



BRANCHE TON SONOTONE!

LE WEBZINE QUI TE DÉBOUCHE LES OREILLES

Interview of Tumi And The Volume :

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First, could you please describe me the way you met in Melville and how you decided to create TATV?

Tiago: Many years ago in Melville, at a popular live music venue called the *Bassline*, on Sunday evenings a couple of young guys started organizing jam sessions. The sessions were very cutting edge and quickly became very well attended by the right people in Johannesburg. The format was simple: Different musicians jamming together onstage and creating on the spot or new bands given a chance to show their stuff. **The Volume** was the coming together of a couple of musicians to create a sonic landscape for **Tumi's** stories. It was supposed to be a once-off thing but after the first time we all went onstage and experimented with Live Hip-Hop in front of people we knew we should be doing this again and again. So we did. Well, the rest, as they say, is history.

“Afrique” is one of my favorite songs of the album. Could you explain me how you created it and the sense this song has for you?

Tiago: “Afrique” was a very different experience for us. It was something **Tumi** created with a proper Hip-Hop producer and that later the volume adapted into something live with a more dynamic nature. Lyrically I think it's a song that tells the Western world that Africa is not a country. It's also an opportunity for **Tumi** to exercise his verbal acrobatics.

Dave: Yes, in fact, **Tumi** really wanted to see if he could fit all the African countries into a verse, I never thought he could, but **Tumi** comes through every time.

How would you describe your music?

Dave: Our music is a mix of sounds, we often struggle to categorize ourselves into any genre, I think overall our music reflects each of us individually, where we are musically at the moment. It is its own being, forever changing and adapting.

On a larger scale, what are your hopes and fears about the future of South Africa?

Dave: I prefer not to focus on the fear that is created in South Africa, I think it is amplified in peoples mind more than necessary. Sure South Africa has its problems but I think for

sure it is one of the most interesting places to be at the moment, there is so much positivity bubbling at the surface.

Tiago: Personally, my hopes are, most importantly, that people have more access to better education; that people start believing that easy money is not the solution; that poor people get better access to health and medicine; that police stops contributing towards crime and they get better paid and start doing their job properly. There are so many things wrong with South Africa right now, and plenty of it is directly related to the poor management this country is going through right now. So, my fears are that whatever I hoped for above doesn't get better and actually gets worse; the wrong people in power and the crime rate much worse than what it is right now. Also, the post World Cup psychological void.

Let's get back to your news. Are you preparing a new album or do you just concentrate on your tour?

Tiago: We've just finished our new album. It's called *Pick A Dream* and it will be released in France in April. We're also preparing a tour to match the new album.

Do you prefer lives and tours or the process of creation (recording and/or playing just for you)?

Dave: I think we have always been a live band, we started there and I enjoy being on tour and playing show after show, you really grow as a musician being on the road.

Tiago: I think it's good to have a balance between both. Touring too much can kill a band, too much studio can cripple musicians. It's good to spend time in studio crafting something and after that getting on the road, and also realizing when it's time to go back to studio again, or just take a break from everything. It gets to a point where one life influences the other.

What are your current favorite albums ?

Tiago: I have a few:

- *2.0* by **The XX** (for it's simplicity);
- *Abbey Road* by **The Beatles** (for the fact that the historical Abbey Road Studios are being sadly auctioned);
- *Ready To Die* by **Notorious B.I.G.** (for it's impeccable storytelling);
- *Fall Be Kind* by **Animal Collective** (for the simple fact that they are probably the closest we have to a **Tchaikovsky** in this new millennium, so far)

Dave: To me, **Hugh Masekela's** *Home is where the music is.*

Would you please finally say something stupid we can remember if you ever become big stars?

Tiago: "We'll never become big stars!"