Awa Poulo — Poulo Warali

Awa Poulo is a singer of Peulh origin from Dilly commune, Mali, near the border with Mauritania. Largely pastoral and often nomadic, Peulh-(or Fula-)speaking peoples are found from Senegal to Ethiopia but predominate in the Sahel region of West Africa. Awesome Tapes From Africa is proud to release Poulo's newest recording of highly virtuosic folk-pop, fresh from the studio, broadcasting her vision of Peulh music beyond the grazing grounds and central markets of her remote home region in southwestern Mali.

It's not very common to find a female singer performing publicly among the Peulh. But Poulo's mother's co-wife is Inna Baba Coulibaly, who is a celebrated singer most Malian music fans know. Coulibaly herself was brought into music by forces outside her control when a regional music contest required an entry from her village and she was chosen to be a singer. So, set in motion by a surprising series of events, young Poulo's entree into the music world was auspicious as she gained popularity across the region. After several locally released tapes and CDs, this record is Poulo's first internationally-distributed record.

On ***Poulo Warali***, she and her band combine the hallmarks of Peulh music—warm flute floating over cross-rhythmic n'goni (lute) riffs and resonant calabash gourd hand percussion—with broader Malian sounds like lightly-distorted guitar and a heavier, rollicking inertia. Shape-shifting layers of rhythm and woody overtones match Poulo's commanding voice in a jocular yet deliberate dance.

This is a relatively rare example of Malian Peulh music played in a modern, cosmopolitan context, reflecting the mixed society of Dilly, where Bambara, Soninke and Peulh-speaking people live among each other.

Poulo's conscious lyrics about community concerns speak to the distinctive identity of her broadly-flung people. While Peulh represents less than 10% of Mali's melting pot of languages, the dynamic music here powerfully resonates well beyond the linguistic borders.

01. Dimo Yaou Tata 04:34
02. Djulau 04:13
03. Djara Wilam 04:31
04. Mido Yirima 03:32
05. Noumou Foli 04:24
06. Poulo Hoto Ngari 03:39
07. Poulo Warali 04:47
08. Sidy Modibo 04:31

CATALOG #: **ATFA024**
RELEASE DATE: **1/20/17**
FORMAT: **LP, CD, Digital**
LP BOX LOT: **25**
CD BOX LOT: **40**
UNITS PER SET: 1**xLP; 1xCD**
GENRE: **WORLD**
KEY MARKETS: **NYC, LA, Chicago, Austin, Seattle, Portland, Boston**
VINYL NOT RETURNABLE
TERRITORY RESTRICTIONS: NONE

LP#
616892445340

CD#
616892451143

Digital#
616892451242

Selling Points:
-Peulh music from Mali featuring traditional instrumentation
-Rarely heard pop music from nomadic group
-First international release for veteran vocalist
-New recording, beautiful sonic quality

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PO BOX 986
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PHONE: 812.335.1572 / FAX: 888.678.0167
US Domestic Sales contact Shelly Westerhausen (shelly@scdistribution.com)
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