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## Joan Armatrading In Europe

Joan Armatrading was not surprised to find the sign on her dressing room door in Nuremberg, Germany, read "John Armstrong." The veteran singer/songwriter is used to a lack of recognition among promoters and booking agents (The New York Times recently described her as "perhaps the best unknown pop star in the business").

However, Miss Armatrading's current tour of Europe and Great Britain indicates that this confusion does not extend to her fans. Most of the 49 dates on the tour have been SRO and the critical raves are pouring in non-stop. "The star gives a lesson in music," was the opinion of the Hamburger of Hamburg, Germany. "She was brilliant and her musicians were stars themselves." Der Spiegel, Germany's major news magazine, called Joan Armatrading an "idol."

Joan Armatrading's European agenda, her second major headlining tour of the continent, encompassed 26 dates in eight countries, with 15 concerts in Germany. According to her personal manager, Michael Stone, the rock-oriented material from Armatrading's new A & M Records LP, Me, Myself, I (just released in the U.S.) has increased her following among younger people. "We just played

an SRO show in Vienna," Stone related, "and the audience ranged from thirteen into the 40's. The young people were standing and dancing up front, and the older people were sitting quietly and enjoying the beat in the music."

The highlight of the European tour to date was Joan Armatrading's televised performance at the Rock Palast in Essen, Germany. In addition to the 10,000 fans in the hall, the concert was beamed to a potential audience of 700 million people in eight countries, including Germany, France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Armatrading's new band includes some of rock's finest, notably former Eric Clapton sideman Dick Sims and former Little Feat member Richie Hayward. Hayward agreed to make the tour despite seriously injuring his leg in a motorcycle crash, and being informed by one doctor that he would never walk again. "We're providing his therapy," explains Michael Stone.

The Armatrading itinerary concludes with 23 dates in Great Britain, where the West Indian-born artist has a massive following. Perhaps, by the time Joan Armatrading returns to America, promoters and booking agents will get her name right.