

**For Immediate Release**

**September 2, 2003**

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## **SENEGALESE SUPERSTAR YOUSSEU N'DOUR KICKS OFF WEXNER CENTER'S FALL CONCERT SERIES**

### ***SINGER AND BAND RETURN TO TRADITIONAL ACOUSTIC ROOTS***

**"One of the great singers, not just of Africa but the world."—*The Guardian***

Senegalese superstar **Yousseu N'Dour** kicks off a full season of concerts at the Wexner Center with a show Friday, **September 19 at 8 pm**. Beloved in Senegal and around the world, N'Dour will perform with his 10-piece band (including backing vocalists) in Mershon Auditorium.

N'Dour's performance will draw from his latest release, *Nothing's in Vain (Coono du réér)*, which has reaffirmed his love for roots music and the rich rhythms of traditional acoustic instruments. It shows no trace of pop influences, synthesizers, or crossover attempts; instead he employs traditional African acoustic stringed instruments and percussion to tap the deep soulful spirit in his music that appeals to so many. *The Guardian* has called his music "the finest example yet of the meeting of African and Western music: wholesome, urgent and thoughtful."

Performing outside of dance clubs in Dakar as a teenager, N'Dour quickly earned a national reputation as a "boy wonder." Collaborations with such artists as Peter Gabriel (most notably on 1986's "In Your Eyes"), Sting, and Neneh Cherry have given N'Dour exposure to worldwide audiences. *The New York Times* wrote that one of his concerts "had the entire audience on its feet and dancing."

**CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR YOUSSEU N'DOUR:**

**Description:** Senegalese superstar Youssou N'Dour returns to traditional acoustic roots in first concert of the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season.

**Date and time:** Friday, September 19 / 8 pm

**Location:** Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St. at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on The Ohio State University campus.

**Tickets:** \$28 general public; \$24 Wexner Center members; \$20 OSU students

**Ticket outlets:** Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600.

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org);

[http://www.nonesuch.com/Hi\\_Band/index\\_frameset2.htm](http://www.nonesuch.com/Hi_Band/index_frameset2.htm)

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***Digital images available upon request.***

**PERFORMING ARTS SEASON SUPPORT**

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season is provided by the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

**WEXNER CENTER**

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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