

BLUE
GENE



B
G

U
G

BLUE GENE is a cross-continental collabo between FRENCH guitarist & orchestrator **CHARLES AMBLARD** & SOUTH AFRICAN Spoken word HipHop artist **CREAMY EWOK BAGGENS**. What started as a digital exchange of ideas has evolved into a **5 TRACK** self-titled debut E.P., released in FRANCE on iTunes & SPOTIFY. Instrumental ideas arrived from FRANCE to be taken into studio in DURBAN for a vocal layer to be added, then returned to PARIS for the final mix & master. The **BLUE GENE** project 2012 is a 2 week residency at the UNIVERSITY of KwaZulu-NATAL with 2 FRENCH musicians & 3 SA musicians forming a band fronted by EWOK, to produce the **BLUE GENE** sound live on stage. Following the DURBAN residency, including 2 gigs, the band goes on tour to CAPE TOWN, JOHANNESBURG for the **OPPIKOPPI** festival, and HARARE (Zimbabwe). While in residency the band will produce fresh material for another recording in partnership with **RED BULL STUDIOS** (CAPE TOWN). The complete package will include videos, audio & a documentary film, establishing **BLUE GENE** as a **FRESH INTERNATIONAL SOUND & ACT!!!**

BLUE GENE is a six piece live band comprising vocals, guitar/keys, bass, drums and a two part horn section (trumpet and trombone/tenor sax). The **BLUE GENE** debut E.P. is available through iTunes and Spotify.

BLUE GENE is a partner project of the French South Africa Season 2012 [Please see attached PR for further details]. Our Durban partners are Alliance Francaise de Durban and UKZN School of Musi

For more information check out BLUE GENE (musician/band) on facebook (facebook) <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Gene/176343179091362?ref=ts>

For more info email: whatkindexse@hotmail.com (SA) or cha.amblard@gmail.com (France)



BLUE GENE

DURBAN 25/7
CAPETOWN 2/8
HARARE 4/8
OPPIKOPPI 9/8

Wed 25 July @ 6pm at UKZN Jazz Centre

Ticket: R30 / R20 for students



AIRFRANCE



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS





MEDIA RELEASE

France and South Africa celebrate culture, creativity and innovation

Johannesburg, 10 May 2012 - A multifaceted bilateral collaboration between France and South Africa, concluded last year by the heads of states of France and South Africa, moves into high gear this winter as the first French Season in South Africa kicks off.

The essence of this collaboration and some detail of the rich programme of events that South Africans can expect were outlined at a media briefing held in Newtown, Johannesburg this morning.

The French Season in South Africa will open formally in July (although there will be some activities in June) and continue into November. It will be followed by a South African Season in France between May and December 2013.

“We are proud to be the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to participate in such a wide-ranging collaboration with France. The reciprocal national Seasons, which will be jointly organised by our countries, concentrate on culture and the arts but they also include sport, trade and novel approaches in the fields of education, the sciences and business,” said South African Minister of Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile.

“The highest authorities in our two countries requested that this edition of the Seasons be organised to reinforce the strong, deep bonds that unite us in the field of culture, to discover new facets of this relationship, and to forge long-term ties. These Seasons also represent an opportunity to develop our relations in many areas beyond the arts, and to shape a future in which solidarity and a better understanding of one another guide the relationship between our two peoples,” said Xavier Darcos, President of the Institut français.

Laurent Clavel, French Commissioner-General for the Seasons, said: *“The French Season will offer South Africans a glimpse of the cultural scene in modern day France, which is contemporary and dynamic, and embraces the diversity of our society. In the areas of science, education and trade we will focus on areas of mutual interest and once again bring some of our most innovative work to the fore.”*

Mr Clavel said that similar Seasons with other countries, including India, Brazil, China, Russia, Japan and many others, had increased understanding between France and these nations.

Bongani Tembe, South African Commissioner-General for the Seasons, highlighted similar features of the two countries. *“France and South Africa sit in different hemispheres, yet they have much in common: cultural diversity, innovative economies, excellent universities, strong sporting traditions, scientific and technological expertise. The French Season in South Africa 2012 will explore these common interests in a variety of different ways, and in doing so, will strengthen ties between our two countries.”*

More than 70 projects, exhibitions, concerts, performances, colloquiums and interactive sessions were being planned across South Africa during the six-month French Season.





“There is something for almost everyone,” said Mr Tembe. “In the field of arts and culture alone, the Season will cater for lovers of dance, theatre, film, the visual arts, literature and a wide variety of music genres. It will appeal to young and old and to traditionalists as well as supporters of cultural innovation.

“In many instances, French and South African artists will get together to write, compose or perform something completely new, something special born of their interaction.”

In other instances, the French Season will enable South Africans to experience French exhibitions and performances that might never have made their way to South Africa otherwise. The first meeting of the France-South Africa Bilateral Committee on Innovation will also form part of the French Season.

Issued on behalf of:

France – South Africa Seasons 2012 & 2013

Institut français and the National Arts Council of South Africa

For more information contact:

Alex van Essche at Meropa Communications

Tel: 011 506 7300 Cell: 082 321 1167

E-mail: alexve@meropa.co.za

Information for editors:

France-South Africa Seasons 2012 & 2013 are organised and implemented:

For South Africa: by the Department of Arts and Culture and the National Arts Council (NAC), with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Sports and Recreation, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Department of Basic Education, and the Embassy of South Africa in France.

Chairman: Mr Dikgang Moopeloa.

General Commissioner: Mr Bongani Tembe.

For France: by the French Institute with the support of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry and the French Embassy in South Africa and the network of Alliance Française.

Chairman: Mr Xavier Darcos

General Commissioner: Mr Laurent Clavel.





The French Season in South Africa is backed in 2012 by a committee of sponsors chaired by Mr Luc Oursel, AREVA President and Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Executive Board of AREVA. This committee is made of the following corporations: AREVA, Air France, Bouygues Travaux Publics, EDF, GDF-SUEZ, Mazars and Total.

