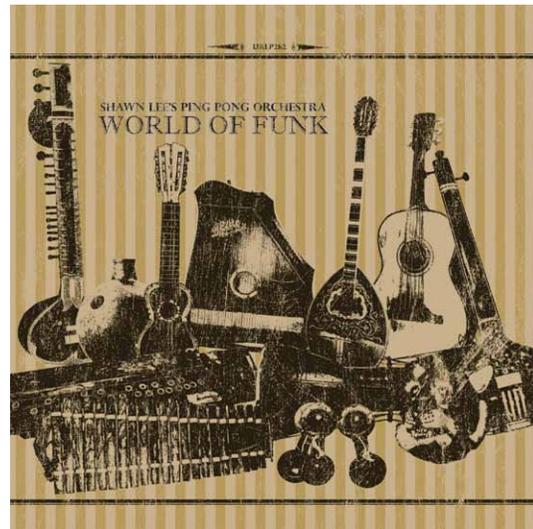


UBIQUITY RECORDS PRESENTS

# SHAWN LEE: WORLD OF FUNK

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**Multicultural and multi-talented composer and performer Shawn Lee lives in what he calls a "World of Funk." His mother is half Lebanese and a quarter Native American Indian. His wife is Indian, born in London from parents who are from Tanzania, East Africa. Their daughters (Mela & Seela) are half British/Asian and half American with the family roots to American Indian and Lebanese. As an American living in London he has his ears open to sounds from around the world, and all the spin-offs, mash-ups and fusions that pop-up. "Turkish Psych, Thai Funk, African Disco, Cambodian rock, Brazilian soul," lists Lee. "If you can say it, it exists."**

Lee has as an uncanny ability to pick-up and play any instrument he can lay his hands on (his studio is like a candy-store for curious musicians) and for World of Funk he went global playing sitar, ektar, Balaphone, Tanpura, kalimba, Steel drum, Guitarron, Moroccan castanets, Cithare, vibraphone, Xylophone, Bulbul tarang, Charango, Bouzouki, talking drum, and Udu.

But it wasn't just geography, family roots, and a well-stocked studio that fueled this album. Lee is a massive fan of worldly-funk. The Turkish psych of **Selda** and **Ersen**, early 1970s Bollywood soundtracks by **RD Burman** and **Asha Bhosle**, the Brazilian soul and disco of **Tim Maia**, Ethiopian Jazz great **Mulatu Astatke** and the Afro funk of **Pat Thomas** and **Marijata** were all big influences on World of Funk.

*"Like many western musicians, my ears have been seduced by the exotic sounds of the East and beyond. By the same token, many musicians from around the world have been inspired by the music of America and England as well. What we've got here is a universal language," says Lee. "When we bastardize each other's sounds/ music and get it wrong - we get it so right. It mutates and becomes something extraordinary. Now that is funky!"*

Adding to Lee's melting pot of sounds are guests from around the world. Brazilian singer-multi instrumentalist **Curumin** (Hailing from Sao Paulo, and of Japanese/Spanish Brazilian background) and British/Egyptian singer **Natacha Atlas** completely embody the spirit of World of Funk. While on-tour in Los Angeles this Summer Lee locked down three very special collaborations. The first was with **Chhom Nimol**, the LA based Cambodian singer with the band **Dengue Fever**. Lee made an instrumental track with

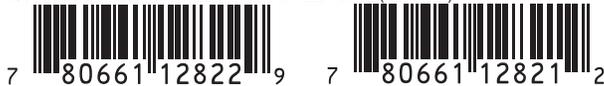
**Clutchy Hopkins** (which includes the sound of a 1960's Smith and Corona typewriter!) for Dengue Fever member **Paul Smith** who recorded Chhoms haunting vocal. A chance meeting with **Bardo** of **Chicano Batman** on Sunset Boulevard led to some garage-y flavored West Coast Latino-funk. And then both **Willie McNeal** and **Money Mark** suggested Lee work with **Cava**.

The album also features **Truth and Soul** Recording artist **Michael Leonhart**, **NOMO** bandleader **Elliot Bergman**, and Lee's mother-in-law (aka Nanny Jee)!

1. Bina
2. Ghost in the Rain ft. **Clutchy Hopkins** and **Chhom Nimol** from **Dengue Fever**
3. Ethio ft. **Michael Leonhart**
4. Cairo Cairo ft. **Natacha Atlas**
5. Nao Vacila ft. **Curumin**
6. La Eterna Felicidad ft. **Bardo Martinez**
7. Nanny Jee ft. **Nanny G**
8. Iceberg ft. **Elliot Bergman** from **NOMO**
9. Booya ft. **Michael Leonhart**
10. The Mighty Atlas ft. **Natacha Atlas**
11. Mi Ilusion ft. **Cava**
12. Accelerate
13. Tablacadabra
14. Hairy Krishner

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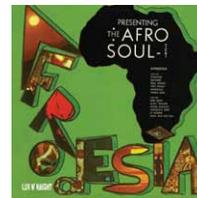
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FUNK, WORLD, ELECTRONIC, DOWNTempo

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