



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



“My musical and artistic journey has now led me to this pivotal stage of my career where the **Salone** project (which means Sierra Leone in the Krio language) finally allows me to delve into my African roots and more specifically that of Sierra Leone, my country of origin. Never before had I had the strength to undertake this work. *Salone* is also the title of my new blues and roots album, and **The Voodoo Sniffers** is the name of my new band.

Although I was born in Sierra Leone, I have never played or made music in Africa. My first steps into the world of music were made while at school in England. As a professional musician, it was Belgium that gave birth to me. Though I was predestined to live my childhood, adolescence and adult life between the continents of Africa and Europe, the rhythms and sounds of Africa have always lived in me.

Artistically, the making of this album (where I played all the instruments and sang all the voices) was a spiritual, joyful, refreshing and rewarding introspection. I put all my heart and soul into it. As the blues has always been at the heart of my artistic journey, it was the obvious and perfect vehicle to express my feelings and musical inspirations for this expedition into the roots of my African heritage...”

Bai Kamara Jr

Listen to the album:





BIOGRAPHY

A warm, funky voice, but just as sober and intimate. Bai Kamara Jr's music is a mix of soul, blues, funk, R&B and jazz influences.

Bai Kamara Jr, son of the former Sierra Leonean ambassadress in Belgium, who grew up in the United Kingdom and has lived in Brussels for over 25 years, is a committed singer-songwriter who reveals his African origins in his music. He has shared the stage with international artists such as Habib Koité, Cassandra Wilson, Rokia Traoré, was the opening act of Vanessa Paradis' *Love Songs International Tour* in 2014 (25 dates) and sang in duo with Dani Klein from Vaya Con Dios as well as being her supporting act.

His involvement with NGOs has led to a collaboration with the world star Youssou N'Dour. Two of Bai's songs were recorded by the Spanish director Paco Torres for the film *El Vuelo Del Tren (The Magic of Hope)*. Bai is a brilliant composer who shows his very diverse musical talent in his five albums (*Living Room, Urban Gipsy, Disposable Society, This Is Home and Mystical Survivors*).

His new CD *Salone* was released on January 24, 2020, on the German record label Moosicus / MIG Music.

THE VOODOO SNIFFERS



TOM BEARDSLEE (ELECTRIC GUITAR)

Tom, a native of the American Midwest, is a musician, teacher and world music specialist. He currently lives in Belgium and has traveled around the US, Europe and Africa where he played with Sekouba Bambino, Missia Saran and many others.



JULIEN TASSIN (ELECTRIC GUITAR)

Julien graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels where he studied guitar with Paolo Radoni. His experiences allow him to define a unique style, borrowing as much from the Blues as from Jazz and Rock.



DÉSIRÉ SOME (BASS)

Originally from Burkina Faso, Désiré is a self-taught bassist and guitarist. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. Désiré leads African music workshops and multiplies artistic encounters within various musical projects.



PATRICK DORCEAN (DRUMS)

Patrick 'the Razor' Dorcean is a graduate of the Conservatoire de Liège, and also a producer. He has worked with Ida Nielsen (Prince), Divinity Roxx (Beyonce), Reggie Washington, Zap Mama, Jesse Boykins III and many others.

VIDEOS

Live Teaser



Can't Wait Here Too Long
(official video)



Lady Boss (official video)



Homecoming (live)



Cry Baby (live)



Don't Worry About Me
(solo live version)



PRESS



" Hauntingly beautiful throughout...and strongly recommended.
If you're looking for something different, this is definitely it! "

Blues Blast Magazine (USA)

" To be discovered urgently "



Rolling Stone Magazine (France)

" Simply magnificent! "

Blues Magazine (France)

" Bai Kamara Jr. delivers with this album a pretty
impressive sample of world blues! "

Bluestown Music (Netherlands)

" Kamara's dark and beautiful voice opens up
spaces beyond the narrower boundaries of blues "

NDR (Germany)

" An elegant Afro-Blues "

Le Vif (Belgium)

" Salone is a downright fascinating piece of work
which deserves to be heard "

Philly Cheeze's Rock & Blues Reviews (USA)

" Bai Kamara Jr. & The Voodoo Sniffers have simply
made the best blues record of the past year "

Lira (Sweden)

" A strong collection of songs with subtle yet
excellently judged arrangements and production "

Get Ready To Rock (UK)

" Bai Kamara Jr. deserves his place on the bill of the
big festivals "

Back to The Roots Magazine (Belgium)

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SALONE

“Bai Kamara Jr., singer, guitarist and musician from Sierra Leone via Brussels, where he currently resides, can hardly be considered a bluesman. At least not in the true sense of the term that characterizes the people of Black America who shared the burden of second-class citizenship in times of segregation and discrimination. Yet, after a successful career as a soul/R&B artist on the European scene, Bai now feels the need to return to the roots of his art and confront them with his own heritage.

His latest effort, entitled *Salone*, may not be a blues album per se, but it shares with the blues its most prized attribute: narrative. The blues, in its original context, was a way of expressing hard-won joys in a world of abundant sadness, of loud complaints behind the mask of a forced smile. Inspired by the musical grammar of models like John Lee Hooker or Big Bill Broonzy, Bai Kamara does just that when he sings his own moments of happiness and mourning. His finely crafted lyrics are luminous windows on his daily life that echo our own thoughts and memories. A simple listen to “Morning School Run” will resonate with any parent, just as “Homecoming” - the melancholy memory of a seed planted in his parents’ yard as a child that became a majestic tree in his absence - beautifully translates into words the dull feelings awakened by nostalgia. Each of these pieces is a time capsule, carefully staged in a falsely minimalist setting. The fact that Bai plays every instrument here is further proof of the sensitivity and originality of the man. All in all, *Salone* is more than just another homage to the spirit of the blues: it is proof that Bai Kamara is a poet and creator to be reckoned with.”

Sébastien Danchin

Musician, artistic producer and specialist in African-American culture. He has published several reference biographies as well as the Encyclopedia of Rhythm and Blues and Soul.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SALONE

"Beyond its role as entertainment, music can sometimes give the listener a sense of truth that goes beyond the performer's singularity and provides almost therapeutic pleasure. It is in this sense that Bai Kamara can be described as a 'healer' in the great African-American tradition.

Let us listen to it more closely:

While the musical elements are obvious (melodies and blue notes, harmonies, rhythmic foundations, inflections and literary themes of the Blues, mostly rooted in African roots), various borrowings from sister musics give a pleasant colour to the arrangements: folk guitars in "Riverboat Blues", "Don't Worry about Me" and "The Rest of Everything", more rock in "Fortune" joining the Chicago Blues, swing chaloupé in "Can't Wait Here Too Long".

That Bai K is part of the evolving bluesmen tradition from Big Bill Broonzy to Taj Mahal and Keb Mo does not prevent him from being recognizable by his voice timbre and this from the first note. In this respect, the sound qualities of the production are to be commended: sound recording and mixing are remarkable and provide a real stamp of authenticity and proximity. It is no coincidence that every time I listen to the chorus of the voice of "Can't Wait Here Too Long" I find myself searching in the room where this intriguing second voice comes from. As the phenomenon is reproduced in "Lady Boss", it can be said that this is a voluntary (trade) mark on the part of the artist... In "Black Widow Spider" and "Homecoming" among others, luminous percussion instruments perfectly blending with the guitar and bass are invited; in the first track, we are surprised by breaks in rhythmic continuity, as if the mixing work were not finished, but, like the small spots of rot painted on the ripe fruit of a Dutch master's still life, these false defects remind us that life to develop fully does not need perfection, quite the opposite. Finally, listening to Bai K, we feel a humanitarian generosity that does not need to be explained by an agreed speech and that is part of what Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed on 28 August 1963: "I have a dream that one day the nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Marc Hérouet

Composer, pianist, teacher and great specialist in blues and jazz



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