



MARK ERNESTUS' NDAGGA RHYTHM FORCE Yermade

Label
NDAGGA

Format
CD
Catalog Number
ND 025CD

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Store Price
\$11.99

Format
LP
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ND 025LP

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Territory
NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE
Genre
FILE UNDER - E - ELECTRONIC

NDAGGA

DESCRIPTION

Five years in, with two acclaimed albums and dozens of international performances, **Mark Ernestus' Ndagga Rhythm Force** announces *Yermade*, a new phase for this Dakar-Berlin collaboration. "This time around I was better able to specify what I wanted right from the initial recording sessions in Dakar," says Ernestus, "... I took more freedom in reducing and editing audio tracks, changing MIDI data, replacing synth sounds and introducing electronic drum samples." Rather than submitting to the routine, discrete gradations of recording, producing and mixing, the music is tangibly permeated with deadly intent from the start. Lethally it plays a clipped, percussive venom and thumping bass against the soaring, open-throated spirituality of **Mbene Seck's** singing. The drumming is unpredictable, exclamatory, zinging with life. Likewise the production: intuitive and fresh but utterly attentive, limber but hefty. Six chunks of next-level mbalax - funky as anything. "Lamb Ji" is traditional wrestling, the most popular sport in Senegal, always introduced by hours of drumming, gris-gris magic and dancing (led by the fighters themselves). Born into the Momori griot clan in Tivaouane, Mbene moved to Pikine on the outskirts of Dakar, where **Ndongo Lo** was first to invite her to sing at lamb events. Here she pays homage to all the popular fighters of recent times. Evoking the ancient legacy of the griots, "Walo Walo" is also the name of the sabar rhythm underlying this track, which features **Ibou Mbaye's** percussive synth-work, **Mangone Ndiaye Dieng's** kit-drumming, and **Bada Seck's** jolts of lower-pitched thiol drum. "Simb" ("Lion") refers to traditional drumming and dancing events, at which a cavorting "faux lion" frightens the audience members. "Jigeeen" means "Woman": "Man should know every woman is your mother. Cherish a woman. Respect a woman's dignity. Look after the people who were there when you had nothing." A tribute to the Baye Fall leader, "Ndiguel" is the most traditional cut, showcasing **Assane Ndiaye Cisse's** insinuating guitar lines, **Laye Lo's** super-elasticated snare-drumming, and Bada Seck playing the khine drums associated with the Baye Fall. "Yermade" takes a former associate to task: "Stop prompting the witchdoctor to curse us. Leave people alone and let them go their own way. Take yours; leave ours to us" Like "Lamb Ji" and "Simb", featuring all four sabar players: Bada Seck, **Serigne Mamoune Seck**, **Abou Salla Seck** and **Alioune Seck**.

TRACKLISTING

01. Lamb Ji
02. Walo Walo
03. Simb
04. Jigeeen
05. Ndiguel
06. Yermade (Kick and Bass Mix)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five years in, with two acclaimed albums and dozens of triumphant international performances, **Mark Ernestus' Ndagga Rhythm Force** announces *Yermade*, a new phase for this Dakar-Berlin collaboration.
- The drumming is unpredictable, exclamatory, zinging with life. Likewise the production: intuitive and fresh but utterly attentive, limber but hefty. Six chunks of next-level mbalax - funky as anything.
- "This time around I was better able to specify what I wanted right from the initial recording sessions in Dakar," says Ernestus, "... I took more freedom in reducing and editing audio tracks, changing MIDI data, replacing synth sounds and introducing electronic drum samples."

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