



BAI KAMARA

The Urban Gipsy



Bai Kamara Jr, the Sierra Leone born singer/songwriter from Brussels, just finished another rather successful year promoting his latest urban soul album *Urban Gipsy*, of which the singles *Substitute* and *Urban Gipsy* got an extremely positive reception, with airplay on national radio stations and a highly acclaimed response by the audience.

This only consolidates a rising trend, that includes highlights as openings for *Vaya Con Dios*, *Cassandra Wilson*, *Keziah Jones* and *Youssou N'dour*, over the past years, as well as mini-tours in *Spain*, *France*, *Ireland* and *the UK*, numerous festivals like the *Gentse Feesten*, *Brussels' Jazz Marathon*, the *Francofolies*, *Budapest Beach Festival*, *Couleur Café* and performances at the *national holiday royal celebration "C'est du Belge"* (with symphonic orchestra), as well as the closing ceremony of the *festivities for 175 years of Belgium*.

With *Urban Gipsy* and his previous acoustic album *Living Room* in his pocket (of which the singles *Downtown St. Josse* and *The Powers That Govern Us* didn't pass unnoticed), Bai is on the verge of his breakthrough, and ready to hit the road again.

Bai's compositions are a blend of soul, pop, jazz, rock & funk in an unique form, with the typical Bai Kamara Jr. touch.

Exactly due to his diversity and independence, he can offer about any atmosphere desired, varying from acoustic solo concerts, to funky grooving shows with a five-piece group of extremely talented musicians.



Enclosed you'll find a short biography and extra details.
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URBAN GIPSY - BIOGRAPHY



At the foreword of his album *Urban Gipsy*, singer/songwriter *Bai Kamara Jr.* says: "(...) the musical shape, form or direction of this record was unknown, but I knew exactly what result I didn't want. With the help of the musicians and technicians who contributed to this project we found a direction and a vibe: "cool" was the operative word."

... and "cool" it is: a laid back interpretation of urban city life that wanders through paths and back doors, to get to private intimate places some of us has been before and others get a first introduction to, in a smooth, hassle free way, entranced by tones and vibes of the life of an urban gipsy.

All this in 14 songs, written, performed and produced by Bai Kamara Jr.

Based on his life in Brussels, Bai's typical jazzy urban soul funk, is a guarantee to discover the city life with integrity, awe, amazement, and honesty, via "quiet observations at the central station", passing "crying angels", "beautiful loves" and with "hopes for a peaceful change for a world that has gone insane".

The songs speak for themselves and that's why, even though the album has been recorded already a while ago, the music still sounds fresh and contemporary.

For the renowned label Bang! Music it was reason enough to release the CD to the public.

The singles of the album, *Substitute* and *Urban Gipsy*, got an extremely positive reception with airplay on national radio stations like Radio 21 and Radio 1, and a highly acclaimed response by the audience, just like their predecessors *Downtown St. Josse* and *The Powers That Govern Us* of his previous album *Living Room*.

Bai Kamara Jr. was born in Bo Town, Sierra Leone on December 2nd 1966.

He grew up partially in Africa and partially in the United Kingdom.

In 1990 he arrived in Brussels, originally starting out as a very demanded songwriter for local groups, but in the same year he formed already one of his own bands, called *Odex Protocole*, with a rather successful national and international career, a couple of years later followed by a blues funk project called *Aramakiab*.

In 1999 Bai started doing more and more solo gigs, which resulted in his acoustic album *Living Room*, released in 2002. *Living Room* portrayed the momentum of Bai as an artist and actually revealed his entire personal being: it's a very honest and personal record.

While promoting the album all over the country in the local club scene with an acoustic trio, he also had the audience savor samples of his large catalogue of compositions each with appropriate arrangements in various line-ups, not in the least with his full band.

This band had already taken part over the years in the recordings of his album *Urban Gipsy* when the final mixes were done for a release in 2005.

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Besides some summer festivals like the *Francofolies* and concerts in *Paris* and *Spain* of that year, Bai could be seen at the closing ceremony of the *festivities for 175 years of Belgium* and as opening act of *Vaya Con Dios*. The latter was a direct result of Bai's songwriter partnership with *Dani Klein*.

Before that there were plenty of other noteworthy performances like, the massive *Couleur Café* festival in Brussels, a special show at the *Gentse Feesten* with occasional artists brought together by *Jo Bogaert* (amongst them *Gabriel Rios*), an appearance on July 21st for the *national holiday royal celebration "C'est du Belge"*, performing his songs with a symphonic orchestra amongst other Belgian celebrities, and opening up for numerous artists like *Youssou N'dour*, *Habib Koité & Bamada*, *Keziah Jones* and *Cassandra Wilson*... a concert which has been named as "a perfect match".

Also audiences at the *Budapest Beach Festival* got to enjoy Bai's driven performances.

Bai's dedicated commitment to the problems in the world, got portrayed more than once, like in his contribution to *Amnesty International's* project against the death penalty, which resulted in an album featuring one of Bai's songs, written especially for the project.

Years before, He also did the lead part in a project of the *UNHCR* (UN Commission for Refugees), who put a show together for their 50th Anniversary, performing in Geneva, Montreal and London.

Out of that show, he got chosen as one of the 13th artist to go to Senegal, to work with *Youssou N'dour* for a compilation record with the *Refugee Voices*, called *Building Bridges*.

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