ZAP MAMA AND ANTIBALAS: REDEFINING AFRO-LATIN MUSIC

Urban, afro-scat and alternative funk find a collective home in Zap Mama. What started nearly twenty years ago as a five-woman a Capella group has formed into lead woman Marie Daulne’s show. Zap Mama and Antibalas, a funk afro-beat band from New York, will perform in Shannon Hall on Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 8 p.m. Purchase tickets online or call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787). Tickets can also be purchased at either Vilas Hall (entrance on East Campus Mall, 821 University Avenue) or the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater. Ticket prices are as follows. General Public: $40, $36, $25; Wisconsin Union Members & Non UW-Madison Students: $36, $32; UW-Madison Faculty & Staff: $38, $34; UW-Madison Student (with ID): $10.

Daulne’s family has its roots in the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo. Her father’s death at the hands of local fighters prompted Daulne’s family’s evacuation from the DRC to Brussels thanks to efforts by Belgian troops. Daulne returned to Africa when she was 20-years-old with the intent to learn about her heritage. After receiving training...
in pygmy onomatopoeic vocal techniques, she returned to the West and founded Zap Mama.


According to a 2005 Pitchfork review, “Queenship is certainly apropos. There's certainly something regal about Daulne. Her implacable confidence and extraordinary talent match a playful on-stage persona. She's as colorful as her wardrobe and her antics.”

Joining Zap Mama is Antibalas, bringing afro-beat, jazz, and funk sounds alongside traditional Cuban and West African drum patterns. With a fifth album under its belt and 14 years of performance history, Antibalas is the perfect match for Zap Mama.

“What makes us tick, and what makes any band a band, is a shared collective idea about what the sound is,” says Antibalas member Jordan McLean on the group’s website, “and then of course on an individual level, it’s what each person brings to the band to give the band its defining sound. We have a shared idea of Afrobeat and Fela [Kuti]’s music, but we also have these 10 or 12 individuals who are also bringing their own heartbeat and their own perspective and their own experiences as individuals, and bringing that together to make Antibalas.”

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