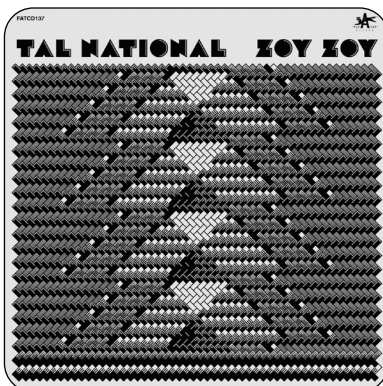


TAL NATIONAL

Zoy Zoy



Release date: 04/14/15

Format: CD, LP

File Under: International, African

Territory Restrictions:

Only available to North America, South America



FAT0137CD
UPC: 600116513724
Box 30



FAT0137LP
UPC: 600116513717
Box 30
Vinyl is non-returnable

TRACKLISTING

1. Zoy Zoy
2. Koana
3. Claire
4. Say Wata Gaya
5. Farila
6. Tenere
7. Kodaje
8. Saraounia

After more than a decade of criss-crossing Niger, usually on dirt pathways through the Sahara; playing 7 shows a week, each 5 hours long; selling their CDs on street corners and roundabouts; and becoming the most popular band in Niger, with songs constantly blasted on national TV and cell phones everywhere, Tal National finally received international distribution for 2013's Kaani through the FatCat label.



When the NY Times placed it on their year-end Top 10 list, the Culture Minister of Niger organized a televised ceremony to honor the band. But it didn't stop there. The Guardian, The Independent, Mojo, Vice, The Wire, The Financial Times, Chicago Reader and others all sang exuberant praises. NPR, KEXP and WBEZ hosted live sessions. What they all recognized was the band's entirely new approach to West African music - that Tal National is a rock band.

Well, sort of.

The songs on Zoy Zoy are a mix of traditionals and originals, and they are intense. They are extraordinarily sophisticated. The band speak French, but use the expression "very rock and roll" quite seriously, implying their awareness that the loud guitars and bewildering rhythmic complexity separate them from their peers. They are proud that their members represent the different cultural groups of Niger, some of which haven't always been on the best of terms (the group includes Tuareg, Hausa, Fulani, and Zarma). Still, they are aware that Western ears may not fully grasp their self-proclaimed "rock" label, and we sure don't know many rock bands that keep folks dancing in a trance-like state for 5 hours at a time.

Zoy Zoy was recorded in Niamey, Niger's capital, by Chicago-based Jamie Carter, using a remote recording rig in a dusty makeshift studio. The country has no proper recording studios, music instrument shops, or record stores. The drummer makes his own sticks. Despite this or perhaps because of it, Tal National thrives in a country parched of resources but teeming with music and rhythm. The band would record all day, then head out at night for more lengthy performances, bringing the energy of each night's performance back to the studio. Zoy Zoy is a distillation of Tal National's traditional roots, determination and tireless drive into pure joy and celebration.

Key Points

Previous album was #8 on NY Times Best 10 albums of 2013

Two full US tours in 2015 - April & September

Some high profile projects and remixes are on the way that we can't yet announce, but we're amped

Praise for Tal National

"The music keeps leaping ahead with one surprise after another: guitar parts that align and diverge and reconfigure, drumming that pounces on offbeats. The patterns are crisp, complex and tireless, but Tal National is no funk machine: It's alive.

- **John Pareles, NY Times**

"Tal National has arrived at a supercharged sound that combines the kind of ebullience and sparkle you find in West African highlife with the slinky groove of sinuous desert blues. Kaani is a tireless, surging wave of uplifting music." - **Wire Magazine**

"The first thing that hits you when you listen to Tal National is the band's tightness and fiery energy; its guitar and percussion-driven grooves are bursting with exuberance." - **NPR**



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