

raj and the queen



Electro Rock Fusion [France/Réunion]

www.rajandthequeen.com



Hallucinatory and dreamlike, Raj and the Queen is a return to the future of “Psychedelic music”: Electro, Jazz, Deep rock, or Psyched Hip-Hop collide to form a unique and unstoppable waveform.

Raj and the Queen is an alchemical formula imagined by the guitarist-singer-composer Oliv Cartade, accompanied by the volcanic saxophonist-flutist Luc Joly and the ornate drums of Gérome Geney, to transform the art of improvisation into a brassy and mesmerizing looped by loopers and machines.

With its second opus “In Utero Memories” (2023), an album of 8 tracks that goes straight to the point, Raj and the Queen leads into a hard-hitting, sensual and cinematic fusion of Electro rhythms, captivating melodies, Jungle grooves with samples of choice.

In concert, the guitar and woodwind riffs build the rhythmic base on which the Voice Lead lays its flow with the groove of a cat always landing on its paws. A modern, unifying, fresh and resolutely woody sound, syncopated and melodic, punctuated by choice guests and projections immersing the audience in legends and reveries.



Radio RLP :

“The formula is simple but unstoppably effective: sax riffs for the framework, bass sounds and rudimentary psychedelic samples elaborated with finesse, a chanted Hip-Hop voice. In concert, Raj and the Queen works at full capacity and does not let anyone leave without having given them a deeper and more smiling idea of life. In In utero Memories, the trio raises the level, faithful to psychedelic rock asceticism, but with more punch than in their first EP, judicious feats and a production that has gained muscle.”



Boulimique de musique sur le morceau **Mata Hari** :

“An electro-rock composition with oriental sounds endowed with hypnotic and slightly psychedelic qualities. The stimulating polyrhythm of this highly evolving instrumental piece captivates the attention from the first bars. A sensuality imbued with mystery surrounds this musical creation which recalls Ramasutra, Niyaz, Nils Petter Molvaer and the Chemical Brothers. This amalgamation of influences and sounds of great musicality should delight epicureans !”



Live 'Raj did not save the Queen'
RondaTiRoule



Live 'Mata Hari'
Ronda Tiroule



Clip
Mata Hari



Interview
KazNatur



Clip
Pantera



New Album “In Utero Memories” (2023)



Listen

Recording : studio MDC (974)
Mix : Léo Lataste
Mastering : RunRunRecords
Artwork : Aurel DeSaintAndré
Distribution : Le Baluch

TRACKLIST

01 SEX ON THE ROCKS

'Sex on the rocks' introduces this journey with a mineral encounter, lulled by the sound of beating waves and lit by a half-veiled moon. The exchanges between the sax, synths and guitar guide us towards a promising osmosis on the rest of the album. The sax solos at the end of the piece twist the genes to materialize a beautiful spiral of DNA.

02 IN UTERO MEMORIES

The cosmic serpent 'in utero memories' twists and turns in the enclosed triangular uterine space. Both receptive to stimuli, it absorbs external waves and transcribes them into the genes of a fetus. This climate of weightlessness transports our pre-natal memories to the psychedelic waves of the 70s.

03 CLONES

The 'clones' are present and in maximum zombie state. Shoddy officers govern them, following the recommendations of their own superiors to the letter. Keep your senses alert so as not to fall into their 'total screen' psyche.

04 JAILBREAK

'Jailbreak' commemorates those imprisoned by and in their phones. The song describes the escape from a digital prison. Only imagination and creation manage to file down the bars of this prison.

05 RAJ DID NOT SAVE THE QUEEN

This piece takes us right into the delivery room. "Madam, Sir, I have the pleasure to announce to you two beautiful fraternal twins. Raj on the left and the future Queen on the right. Raj will make a point of not claiming her. A nod to the London punk community of the 80s.

06 LIFE IS A CIRCUS

The 6th song takes us to the heights on a magic carpet, dominating all the agitation at "zero altitude". A classy escape from this great circus.

07 INDIGNATION

This piece, in homage to Stéphane Hessel and his essay "Indignez-vous!", takes up, through music and choice lyrics, the denunciation of wealth inequalities and the stigmatization of the weight of the financial world in political choices.

08 MATA HARI

An electronic ode to the dancer-spy Mata Hari. The sounds of this last piece establish the group's oriental inspirations. The clip featuring a dancer giving an enigmatic and voluptuous touch to the piece.

OLIV CARTADE

Vocals, guitar, synths, composition

Native from Reunion, guitarist and traveler, he is interested in all forms of culture of peoples who sing, dance and tell stories.

Coming from initial training in classical guitar, music theory and harmony at the Grenoble conservatory, he discovered particular attractions for flamenco, jazz, Indian music and oriental music. It studies the historical understanding and technical principles of these styles. He returned to settle in Reunion in 2001, the land of his family on his mother's side.

Travels to Morocco, India, Madagascar and Latin America made him discover other forms of perception of music, played through rites, ceremonies, and other celebrations, as well as other systems of writing and transmission.

The search for sounds off the beaten track constitutes his leitmotif and a research process, drawn either through traditional instruments and voices, sometimes electrified, or synthesized analog waves.

These experiences and knowledge enhance the compositions of several groups oriented towards contemporary music.

Since 2018, his inspirations have taken him towards the writing and directing of the Raj and the Queen project for which he composes, writes and performs the pieces.

“A global thought, meticulous melodic and harmonic assemblies, timbres and messages carrying the whole... The art of composition is the ability to interpret an imagination. Then using a sound library, texts, sensitivities and harmonic techniques, transcribe it into music or images.” (O.Cartade).



LUC JOLY

Saxophones, flute



A distinguished figure in Reunion jazz, Luc Joly brings his enchanting breath to the Raj and the Queen project.

Passionate about Jazz and improvised music, he studied with masters such as François Jeanneau, Sylvain Beuf, Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano and at the New School in New York. Based on Reunion Island since 1985. Holder of the Certificate of Aptitude (CA), he teaches jazz at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de la Réunion.

His collaborations on stage and on record are numerous. In France and elsewhere, he has played with Ray Bryant, Stéphane Belmondo, François Jeanneau, Louis Winsberg, Sylvain Luc, Simon Goubert, Sylvain Beuf. In Reunion, he collaborated with Sabouk, Na Essayé, Fenoamby, Partick Persé, Baster... He also participates in Olivier Ker Ourio's Orkes Péï.

Drawing on an in-depth knowledge of jazz, its figures and its most innovative representatives, Luc Joly creates atmospheres that are successively airy and incisive.

On soprano and tenor's saxs, flute or double saxophone (Roland Kirk style), Luc Joly paints rainbows on stage.

He joined Raj and the Queen in 2019.



GEROME GENEY

Drums

Native from Belfort, Gérome Geney distills a powerful, nuanced and precise groove in numerous groups for around twenty years.

Moving to Reunion Island in 2006, he played in bands of diverse styles, such as 'le Pain des fous', 'Zia and the swing mates', ...

He subsequently joined several bands alongside guitarist Manoel Nicolas : Minimal Swing Orchestra, Du Jazz dans la ravine, EZ and the mango acid, Maguibolle, Big band of jazz Reunion club, ...

Passionate about travel and oceanic horizons whose influences color his accurate playing, he is also as associate professor in music schools. He is frequently requested for studio performances and stage interventions.

He joined Raj and the Queen in 2018, during the first gigs of the group.



CONCERTS ALBUMS CLIPS REHEARSALS

2024

Le Namaste, Saint-Leu 19/05
Rondavelle Tiroule, Saint-Leu 03/03
Le Vavang'art , Entre-Deux 02/03
Slam skatebar, Saint-Pierre 23/02
Le Zinc, Saint-Leu, 03/02

2022

Le Santa Cruz, Saint-Paul 16/12
Recording album "In utero memories" oct.
Le Toit, Saint-Pierre 22/04
Clip "Mata Hari" apr.
EP " Flowers of sex" jan.

2020

La Cerise, Saint-Paul 04/09
Le Toit, Saint-Pierre 07/08
Le Toit, Saint-Pierre 07/03
Le Zinc, Saint-Leu 15/02
Clip "Morning after love night" apr.

2023

03/09 Rondavelle Tiroule, Saint-Leu
aug. Rehearsal @ Le Séchoir, Saint-Leu
07/05 Le Namaste, Saint-Leu
21/04 Le Santa Cruz, Saint-Paul
04/02 RELEASE PARTY @ Le Zinc, Saint-Leu
oct. EP "Raj did not save the Queen"

2021

11/12 Le Toit, Saint-Pierre
21/11 Cambaie, Saint-Paul
06/11 Tiny house, Saint-Leu
oct. Recording EP "Colors of indignation"
13/11 La Cerise, Saint-Paul
30/10 Le Vavang'art, Entre-Deux
30/01 Le Vavang'art, Entre-Deux
jan. Clip "Pantera"

2019

14/06 Le Toit, Saint-Pierre
31/05 La Cerise, Saint-Paul
11/05 Le Zinc, Saint-Leu

BOOKING

974 BPM

Music creation and distribution

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DISTRIBUTION

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