



# BAI KAMARA

The Urban Gipsy



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**Bai Kamara Jr.**, the Sierra Leone born singer/songwriter from Brussels, just finished another rather successful period promoting his latest acoustic intimate soul album *Living Room*, of which the singles *Downtown St. Josse* and *The Powers That Govern Us* got a extremely positive reception with airplay on national radiostations and a highly acclaimed response by the audience.

Several other highlights pursue this rising trend, amongst which his *Living Room "Theater" Show*, successful openings for *Youssou N'dour*, *Habib Koité*, *Keziah Jones* and *Cassandra Wilson*, mini-tours in *Ireland*, the *UK* and *Spain*, an occasional concert at the *Boogie Town Festival* with *Virus B-23* and events like a special performance at the *Gentse Feesten*, *Brussels Jazz Marathon*, *Budapest Beach Festival*, *Couleur Café* and the *National Holiday* (with symphonic orchestra).

Bai is on the verge of his breakthrough, getting ready for the release of his next album, *Urban Gipsy*, featuring his full band.

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.

Visit Bai's website on at [www.baikamara.com](http://www.baikamara.com) for more info, or contact us directly:

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### LIVING ROOM/INTRINSIC EQUILIBRIUM - BIOGRAPHY

At the release of his *Living Room/Intrinsic Equilibrium* album, singer-songwriter *Bai Kamara Jr.* stated: "After two years of solo and some duet gigs I thought it was appropriate for me to make an acoustic album, which hopefully represents what I have done for the past two years."

The record did not only portray the momentum of Bai as an artist; it actually reveals his entire personal being. "I wanted to record this album at home for so many reasons (but) first and foremost I wanted to capture the moods and vibes I wouldn't be able to recreate or capture in a studio environment. (...) I wanted my friends to be around, not business persons."

"It is a very honest and personal record."

It resulted in an intimate 12-track album, with a variety of soulful and funky acoustic songs, written, sung and played by Bai Kamara Jr. and on several tracks accompanied by talented musicians like *Eric Moens* (guitar), *Thierry Rombaux* (bass) and *Nader Hamid* (guitar).

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*.

This band was inspired by R&B, soul, funk and rock, which they blended into their own successful funky soul-mix. They played national and international concerts and festivals, opened up for big name bands and musicians, released two records and made it to national and international TV shows.

On the side, Bai worked on a blues funk project called *Aramakiab*, which resulted in a band that played in the Brussels' bar and club circuit.

In 1999 Bai started doing more and more solo gigs.

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*.

In February 2002 he started recording his acoustic album *Living Room* and signed a deal with *Progress Music*, that released the record in June.

For the presentation, Bai launched his *Living Room Show*, a combination of a concert, real life and small scale theatre; the life of musicians, the life of the Urban Gipsy. Performing his songs on stage in the setting of his living room during an afterparty amongst friends and with interference of the neighbours.

While promoting his record all over the country in the local club scene with an acoustic trio, he also had the audience savour samples of his large catalogue of compositions in various line-ups (from solo to full band), each with appropriate arrangements.

This was nicely portrayed towards the end of 2002 with a mini-tour in Ireland and with a well-received opening for *Youssou N'dour* in the AB in Brussels.

The year 2003 introduced even more highlights.

*Downtown St. Josse* and *The Powers That Govern Us*, songs of his acoustic album, were on the playlists of the national radio stations *Radio 21* and *Radio 1*.

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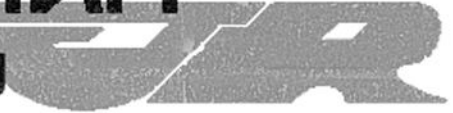
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In May, Bai performed together with *Virus B-23* (the new band of *Steven de Bruyn & Jan Leven* of *El Fish*) at the *Boogie Town Festival*. It was an occasional project between talented musicians that combined their music for an unique performance; well appreciated by the audience, the performers portrayed themselves as a solid group, as if they had been playing together for years and astounded the audience with their fresh groovy boogie music, standing out from the other blues groups with their style, much to the liking of all the listeners.

Towards the end of that month, Bai played the *Jazz Marathon* for the 4th time.

*Le Soir* wrote: Même si, sur la "plus belle place du monde", le "plus beau jazz du monde" (...), ne parvient pas à faire swinguer les statues. Bien plus tard, dans la soirée, elles se rattraperont avec le funk torride du Bai Kamara Quartet au Café de Bruxelles.

The year after he would end up on the big stage of that festival.

Other noteworthy performances were the openings for *Habib Koité & Bamada*, *Keziah Jones*, 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 Rioz*), and an appearance on July 21st for the *National Holiday*, performing his songs with a symphonic orchestra amongst other Belgian celebrities and opening up this year for *Cassandra Wilson*... a concert which has been named as "a perfect match".

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

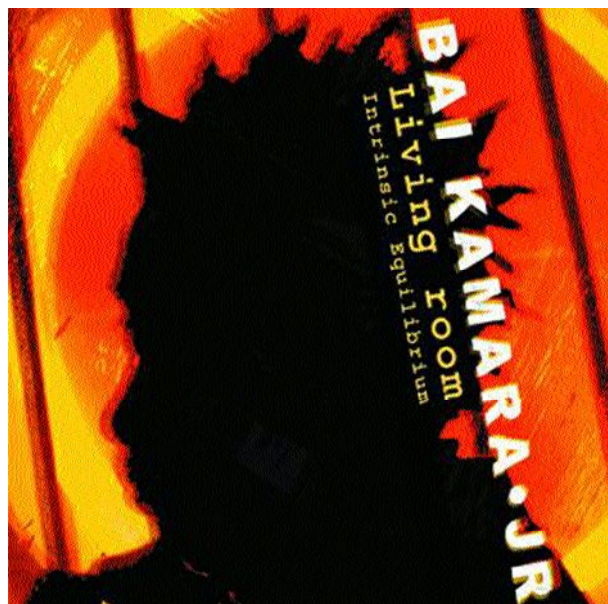
Bai's dedicated commitment to the problems in the world, got portrayed once more in his contribution to *Amnesty International's* project against the death penalty, which resulted in an album featuring one of Bai's songs, written especialy for the project.

Meanwhile, Bai's finished up the final mixes of his new *Urban Gipsy* album, which has been recorded over the past time with a full band, to have it released in March 2005.

The first single, *Substitute*, got once again a well received airplay on the national radio stations.

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