

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FH 5520

STEREO

**SIDE 1**

Serious Bizness  
Where Is The Justice?  
High Rise Tenements  
Undocumented  
Dusting Dreams  
(for Local 1597, DC 37  
AFSCME, AFL-CIO)  
White Powder Dreams  
The No Nuke Song

**SIDE TWO**

Registration  
100% Cotton Dust  
What Happened to the Redman  
Sahel  
Prime Time  
Tchula, Mississippi  
(Slavery in the Delta)  
An American Folk Song  
(Brought to you by Hollywood)

**FOR THOSE WHO FIND IT HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET . . .**

Jaribu and Ngoma Hill, the writers, composers, and performers of Serious Bizness, have been writing and singing contemporary freedom music for the past four years. In the tradition of artists like Bob Marley, Bernice Reagon, Nina Simone, Abbey Lincoln and Pete Seeger, the husband and wife duo blends catchy rhythms, tight harmonies and powerful lyrics into a vibrant message of social change.

Their music, which crosses gospel, blues, rhythm and blues, jazz, folk, and pop, has been heard at street rallies, union halls, college campuses, festivals and clubs. Among their many appearances have been, the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Day Rally on the Washington, D.C. Mall, the June 12th Rally for Nuclear Disarmament in New York's Central Park, the Communication Workers of America's organizing drive in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Clearwater Great Hudson River Revival in Croton, New York.

"Some Songs just help you to forget about your problems but Serious Bizness has songs to help you solve your problems."

PETE SEEGER

"Jaribu and Ngoma are fine contemporary freedom singers. They call themselves 'Serious Bizness,' Nuff said?"

SING OUT MAGAZINE

"Serious Bizness, What is it? It is talent, power, intelligence, fairness and love."

WIANDY SANTIAGO

"Serious Bizness is serious! In these times they are desperately needed! Their new songs are fresh, biting, to the point with no punches pulled! Their sound is driving, powerful, urban, and optimistic—may they continue."

DR. BERNICE REAGON

Credits: All material written and performed by Jaribu and Ngoma Hill; Recording Technician, Paul Blank; Production Assistant, Don Gorman-Jacobs; Photography: Jerry Kearns, LaVell Finerson. Song Script Typist, Wiandy Santiago; Liner Notes, Robert Stulberg and Michelle Green.

This performance was recorded live at Folk City in New York, May 9, 1982, Mother's Day.

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# SERIOUS BIZNESS

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!



JUNE 12 RALLY FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT 1982, CENTRAL PARK,  
PHOTO BY LA VELLE FINERSON

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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STEREO

# SERIOUS BIZNESS

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SYDENHAM HOSPITAL, PHOTO BY JERRY KEARNS

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

# SERIOUS BUSINESS

## FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN DOWN AND OUT...

The creation of Serious Bizness was not entirely an accident. For years Jaribu and Ngoma have been involved in the continuing development of peoples culture. Both were involved in progressive theatre for a number of years and both were and are still today involved in various community struggles and programs. They live in New York City with their two children.

Ngoma Hill, co-writer, acoustic guitarist and singer, studied classical violin in his native Richmond, Va. and Jazz bass at Virginia State University in neighboring Petersburg, Virginia. Although active in Civil Rights struggles in the early sixties, his real political education began as an infantryman in Vietnam. Having survived that experience, Ngoma decided to commit his energies to trying to find solutions to the injustices in society. He describes the duo's songs as "an expression of the real life problems that confront people."

Jaribu Hill, a native of Cleveland, Ohio with a background in professional theatre, gospel and rhythm and blues, adds: "We don't pretend to move mountains with this music or make instant change, because we know that can't happen. But we all need positive images and goals as we struggle on, so Serious Bizness celebrates even the smallest victories."

"So this music is dedicated to our parents, teachers, children (Tengemana & Kianga), friends, and above all to the people whose lives and dreams gave us the words and music."

-- Ngoma and Jaribu

### SERIOUS BUSINESS

1. If you wanna know about our music  
If you wanna know about our song  
If you're ever wonderin why  
We sing about struggle all day long

Refrain: Our music is for people  
who never get enough to eat  
Our music is for people  
who find it hard to make ends meet

2. For that mother on the welfare line  
For that miner in the coal mine  
For that worker with a picket sign  
For children who cannot read  
Denied the things they need

Refrain: Our music is for people  
who never get enough to eat  
Our music is for people  
who find it hard to make ends meet

3. If you've ever been down and out  
then you know just what  
we're singing about  
We are Serious Bizness  
Serious Bizness  
Serious Bizness  
Serious Bizness

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Serious Bizness

### WHERE IS THE JUSTICE

Refrain: Where is the Justice?  
Tell me what is fair  
How come so many  
never get their share?

1. If a bird can be free  
flying high in the sky  
If a mountain lion can be free  
as he climbs the mountain high

If a politician can be free  
after he creates a watergate  
Tell me why must that brother  
go to jail for stealing  
for stealing a loaf of bread?

Refrain: repeat twice

2. If a corporation can make millions  
off the workers sweat and blood  
Tell me why can't that worker  
pay his bills  
at the end of every month?

Refrain: repeat twice

3. If the rich can get a tax break

so they live on easy street  
Tell me why are people starving  
Starving with no food to eat?

Refrain: repeat twice

4. They always say in the USA  
There's human rights and equality  
Well if it's true, oh if it's true  
What about me and what about you

Refrain: repeat twice

5. There's gotta be justice  
It's gotta be fair  
because the many gotta get their share  
There's gotta be justice  
It's gotta be fair  
because the many gotta get their share

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#### HIGH RISE TENEMENTS

Refrain: High Rise tenements  
No sentiments for the residents  
High Rise Tenements  
No sentiments for the residents

1. Rats and Roaches running wild  
Out the window falls a child  
just because there was no rail  
and the window sill was frail

Refrain: repeat twice

2. Brother Johnson froze in bed  
Boiler broke, paint filled with lead  
Asbestos dangling above his head  
at 39 why is he dead?

Refrain: repeat twice

3. Landlord wants to raise the rent

Inflation up 18 percent  
Con-Ed sucks your pocket dry  
Oil bills rising to the sky

Refrain: repeat twice

4. You won't see this on TV  
CBS or ABC  
Censorship of truth denies  
Reality of human cries

Refrain: repeat twice

5. We can stop and start a new  
something good for me and you  
Organize it's time to fight  
For decent housing is our right

Refrain: repeat twice

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#### UNDOCUMENTED

Refrain: Once you've been used  
misused and abused  
They stamp your future illegal  
and deport you

1. You say goodbye to your children  
family and friends  
And travel across the water  
to find that rainbow's end

But what do you find an unemployment line  
What do you find, a migrant workers line  
What do you find, they don't want your kind

Refrain:

2. In a sweat shop  
when there's work to be found  
Slinging food down in China town  
Picking fruit from sun up to sun down  
and when you're done  
They don't want you around

Refrain:

3. They call you an alien  
but this oppression is no stranger  
Cause if you're poor  
You realize you're in danger  
  
Your family is starving across the sea  
Your people here live in poverty  
Once you've been used misused and abused  
They stamp your future illegal and  
deport you
4. Now there's just one thing for us to do  
If we really want to change our lives  
We've got to unify, hey unify  
(repeat twice and stop)

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#### DUSTING DREAMS

This song was written for the N.Y.C.  
Custodial Employees who are members  
of Local 1597, DC 37 AFSCME, Ed Simon,  
President.

It is dedicated to Edward Simon, his  
wife Ruby, and all the members of 1597.

Refrain: Here's to you workin man, workin woman  
cleanin the dust from your dreams  
cleanin your future til it gleams

1. Everybody has a story to tell  
about how the chips in their life fell

Refrain:

2. You clean their buildings  
that scrape the sky  
You watch their limos scurry by  
Cleanin buildings new and old  
Cleanin buildings that the rich control

Refrain:

They try to take you for granted  
as they make their everyday mess  
They know you gotta come behind them  
and clean up their garbage and the rest

They never ever think about  
how you spend your workin time  
They never ever wonder  
how those toilets came to shine

Refrain:

4. But I've seen you walk in dignity  
Proud as you can be  
Cleanin the dust from your dreams  
Cleanin your future til it gleams

Refrain:

5. The floors you scrub  
send your children to school  
So they can have a better life  
in a world that's cruel

Here's to you workin man, workin woman  
Cleanin the dust, Cleanin the dust  
Cleanin your future til it gleams

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#### WHITE POWDER DREAMS

Refrain: Have you seen the zombies  
in the night  
Needles in their veins  
to ease the pain of reality

1. White Powder Dreams  
creep through the seams of reality  
robbing our children  
robbing our children of normality

Refrain:

2. This song was not intended  
to merely entertain you  
Hard facts are often  
ommitted from the menu  
But if you're really with me  
then I'm sure it's not offensive  
Cause life can be a drag  
when your pocket's always empty

Refrain:

3. Young girls turnin tricks  
for slimy pimps  
who think they're slick  
Dope dealers victimize  
children with pretty eyes  
No one hears the babies cryin  
Can't you see the people dyin

Refrain:

4. Scag is a drag,  
kill your mama for a bag  
just to make your body sag  
Chemical warfare  
just because they don't care  
about the children's welfare  
When will it all subside  
this urban genocide  
There is no place to hide

Refrain:

5. Sittin scratchin on the stoop  
deep into a nod,  
twelve year olds  
stretch their arms to god  
Warm rushes up and down their veins  
mainline til they go insane  
You'd best investigate  
the things I'm sayin to you  
cause chemical warfare destroys  
the future

Refrain: once and repeat the first verse

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Refrain: The same thugs  
who brought you Hiroshima  
Cancer and emphysema  
Brought the Indian's annihilation  
unemployment and inflation

Put these criminals on trial  
they are responsible for  
three mile Island

1. They made their mark  
soon there'll be people  
glowin in the dark  
People droppin like flies  
And they won't even hear their cries

2. Cryin out to the money freaks  
but they don't even care  
They're too busy reapin super profits  
from the nuclear warfare

Refrain:

3. Harrisburg wasn't the first  
you know Detroit had it much worst  
how many more will have to die  
while profits rise to the sky

How many more leaks  
just to satisfy the money freaks

Refrain:

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REGISTRATION

Refrain: Goin to war  
But what are we fightin for  
Goin to war  
But what are we fightin for

1. Registration is just a formality  
Cause you know who'll be goin  
in reality

Refrain:

2. Black people are asked to risk their lives  
For a country that denies us human rights  
For this country we have picked up the gun  
But our freedom is yet to be won

Refrain:

3. Now women have never been equal or free  
But at the draft board we can find equality

Refrain:

4. Now we ain't gonna be confused  
And we're sick and tired of bein used  
The Leaders must be insane  
If they think we'll go for this again

Refrain:

5. Now Rockefeller wants his oil  
Reagan got his vote  
But for the workin and the poor  
All we're fightin for is a promissory note

Refrain:

War, War, what are we fightin for  
(Repeat 4 times and stop)

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### 100% COTTON

1. The same crop  
that broke the back of the slave  
is trying to take  
your breath away

100% Cotton Dust  
will take your breath away  
and turn your lungs to rust

2. You're smothering, you're choking,  
when you stop to catch your breath  
they say you're loafing  
100% Cotton Dust  
will take your breath away  
and turn your lungs to rust

3. We've all seen the label  
in the clothes that we buy  
100% Cotton is the quality  
that catches our eye  
But there's another side to this story  
that we seldom ever hear  
the workers who are spoolin, weavin,  
pickin that cotton  
are in some danger that is real

4. The mill owners tried to hide it  
J.P. Stevens tried to deny it  
But when the real story is told  
this cotton dust is out of control  
100% Cotton Dust  
will take your breath away  
and turn your lungs to rust

5. You're tired, you gettin lean  
You get your air  
from a breathing machine  
You're feeling faint, gettin weak  
and at times it's even hard  
for you to speak

6. That stain on your lungs is testament  
that you have given 100%  
but where's your compensation  
for all your years of contamination  
100% Cotton Dust  
will take your breath away  
and turn your lungs to rust

Fade out on the very first verse  
(beginning with The same crop...)

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RED MAN?

Refrain: What happened to the Red Man  
Didn't this used to be his land  
What happened to the Red Man  
Didn't this used to be his land

1. Why don't you sit yourself down  
I'm gonna tell you a story bout  
the Red Man  
Sit yourself down  
I'm gonna tell you a story bout  
Native land

History books, never tell the truth  
They cover it with lies  
to keep it from you  
Sit yourself down  
I'm gonna tell you a story bout  
the Red Man

2. They took his land and his life  
killed his children and raped his wife  
What happened to the Red Man  
Didn't this used to be his land?  
What happened to the Red Man  
Didn't this used to be his land?

3. Now the Indian was kind  
the Indian was good  
He gave those settlers  
everything he could  
Showed them how to plow the land  
and how to til the soil  
He gave them a helping hand  
many years ago

Refrain:

4. Now what did those settlers have to say  
When they came on their boats  
from so very far away  
We wanna be friends with you,  
We wanna be neighbors too  
We want to learn from you,  
We want to civilize you

5. Give us your corn and some land  
Won't you give us a helping hand  
We wanna be friends with you,  
We wanna be neighbors too  
We want to learn from you,  
We want to civilize you

6. Give us your silver,  
turquoise and diamonds  
We've got cheap labor and we  
can mine them  
We wanna be friends with you,  
We wanna be neighbors too,  
We want to learn from you,  
We want to civilize you

7. Now this is the story bout  
the rich and the greedy  
how they made a pact  
with a phoney treaty  
How they stole the land  
from the red man  
There is blood all over their hands

Refrain:

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OH SAHEL

Refrain: This is a land where the  
rain never falls  
This is a land where the  
crops all rot  
This is a land where the  
vultures fly high  
This is a land where children die  
Oh Sahel, Oh Sahel, Oh Sahel

1. If on the news you heard the story  
about brown babies hungry and cold  
If on the news you heard the story  
about young mothers dying before  
they're old

Refrain:

2. If on the news you heard the story  
about the drought and starvation  
death and despair  
If on the news you heard the story  
bout the dry land where life is scarce

Refrain:

3. Those in power blot out  
the peoples' needs  
let's take a stand against  
this greed  
There are millions more to feed

Refrain:

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PRIME TIME

- Refrain: We're not Charlie's Angels  
And we're never seen on Prime Time  
Instead of chasing criminals  
in Hollywood  
We're out here workin on the line

1. When we go to work each day  
We get the same low pay  
And we put in our time  
On that brutal assembly line

Refrain:

2. Just because we're women  
No special treatment do we receive  
And we lose our jobs  
When we're out on maternity leave

Refrain:

3. You might call me a woman  
Your wife, your lover or your friend  
But the bosses call me a worker  
And exploit us both in the end

Refrain:

4. Now we're never on the cover  
of Essence  
Cosmopolitan or Seventeen  
And our story's never told  
never been told on the movie screen

Refrain:

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SLAVERY IN THE DELTA

- Refrain: Tchula, Mississippi  
Plantation Town  
whole lotta slavery  
still goin down  
Tchula, Mississippi  
Plantation Town  
whole lotta struggle  
to turn it around

1. I got a story, a story to tell  
'bout the people of Tchula  
cause they're catching hell  
In this delta town, mostly black  
the plantation owners tried to  
take it back

Refrain:

2. Have you heard about Mayor Carthan  
and the Tchula 7?  
How they fought for the people,  
how they took a stand  
Struggled against the plantation  
owners' racist plan  
tried to bring about freedom  
throughout the land

Refrain:

3. Well, Tchula, Mississippi  
is a horrible tale  
how the Klan vigilante  
threw the mayor in jail  
You may think that this happened  
hundred years ago but it was 1981  
not a minute before



Refrain: once

4. Well they barracaded City Hall  
tried to back the mayor  
against the wall  
You know the governor and the klan  
oh yes they stood hand in hand  
They put the mayor on trial,  
cause they didn't like his style

Refrain:

5. They don't care about the  
voter rights act  
what we gained in the 60's  
they're takin it back  
You may think that this  
happened 100 years ago  
but it was 1981 not a  
minute before

Refrain:

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AN AMERICAN FOLK SONG BROUGHT  
TO YOU BY HOLLYWOOD

Refrain: Out of the wild, wild west  
with a six gun in each hand  
Hollywood sends Reagan  
with a master plan  
Cut off all the money,  
build the war machines  
Keep those cameras rolling,  
I'm the American Dream

1. All of you mothers  
waiting for your welfare check  
the next time you go to your mailbox  
won't be nothing there  
All of you elderly  
waiting for your security  
What Reagan's got in mind  
will leave you on the poverty line

Refrain:

2. This is America  
sweet as Apple Pie  
So what if 28 Black Children  
happen to die

3. This is America  
Sweet as Sugar Cane  
What about the Buffalo "6"  
Whose lives have been claimed

4. What about the young black body  
hanging from the tree  
and what about the millions of lives  
lost cause of greed

Refrain:

5. Take your sons out of school  
put them on the line  
Send them to El Salvador  
the next Viet Nam  
They don't care about your life  
or the way you live  
They don't care about the blood  
and tears that you shed

Refrain:

6. Patco helped you fly  
high in the friendly skies  
Now the skies ain't so friendly  
with Reagonomics on the rise

Striking is a worker's right  
for safe work and better pay  
We gotta fight real hard  
don't let Reagan take it away

Refrain:

7. We're not scared of Reagan,  
we've all gotten wise  
We're taking it to the streets,  
it's time to organize  
The moral to this story  
we hope you'll realize  
If we want victory  
we'll have to organize