

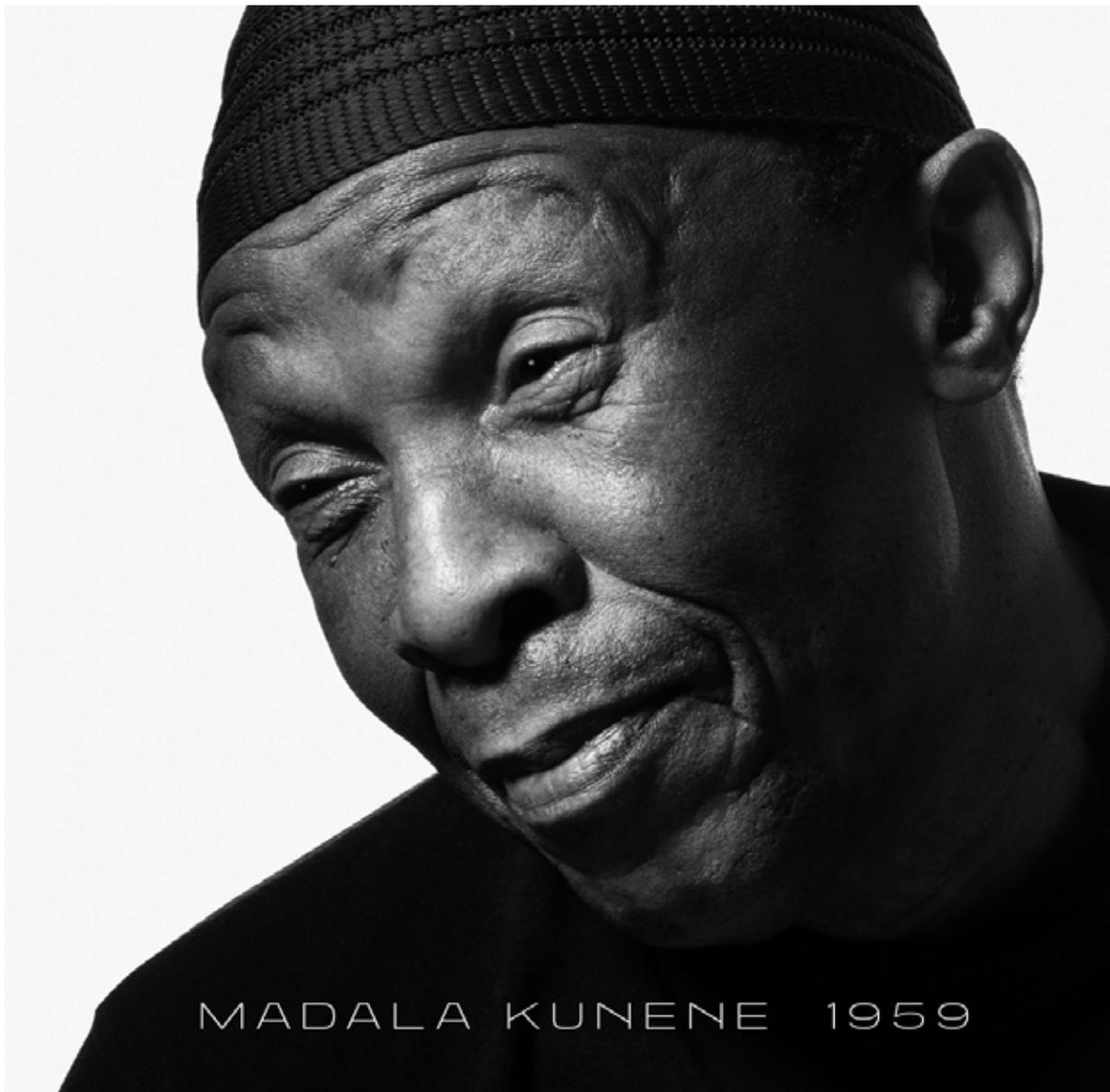
MAD ALA KUN ENE

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**LIVE PERFORMANCE AT THE PLAYHOUSE COMPANY
29th APRIL 2016 DRAMA THEATRE**

TIME 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm

A MEDITATION ON BAFO'S HISTORY

South Africa is an amazing country packed with great stories and characters. Madala, called the King of the Zulu Guitar, is one of these characters that make this country what it is. The rich tapestry of Madala's life is reflected in his music. Eclectic as only someone from Durban can be.

Kunene was born in 1951 in Mkhumbane (Cato Manor), a vibrant mixed community just outside of inner Durban. The son of a carpenter, Kunene was raised by his grandmother — a staunch academic who wanted him to be something of a bookworm. At the age of eight, in the year 1959, Kunene and some members of his extended family were trucked off by the Apartheid government to go live in the then relatively new township of KwaMashu.

“People can’t imagine what it’s like when you see bulldozers demolish your home in the middle of the night,” recalls Kunene. “The worst thing was that when they moved us, they came at night and packed my family into the back of a truck and then went to another area to pick up another family there and so on. So you were not just separated from your home, you were stripped of your friends and neighbours in the process. It was a very calculated act,” Kunene adds.

As a meditation on his history Kunene now releases his latest album 1959. The first album recorded in South Africa in over 20 years. It explores dense and often melancholic subject matter, especially Kunene’s own history as a victim of forced removal. “I’ve never spoken about those experiences in my music in an earnest way. I wanted to recall them and most importantly make a personal album that was looking internally at my personal history rather than looking out,” says Kunene. 1959 is a blues album with slightly more muscle—a personal catharsis and an attempt to exercise the muscle of memory through music. Insistent and unrelenting, 1959 is Kunene’s urban war cry. It is a portrait of the artist as a not-so young man of faith, a sonic investigation that tries to make sense of the gradual process of sanitizing history — how the real past is purged for the sake of a historical sound bite.

“Music is the best medium to record and tell history. As African people, the way we know and understand our past is very influenced by music,” Kunene says. “So if I can add one layer of context that can help in understanding this period in our history, then that is great.”

The album “1959” was co-produced and engineered by Marius Botha and Neil Snyman. It started out as a simple acoustic guitar and voice project but as soon as Madala’s many friends learned that he was busy recording in his own backyard things took on a life of their own. An outpouring of love for Bafo followed with everyone wanting to bring his or her love for Bafo to this project. Madala gratefully acknowledges the many appearances of friends amongst others Lu Dlamini, Bra Hugh Masekela, Sthem-biso Hlela, Max Lässer, Vishen Kemraj, Sazi Dlamini, Steve Newman, Guy Buttery, Bernard Mndaweni, Paki Peloeole, Eric Duma, Sihlanga Zulu, Mdu Magawaza, Njeza Dlamini, Zamo Mbutho, Siphon Nxumalo & Smanga Ngubane.





BAFO & FOREST JAM SOUTHERN AFRICA

Forest Jam is an instructive music NPO, registered in South Africa. Its board is made up by veteran master musicians Madala Kunene & Mabi Gabriel Thobejane (Malombo), young musicians, students, and administrative staff from South Africa and Switzerland.

Forest Jam works nationally with CONCERT SA and internationally with the SWISS ARTS COUNCIL PRO HELVETIA but also with volunteers from the music industry who are supporting the cause of the cultural musician exchange organisation. The brainchild of Robert Trunz (ex Melt 2000), FOREST JAM's educational goal is to encourage our veteran artists and masters to pass on their precious knowledge to selected young musicians who can join the organization's programs from different countries in Southern Africa and Europe. Forest Jam gatherings emphasis on team spirit of living and working together making music beyond conventional borders of style and age and convey awareness of the African musical heritage. The original FOREST JAM Club was founded 2014 in Switzerland and Madala Kunene – the King of The Zulu Guitar – has since been teaching and performing at major FOREST JAM cultural events in Switzerland, Madagascar, South Africa and Mozambique.

FOREST JAM SOUTHERN AFRICA operates out of Durban (KZN) in South Africa.

FOREST JAM GROOVE ORCHESTRA Tour 2016 with Madala Kunene and Chico Antonio (South Africa, Mozambique & Switzerland)

The FOREST JAM Groove Orchestra was on tour from the 25th of March until the 20th of April 2016 in South African provinces of Gauteng and KZN concluding the tour with a couple of concerts and studio recording in Maputo, Mozambique. The Groove Orchestra featured 11 musicians plus guests from two continents and three different countries – all gathering under the FOREST JAM SOUTHERN AFRICA umbrella. A special guest appearance was given by Herbie Tsoaeli at The Orbit in Braamfontein. The Groove Orchestra performances are divided in 2 musical acts opening up with:

Madala Kunene & Chico Antonio featuring Matchume Zango and Matthias Abächerli. Chico Antonio is an icon of contemporary Mozambican music – multi-rhythmic and multi-melodic.

The Groove Orchestra is a 9 members band with Bernard Sibusiso Mndaweni (bass). Matchume Zango (percussion/timbila), Nicky Shange (voc), Matthias Abächerli (bass/violin), Jul Dillier (keyboard / piano /accordion), Lerato Lichaba (guitars), Gontse Makhene (percussion), Cyrill Michel (voc) and Carlo Menet (guitar).



LINKS

<http://madalakunene.co.za/>

<https://www.facebook.com/madalakunenesa?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/madala.matthias?fref=ts>

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CREDITS: This release contains quotes from articles previously written by Marius Botha and journalist Sihle Mthembu who together with many of his loyal friends tirelessly supported Madala over the past many years and by doing so helped keeping his name and music alive and part of South Africa's rich heritage. Thank you!