

JULIEN JACOB

Julien Jacob arrived in France in his early childhood. His West-Indian parents settled in the south of France. **For him, who was born in Benin, Africa, it was the encounter with a new culture.** But he will retain the imprint of African chants and rhythms from his native country.

Passionate about music from his early childhood - Jazz, black American Motown music, mystical oriental chants but also seventies pop-rock – all are grains which will unite to enrich his artistic talent.

At the age of 17, he performed on stage for the first time as lead singer in a rock band. After a few years he decided to go his own way and left the group in 1983. From then on, he concentrated on composing his own music. But during this period, he also often worked backstage at the concerts of world renowned artists like David Bowie, Miles Davis...

Backstage, he had intense artistic encounters, in particular a fabulous evening with Fela Kuti.

In 1993, he left the south of France and settled in Paris, a time during which his artistic identity affirms itself.

Inspiration pushes him to sing in a mysterious language which he finds within himself. An unknown language which every body can understand because the words only find their meaning in the emotions they carry. **And he addresses himself to the heart, to everybody's space of intimate peace.** At the same time, he started writing books. He has forever followed an internal quest. Music and writing are, for him, two different ways to express his own perception of life.

In 1995, Julien finally found his adoptive home in Brittany. And from then on, everything accelerated.

One year after producing a 4 tracks record, he released his first album 'SHANTI' (Warner) in 2000 and then went on the road across the world for 4 years, which gave him many great stage experiences: the WOMAD festivals in USA, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, UK, Spain, Gran Canarias, Italy but also concerts at Montreal, in France...and some pretigious opening acts (Suzanne Vega, Cesaria Evora...).

His second album 'COTONOU' (Wrasse Records) was released in 2005, an album that is very highly regarded by the international press. He gets back on the road again and performs on many stages in Europe and France.

Julien Jacob has just recorded his third album ' **BARHAM** ' (release planned in 2007). A songwriter with his one-of-a-kind words, with his low, soft and powerful voice, he invites us to visit the intimacy of his universe. Root sounds, sober arrangements. Very acoustic, only composed of guitar, vocals and percussion, this album confirms the very personal artistic identity of Julien.

Described as Folk, his music which has afro, pop, oriental spirits, is nevertheless unclassifiable!

His imaginary language tells us about peace but also about sufferings in this world notably through the track 'Barham' dedicated to his distant slave ancestors.

Through this new album ' **BARHAM** ', Julien Jacob gives us an unusual trip, full of instant surprises !

