

## 1999 East Coast Music Award Winners

**Male Artist of the Year** — Bruce Guthro

**Female Artist of the Year** — Natalie MacMaster

**Group of the Year** — The Rankins

**Pop/Rock Artist of the Year** — Bruce Guthro

**Alternative Artist/Group of the Year** — SOL

**Jazz Artist/Group of the Year** — Shirley Eikhard

**Blues/Gospel Artist/Group of the Year** — John Campbell/John Trio

**Instrumental Artist/Group of the Year** — Este Mundo

**Country Artist/Group of the Year** — Denise Murray

**Classical Recording of the Year** — David MacDonald, *The Cassavant Organ*

**Roots/Traditional Artist/Group of the Year** — Rawlins Cross

**New Artist/Group of the Year** — Gordie Sampson

**Francophone Recording of the Year** — Blou, *Acadico*

**SOCAN Songwriter of the Year** — Bruce Guthro

**Album of the Year** — *Of Your Son* by Bruce Guthro

**Single of the Year** — "Falling" by Bruce Guthro

**Video of the Year** — "Lukey" by Great Big Sea

**Entertainer of the Year** — Great Big Sea

## Great Big Sea voted Entertainers of the Year

BY KAREN PARKER

This past weekend in St. John's, Great Big Sea won their fourth consecutive East Coast Music Award for Entertainer of the Year. They also picked up Video of the Year, for "Lukey", which was made in Ireland with the Chieftains.

The band, which opened the awards gala with a performance of the hit single "Ordinary Day", from their most recent album, *Play*, were ecstatic.

"I don't think they're going to let us play next year," exclaims Sean McCann.

Alan Doyle expressed his appreciation, adding that the most important people to thank are the fans.

"We have the best fans in Canada and we're the four luckiest guys in Newfoundland right now." Great Big Sea has been

spending much of the past year touring Canada, Europe, and the US, but while they were home for the ECMAs they had a chance to start work on a new album. They're recording in St. John's for about three weeks with producer Steve Berlin, who has worked with such greats as The Tragically Hip.

After that, they're back out on the road again, playing gigs all over the United States in support of *Rant and Roar*, an American release with Sire Records which features songs from both *Up* and *Play*.

They plan to tour Canada this summer in support of their new album, which is tentatively set for a release on June 22. Bass player Darrell Power promises a cross-Canada trek, along with another round of Great Big Picnics in the Atlantic Provinces.

"Sandwiches are being made as we speak."



## Guthro cleans up at ECMAs

BY KAREN PARKER

Bruce Guthro picked up five trophies at the 1999 East Coast Music Awards this past weekend in St. John's. The Cape Breton singer won Male Artist of the Year, Pop/Rock Artist of the Year, SOCAN Songwriter of the Year, Album of the Year, and Single of the Year.

He was asked whether he had a shelf big enough to hold them all. "I'll build a shelf big enough

for five of those," he replied.

The humble singer said he was definitely surprised at winning so many awards, but he was especially shocked at being named Pop/Rock Artist of the Year, since he was up against artists such as Brett Ryan, Gordie Sampson, Melanie Doane, and The Rankins.

"I thought there was an amazing amount of talent in that category. I wasn't expecting it."

## Shocking nudity, graphic violence

### Touki Bouki and the untamed violence of African film

BY ANDREA FOSTER

*Touki Bouki*, the second in a lineup of ten films by black directors from Africa, Europe, and North America, proved to be an interesting glimpse into African film.

Senegalese director Djibril Diop Mambety filmed most of *Touki Bouki* (1973) in Senegal, the Hollywood of West African film making. The African version of *Goin' Down the Road* is a tale of the trials and tribulations of a young couple, Mory and Anta, who dream of leaving Dakar for a more lavish lifestyle in Paris. Along the way the two encounter many eccentric members of contemporary Senegalese society, coming face to face with the discouraging post-colonial economic tide.

The film opens symbolically with the tranquil scene of young boys herding cattle. From there it takes a quick turn to the graphic slaughter of the cows, just a taste of the probing scenes to come, which include strong language and mild nudity.

*Touki Bouki* is littered with surrealism and symbolic imagery, juggling both modern and traditional African themes. This requires the viewer to look at the film from within a cultural context, for without that the meaning is lost.

With dreams of grandeur, Mory and Anta pursue their relentless quest to penetrate 'paradise on earth' — Paris. Escaping the police and stealing their way to paradise, the couple journey via Mory's bull horn-clad motorbike across Africa. Mory and Anta's encounters with all those who cross their path are all entertaining: confused cabbies, gratuitous gays, vexing vagrants and crass cops. In the end, Anta is left to see Paris on her own, as Mory's flight from the police has him miss the boat. Such is the life of he who dreams beyond reality.

Taking *Touki Bouki's* limited budget into account, this film beautifully portrayed Mambety's message. Frequent psychedelic and mystical interludes creatively tied the film's thematic and cultural elements, whetting both the inquisitive and worldly viewer's appetite.

Other films by black directors will continue throughout March, with screenings Wednesdays at 12:30pm and 8pm in the Art Gallery. Admission is free. For more information stop by the Dalhousie Art Gallery located on the lower level of the Arts Centre, Dalhousie University, 6101 University Ave. Or telephone 494-2403.

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