANTIS HOUSEBAND

The film part of the package is being handled by director BYRON BLACK, whose recent features, the **MASTER OF IMAGES** and **THE HOLY ASSASSIN**, have established him as one of the significant contemporary film-makers. He will be involved in collecting visual information during the Festival and of the New Atlantis Houseband's appearances there. His technique is highly organic and relates image gathering to the daily life flow. The film would be marketed as one component in the package, with emphasis on its original soundtrack. Thus promotion and advertising for the record would also benefit the film, and vice versa.

Also to be documented on film will be the installation of an exhibition entitled **CANADIAN WEST COAST HERMETICS**, now being assembled in Vancouver. Scheduled for two months at the **MUSEE DYNAMIQUE** in **DAKAR, Senegal** this six-man exhibition of metaphysical art will also be touring prestige galleries and museums in Europe during 1973. We hope to capture on film the reactions to the exhibition and to stress the unique aspect of sending work of this nature to a culture so different from our own.



The personnel involved with the Africa package are:

Gregg Simpson, Richard Anstey, Byron Black, Alan Sharpe, The Fine Arts Gallery of the University of British Columbia, Jack Wise, Giles Foisy, David uu, Gary Lee Nova, Edwin Varney, and Infinity Studios.

For further information on the project including tapes, slides, press releases, biographies, and catalogues, please write to the following :

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