

## **UCSD presents the rhythms and percussion of "African Oye!" on Nov. 15 in Mandeville Auditorium**

**November 3, 1992**

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, 534-3120

UCSD PRESENTS THE RHYTHMS AND PERCUSSION OF "AFRICA OYE!"

The sounds of rhythmic drums and colorful costume spectacle of the ensemble "Africa Oye!," a diverse program featuring performers from five African countries, will be staged at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, in the University of California, San Diego's Mandeville Auditorium.

Tickets for this event are \$12/15 general admission for single performance and \$20/25 for the two performances, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office (534-6467) and from TicketMaster outlets.

The title of this event, "Africa Oye!," means "Long Live Africa!," and this show presents itself as a celebration of the cultural history of that country. The ensemble, Batwa Ekonda, members of which are from a Pygmy tribe, wear speckled body paint, with feathers, and perform polyphonic music.

One of Africa's major stars, Papa Wemba, a French-speaking African, performs the soukous music with electronic guitars, keyboard and Western drums, that is so popular in French bistros.

Kandia Kouyate, a historian-troubadour, from Mali, sings to the accompaniment of the balafon and harp guitar, while a MbulieHemba group from southeast Zaire, wearing face paint and animal- hide skirts, uses canoe-sized drums to accompany the snake-armed dancing. This tribe are soothsayers and prophets. They have a distinctive vocal style.

Chetima Ganga, a Kanouri musician from Niger, who plays the alghaita, an oboe-like reed instrument, performs with his son, Agi Gana, demonstrating the nearly impossible feat of circular breathing, with the accompaniment of drummers.

The Peul Acrobats from Guinea, led by Elhadj Djeli Sory Kouyate, director of the National Instrumental Ensemble of Guinea, performs on the balafon (a member of the xylophone family), while the ensemble performs highly difficult acrobatic maneuvers as they play on flutes and drums.

The Pende from Zaire perform pantomimed scenes of theatre involving their celebrated masks, which are said to have influenced the style of Picasso.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office. For more information call 534-4090.