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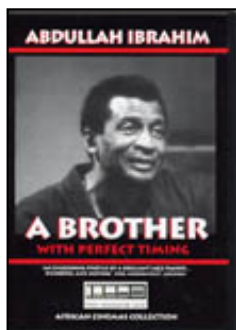
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## DVD Video Reviews

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### Abdullah Ibrahim - A Brother With Perfect Timing

*Documentary on the South African pianist-composer better known as Dollar Brand*



#### Abdullah Ibrahim - A Brother With Perfect Timing

**Produced by:** Chris Austin & Gill Bond  
**Studio:** Maverick Film Works/Music Video Distributors

**Video:** 4:3 full screen

**Audio:** PCM stereo

**Length:** 90 minutes

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*

This documentary will be of great interest to any jazz buffs who know and appreciate the many superb recordings from this great South African pianist and composer. Originally coming to fame as Dollar Brand, for years he has gone by the name Abdullah Ibrahim (but the documentary mentions nothing of his Muslim conversion). One of the unique voices in African Jazz, Ibrahim has incorporated the complex rhythms and some of the lovely tunes of his heritage into a mainstream modern jazz style that is as sophisticated as his present home of New York City. A good part of the film consists of Ibrahim seated near his upright piano in his apartment and talking about life in Cape Town and playing occasional musical examples on the piano. Some of his enthusiastic stories are illustrated with dramatized episodes on the streets of Cape Town. One example is how the ordinary tourist passing thru would never notice all the undercover dealing and business going on, such as people playing the numbers game. One player walks down an alley with his money in his hand and a manhole suddenly raises up and an arm grabs it, the lid coming down after.

Intercut with some of Ibrahim's interesting stories about the music and the culture are excerpts from a filmed concert his band gave at New York's Sweet Basil club. In some cases the tunes are finished versions of

melodies he had been picking out on the piano. There are also scenes of rehearsals with some of his fellow African jazz musicians. The sound is good and most of the images are fine, although the scenes with Ibrahim in his apartment would have benefitted from some lighting.

- John Henry

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