

New king of Afrobeat celebrates 20 years of performing with first full UK tour

An African Soul Rebels Special Seun Kuti & Egypt 80

and
Donso

On tour across the UK

13th – 21st April 2011



"...you get the feeling there's not a force in the world that can hold this band back."

Independent

Much has been written about Nigeria's wildly inventive musical visionary and of the music he created in the 1960's: Afrobeat. Pioneer of a sound that fuses traditional African rhythms with the big horn sounds of funk and jazz, **Fela Anikulapo-Kuti** was arguably the most influential African musician of our time. His life and music has been celebrated in concerts, books and box sets, while artists such as Paul McCartney and James Brown have nodded to his greatness. And now, as the Broadway smash hit **Fela!** reaches London promising similar success, and a biopic of the afrobeat maverick planned for next year, there is no doubt that Fela Kuti has become a true global icon, and afrobeat more fashionable than ever.

Seun Kuti is Fela's youngest son and an unstoppable force in Nigerian music. For many who have charted the Kuti family over past years, it is Seun that is now the crowned king of Afrobeat. "The word from Lagos" reports the Observer, is that "Seun is the real deal, and recent live shows confirmed he's a natural, with all the sexy charisma you might have hoped for". Singer, saxophonist and electrifying performer, Seun Kuti is an embodiment of his father's defiant spirit; his charisma, magnetic onstage presence, dance, music, voice, politics and funky Yoruba afrobeat, updates his father's style, yet never lets tradition down.

2011 marks Seun Kuti's twenty year anniversary of performing with his father's legendary band, **Egypt 80**, with whom he has played since he was eight. And to celebrate, he returns for an **African Soul Rebels Special** to perform his first ever tour of the UK. Fronting his band of afrobeat veterans, **Egypt 80**, Seun will present new music from his forthcoming album, **From Africa with Fury: Rise**, scheduled to coincide with the spring tour. Recorded in Brazil, and mixed in London, the album is produced by Brian Eno, John Reynolds and Kuti himself, with additional production by Godwin Logie.

Donso

Representing a traditional yet contemporary sound, Donso, meaning 'hunter' in the Malian Bambara language, are four brilliant musicians who have skilfully brought together a Franco/Malian fusion of traditional Malian music and electronica. Their modern spin on the music comes from incorporating traditional Malian rhythms, deep ambient textures, with a sensitive nod to electro. With **Pierre-Antoine Grison**, aka **KrazyBaldhead** (producer for the influential dance music label Ed Banger) on Keyboards & programming, **Guimba Kouyate** on guitar and Djele N'Goni, **Thomas Guillaume** on percussion & Donso N'Goni and vocalist **Gedeon Papa Diarra**.

This year, the highly successful **African Soul Rebels** tour breaks with tradition to present a special full length afrobeat show that allows the complete majesty of the afrobeat sound and experience to be fully appreciated. Featuring a dazzling and monumental onstage cast of musicians and dancers, this will be one of the greatest afrobeat performances on planet Earth.

Concert producers **Music Beyond Mainstream** is funded by Arts Council England and managed by a group of leading UK arts centres and concert halls. It cooperatively brings new work and great tours to new audiences. Now in its 7th year, MBM's African Soul Rebels tours have produced 6 years of diverse African line ups and 18 bands including Amadou and Mariam, Salif Keita, Tony Allen, Daara J, Oumou Sangare and Tinariwen to name just a few.

Africa Soul Rebels Special

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TOUR DATES APRIL 2011

Weds 13th	LONDON	Royal Festival Hall 0844 875 0073 / www.southbankcentre.co.uk
Fri 15th	NORTHAMPTON	Royal & Derngate 01604 624811 / royalallderngate.co.uk
Sat 16th	EDINBURGH	Usher Hall 0131 228 1155 / usherhall.co.uk
Sun 17th	BANGOR	Prichard -Jones Hall 01248 382558 / www.theticketfactory.com
Mon 18th	MANCHESTER	The Ritz 0161 907 9000 / www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk
Tues 19th	BRISTOL	Colston Hall 0117 922 3686 / colstonhall.org
Weds 20th	BASINGSTOKE	The Anvil 01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk
Thurs 21st	POOLE	Lighthouse 0844 406 8666 / lighthousepoole.co.uk

www.musicbeyondmainstream.co.uk

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