

The beat goes on

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Sean: At the height of professionalism was Dire Strait's Coliseum performance. The show was slick to the point of removing reality; it was almost too perfect.

One of the most remarkable opening slot performances was provided by Montreal's **Luba**. The band, performing with Bryan Adams, gave their audience a show that was of headline calibre.

Other noteworthy concerts: Chicago (Coliseum), George Thorogood (Agricom) and Jane Siberry (SUB).

Don: Country music shows are often a riskier proposition than rock concerts. One band will put on a dynamic performance and the next will stumble on stage in a drunken fog. Two evenings of top notch country entertainment in 1985 helped dispel the negative reputation that country concerts have garnered.

Both the Loretta Lynn/Katy Moffat (Jubilee) and George Jones/John Anderson (Coliseum) concerts were tributes to professionalism; the bottom line should always be to give the customer their money's worth.

The two concerts combined the experience of a country legend riding high on renewed popularity with a dynamic young performer who will soon be a country superstar. Lynn was a cherished friend, spending a warm evening with her fans while Jones was typically unpredictable. John Anderson is quickly gaining a reputation for exciting live country-rock and Katy Moffat is poised to take her place among 'real' country stars **Reba McEntire, George Strait**, Lynn and Iones.

Benefits

Don: While Live Aid and **USA for Africa** dominated the headlines, several other note-worthy benefits were underway in 1985.

Farm Aid focused attention to the hardships faced by the contemporary family farm. Not only did this significant issue receive attention, but some fine performances were turned in at Champaign, Illinois.

Out of Africa cont

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beyond such problems to become both strong and moving, and satisfyingly complete in a way few movies are these days. I'm a great admirer of Dinesen's collections of tales, and it's much clearer to me now how that remarkable author came to be the person she was. Streep is an amazing actress. All the peo

Streep is an amazing actress. All the peo ple who found her tiresome in *Plenty* (1985's best movie, for me) or who are "tired" of her in general, are paying tribute to the fact that she plays complex, not neccessarily likeable women with great honesty. Other actresses get you to like the character by liking them: imagine disliking Sally Field, even as Imelda Marcos!

As Karen, Streep remains a bit distanced, a bit stiff, and is entirely convincing as a very unusual, brave and admirable woman. She The Blasters were given the impossible. task of following George Jones onstage and met the challenge. John Mellencamp offered a strong set that proved he is honestly concerned about the American mid-west; I had mistakenly considered him a cocky fraud. Neil Young gave a top notch performance as did John Fogerty, **B.B. King, Lou Reed** and the **Highwaymen** (Waylon, Willie, Johnny and Glen Campbell).

The disappointment of Farm Aid was **Sammy Hager**'s obnoxious, juvenile attitude towards his private parts.

Sean: Let's not sell Live Aid short.

The highlight of the day was without a doubt Dire Straits with Sting performing "Money for Nothing" while U2 pulled a close second with "Bad". **Mick** and **Tina** fired up the night with their charged duets. Phill Collins performed with everyone and did so nobly.

From a fan's perspective, the big story of Live Aid were the exciting reunions it engendered. At the top of the list was The Who and **Led Zeppelin**'s reunion warmed the hearts of their many sleepy admirers. For some, **Black Sabbath**'s get together may have been significant; for most it was time for the morning shower.

Don: Though not a success on the scale of Live Aid or Farm Aid, **Artists United Against Apartheid** was arguably the most important benefit project of 1985. **Little Steven** meshed the vital issue of apartheid with several stellar performances.

The feature cut from the album, "Sun City", could have been a hit without being for a worthy cause; it was simply a wellexecuted song performed by a top notch cast including Lou Reed, Bruce and Clarence, Joey Ramone, George Clinton, Peter Garrett and Steven Van Zant himself.

The remainder of the album was composed of interesting and, for the most part, compelling performances by Peter Gabriel, **Miles Davis, Gil Scott-Heron** and **Ron Wood**, **Keith Richards** with **Bono**.

"Sun City" is a worthy album that was artistically and socially more important than USA for Africa.

'never becomes heroic in a slick way, and the sense of spiritual rebirth she undergoes through her friendship with Redford is believable and deeply touching.

David Watkin's photography has already gotten awards from the New York and L.A. film critics as the best of '85. I hope that's not because they found it be-yootiful in a travelogue sense. It never seemed self-conscious or picture-postcard-ish to me, and it constantly conveys the right mood and atmosphere.

Out of Africa comes to some surprisingly mature conclusions about life, and that's why older people are enjoying it more than young people. It's not saying life's like this for everyone, but for one specific, remarkable woman, who went on — out of Africa and a transforming friendship — to become a great writer.

