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## A Different Drum

By JEANNETTE CATSOULIS

Mellow as buttermilk and twice as nutritious, the music documentaries “Youssou N’Dour: Return to Gorée” and “Maria Bethânia: Music Is Perfume” trace influences and celebrate connections with tunes to make you tap and sway.

In “Youssou N’Dour: Return to Gorée,” the filmmaker Pierre-Yves Borgeaud joins Mr. N’Dour, the Senegalese singer, on a magical history tour of the music created by African slaves and their descendants. The goal is to stage a concert on Gorée, an island just off the coast of Dakar with a museum commemorating victims of the Atlantic slave trade; the preparation is a melodic road trip from Geneva to Atlanta to New Orleans and beyond, embracing musicians from each location and styles including traditional gospel and classic jazz.

Less restless but even more seductive, “Maria Bethânia: Music Is Perfume” moves to the samba rhythms that Ms. Bethânia, the charismatic Brazilian diva, describes as “sadness dancing.” There’s little that’s sad about Georges Gachot’s movie, however; it captures its subject’s stylistic evolution from avant-garde warbler to romantic balladeer through a prism of Brazilian culture and history.

Onstage or in rehearsal, surrounded by familiars or alone with the camera, Ms. Bethânia is an expressive force of nature whose honeyed voice could lure sailors to their doom. Without doubt they’d be dancing all the way.

### *YOUSSEOU N'DOUR*

*Return to Gorée*

*Opens on Friday in Manhattan.*

Directed by Pierre-Yves Borgeaud; in English and French, with English subtitles; produced by CAB Productions, Iris Productions and Dreampixies; released by ArtMattan Productions. At the Two Boots Pioneer Theater, 155 East Third Street, at Avenue A, East Village. Running time: 1 hour 8 minutes. This film is not rated.

### *MARIA BETHÂNIA*

*Music Is Perfume*

*Opens on Friday in Manhattan.*

Written (in Portuguese, with English subtitles), produced and directed by Georges Gachot; director of photography, Matthias Kälin; edited by Ruth Schläpfer and Anja Bombelli; released by ArtMattan Productions. At the Two Boots Pioneer Theater, 155 East Third Street, at Avenue A, East Village. Running time: 1 hour 22 minutes. This film is not rated.

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