



Artist Information

Label: self released with Ghetto Lounge support

Genre: Afro Funk

Hometown: London

Influences: James Brown/ Michael Jackson/
Fela Kuti/ The Ramblers Dance Band

Biography

Afla Sackey & Afrik Bawantu has been captivating audience with Sackey's musical creations since the band was formed in 2006. Vibrant percussion accompanied by high-powered bass lines and roaring brass combine to create their own take on **Afrofunk /Afro jazz/ Afrobeat** fusion with an energy that drives audiences to dance floors.

Afla Sackey handpicked talented graduates from the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and SOAS University to form the band.

Today the band has achieved a unique sound with a line-up of varied instruments and musicians from Ghana, Nigeria, Spain, Israel, England, Greece, South Africa, Italy, Finland and France, enhancing the cross-cultural collaboration.

Afla Sackey

Ghanaian-born percussionist, vocalist and composer started his creative life as a dancer and a musician with the Salamta dance ensemble and Bukom Ensemble of Ghana, known for their folk-driven rhythms. Sackey's elders soon recognised the musical potential of this youth and encouraged him with careful guidance and training.

Afla's talent has been recognised by many well-established musicians whom he has collaborated with and played as a session musician. Great artists such as Sun Ra, Ginger Baker, Shaun Kuti, Sons of Kemet, Tony Allen, Yaaba Funk, Dele Sosimi & the Afrobeat Orchestra and many more.



The Music

The band is working on their new album "Destination" due in 2018. It represents songwriter's ambition for the band to take it to the next level.

Their debut album 'Life on the Street' was released in 2014. The following words describe Afla's choice for the title song and the name of the album:

"In Africa, in Ghana I have seen so, so many homeless people! Thus when I was coming to Europe I thought it will be different, but to my surprise it was not. Through what I have witnessed and documentaries I watched, which really got me, about how homeless people turn to violence because of necessity, really inspired me!"

Educational Projects

Afla has been teaching African and Latin percussion and movement for 20 years. With a Master's Degree in Music Leadership from the Guildhall, he has more recently extended his teaching activities – as a dance and music facilitator – to UK primary and secondary schools, orchestras, the disabled and elderly, both in the UK and abroad. He has successfully led several innovative and creative projects from Indonesia to Istanbul, and also worked with the National University of Singapore (Yong Su Tong Music Conservatoire) and the University College of Kobe in Japan.

Music venues

XOYO
SOAS
Jazz Cafe
Rich Mix
The Forge
Hootananny
Bedroom Bar
Fox and Firkin
Passing Clouds
Hifi Club Leeds
Charlie Wrights
The Rest is Noise
The Crypt Jazz Club
Upstairs @ The Ritzy

Past Performances

BBC Outlook Inspirations Awards
Africa on the Square Festival
London African Festival
Jam'in Jette Festival
Secret Garden Party
Green Man Festival
Fieldview Festival
Freedom Festival
BBC Global Beats
Isle of Man Fest
Africa Utopia
Back2Black
Shambala

Videos

[Africa on the Square](#)
[Interview with Afla](#)
[Back2Black Festival](#)
[Sofar Sounds](#)

*"The stunningly international 10-piece [Afrik Bawantu] band take traditional Ghanaian music and scorching Afro-beat grooves and give them a funky fusion twist." **TIME OUT***

*"Afrik Bawantu blends vibrant African percussions to a funky horn section, spreading their Afro Funk energy to everyone in the audience." **THE BARBICAN***

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