



MANOU GALLO

AFRO GROOVE QUEEN

THE QUEEN OF AFRO GROOVE



Manou
GALLO
Bootsy ^{feat.}
COLLINS

ABJ GROOVE

Single out 20. april 18 !





Feat.
**BOOTS
COLLINS**

ABJ GROOVE

Single out
20. april 2018



watch the
ST  RY



The AFRO GROOVE QUEEN Story

It must have been written in the stars, for the exceptional bassist Manou Gallo a dream came true: BOOTSY COLLINS, GRAND-MASTER on the bass itself, discovered Manou in late 2016 through social media. It was just during the time of her own artistic self-discovery and her almost obsessive perfection of her bass technique, where she was contacted by her relatives and friends from all over the world, showing her links of one of her videos, including the click number reached within a few days. Almost one and a half million! The puzzle's solution came fast. William „Bootsy“ Collins had discovered, liked and shared the video of Manou Gallo. He is the bass pioneer, once famous in James Brown's backing band (the JB's) but most of all as the mastermind of George Clinton's Parliament Funkadelic band cosmos. Although he has retired from the stage for several

years, as producer and impresario he is still very busy and extremely influential. Immediately full of enthusiasm and ready for action, Manou Gallo wrote him an email. A small correspondence started, and after a few days it was clear that the two would work together. What was initially intended only as a mutual song exchange, turned into a close partnership. Gallo's new album „Afro Groove Queen“ is produced by Bootsy Collins and mainly created in his studio. On three tracks he also sings and plays. The two harmonize so perfectly that one wonders why they did not find each other before. Both are not only the funkiest e-bass giants of the music world, but also grand masters of the groove. As a little girl Manou Gallo had already shocked the inhabitants of her village when she stormed to the men re-

served drum at a village celebration to play, of course, perfectly on it. Supported by her mentor and adoptive father, Marcellin Yassé, she later toured Africa as a singing and dancing multi-instrumentalist with his group Woya. In 1997 she got the chance to become the bassist of Marie Daulne's successful world music band Zap Mama and moved to Brussels. Since 2003, she has directed her own bands and many other projects (Manou Gallo Women Band, Groove Orchestra, Acoustic Africa and Music Machine). With her attitude she has become one of the front women of the innovative Afro-European music worldwide.



The AFRO GROOVE QUEEN Story

„I'm proud to be both a traditional and a modern African woman,“ says the multi-award-winning Gallo, „one that plays African but also rock and funk. I am free with the music and within it I can do everything and travel everywhere. „ The album „Afro Groove Queen“ demonstrates this versatility more powerfully than ever. From the 1st track „ABJ Groove“, Bootsy's slick basslines, typically humorous chants, background vocals on „Dioula“ and hard syncopated beats melt into an irresistible Afro-Soul drum. . Manou Gallo, like Bootsy Collins, was always known for experimenting. Here too they bring soul and funk right up to date through the intersection with the Afro-Cuban rhythm ideas of percussionist, Lucas van Merwijk („Malunouka“), sometimes through self-confident African singing in the spirit of a Nina Simone („Femme“),

sometimes by the African blues in the elegiac sounds of „Dodo“, which conjure up the power of Mother Earth. „Come together“ is a song, which not only combines Manou and Bootsy's African, European and American heritage, lyrical sounds and hard rhythm but also an instrumental flow with the hip-hop of the rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) and Aziza. In „Yale“ the legendary world music inventor, Manu Dibango, from Cameroon with his Makossa jazz came on board. At the same time, „Afro Groove Queen“ is also a kind of musical inventory of Manou Gallo's life and work: from the almost African-like Jobim Bossa sounding memory of a dumb African boy („You“) and the homage to Ivorian musician Ernesto Djedje, one of her

earliest and most important influences. The bridge connects Gallo's African funk signature and the sound of tomorrow combined in songs like „Dalla“ which talk about the fate of immigration, towards „ZAP“ a collaboration with her long time music companion ZAP MAMA, „Afro Groove Queen“ is a cornucopia of musical ideas, good humour and rousing grooves. A personal sound cosmos created by the ingenious cooperation of two soul mates Full of traditions prepared for the future, Afro Funk is the future and Manou Gallo his Queen !





Album

14. sept. 2018

Release

AFRO GROOVE QUEEN

pre-listen
the album 

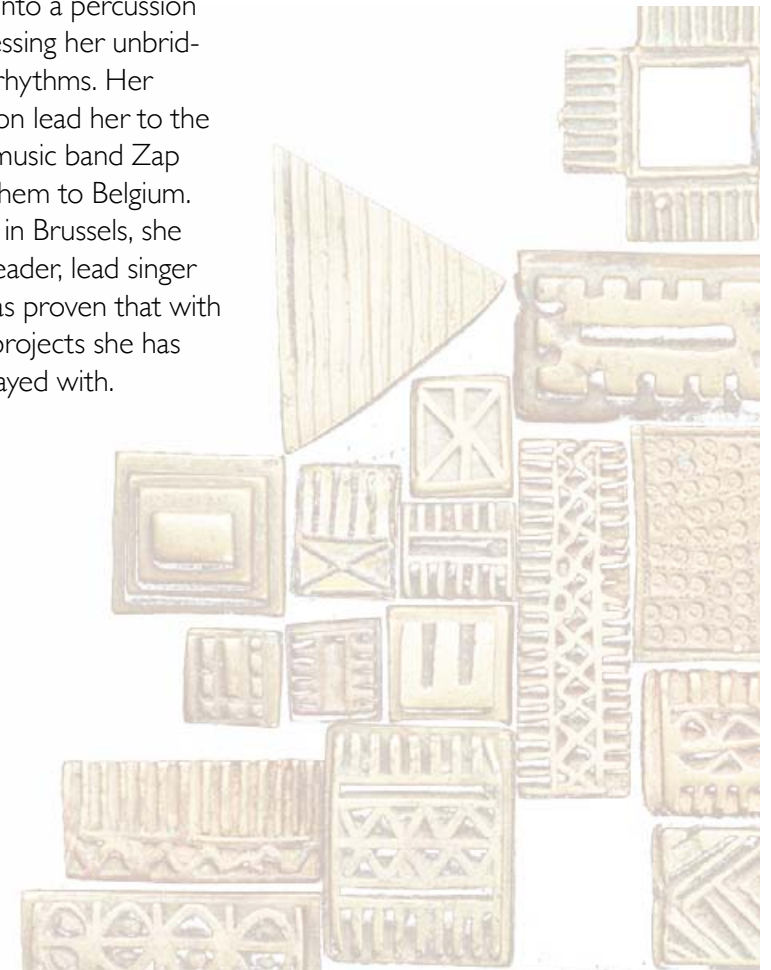


Manou BIOGRAFIE Gallo

The musician and singer Manou Gallo born in 1972 in Divo a small city in the Centre Western region of Ivory Coast, is a virtuose and unique talent with a rich heritage of her origin of the Djiboi tribe. Manou has an equally extraordinary story to tell. Already as a little girl she was different and walked her own ways. She plays the tambour (percussion drums), which is normally only reserved and allowed for men in the Ivorian culture. Raised by her grandmother who was looking after her like her own daughter, Manou was rather autonomous from early on: 'At this time, I was leaving like a little savage. I was helping cultivating the fields, drawing water from the well. I wasn't going to school, but my grandmother taught me traditions, respect, and values'. It is easy to imagine Manou, wearing tiny shorts as they were all clothes she had, her big smiling eyes, her head full of lice, climbing mango

trees and running freely in the alley-ways of Divo. While waiting for her friends after school, Manou was already beating rhythms, banging on her legs, stomping with her feet, marking the tempo with her voice: Rhythm was her obsession: "When I was a little girl, I was already going from backyard to backyard, these places where each family comes together everyday to cook, sing, in one word to live together. I was meeting my friends and sooner or later we inevitably started singing, dancing and beating on iron boxes". In the Ivory Coast, playing music is an ongoing tradition taking place at funerals, births, or to welcome newly born twins as well as for any event of everyday life: In Divo, life follows the traditional Djiboi rhythms. From a material point of view, life is just basic, but it is full of warmth and people live there feeling good in their heads. One day

she saw a Bass guitar and knew this was her instrument. In her hands, she transforms it into a percussion instrument, expressing her unbridled joy in groovy rhythms. Her musical career soon lead her to the legendary world music band Zap Mama, and with them to Belgium. Since 2003 based in Brussels, she is a brilliant bandleader, lead singer and bassist and has proven that with many bands and projects she has developed and played with.



Manou BIOGRAFIE Gallo

With her current band the music fuses to a groove orchestra in a modern and fresh way, the heart and soul of Africa on the stage, especially the Djiboi (inhabitants of her birth region) and at the same time, they created the modern connection to the western culture with it. Her way of playing the bass is so unique that even the likes of Manu Dibango, Mamady Keita, Wyclef Jean, Marcus Miller and Lucas van Meerwijk became aware of her. Her name is also known internationally: In 2009, Manou wins the MAMA Award (MTV Africa) as the „best artist“ of the Ivory Coast. In 2013, FORBES AFRIKA magazine named her the only woman among the „Top 10 Best African Bassists“, including Richard Bona. Manou Gallo is the front woman of Afro-European music. Her energy evaporated to produce a new album after her first releases (DIDA 2005 , MANOU GALLO 2006 and LOWLIN 2010) - the musical

future was too futile. Bootsy Collins now brings the bass virtuoso in the starlight and awakens in her the power and the absolute musical will to bring it back on the stage. More powerful than ever - the new album „AFRO GROOVE QUEEN“ is a departure into other musical spheres. Always connected to the African roots, she combines her sound with funk, jazz, soul and blues into multi-layered sound collages whose rhythm brings joy. Her musical expertise will reflect in the new album „Afro Groove Queen“ which is produced by Bootsy Collins “AFRO GROOVE QUEEN” is a musical love triangle and adventure between Africa, Europe and America. Funk, Jazz and Afro Groove are the pillars. As special guest BOOTSY COLLINS, MANU DIBANGO, CHUCK D. and ZAP MAMA will be there to

celebrate musically the highest level of Manous Revival. And like a little girl on a drum, the power woman again sets the pace on the bass. With „Afro Groove Queen“ she once again proves that she belongs to the top league of top bass players in the world.





- ◆ manou-gallo.com
- ◆ facebook.com/ManouGalloOfficial
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