
Hailing from Berlin, it is Radio Citizen, aka Niko Schabel and a talented collective of local musicians, who are behind this adrenalin-infused and spiritually-charged debut album. Brought to our attention by Quantic. “Have a listen, you might like this,” he said handing over a CD-r to Ubiquity A+R rep Andrew Jervis after a gig in San Francisco. He was right. In summer 2005 Ubiquity released lead-off track “The Hop” on the “Music Is My Art” compilation. The mad DJ-friendly mix of dub and soul turned heads and rocked decks worldwide. A limited edition “EP1” added Afro-beat, jazz and funk to the Radio Citizen arsenal in Spring 2006. Selling-out quickly, the EP earned “single of the week” from Blues and Soul in the UK, and nods from DJs worldwide.

“Producing this record was kind of like playing a game,” says Schabel. “Taking live recordings and turning them into samples, taking samples and arranging them as they were live. I think this record seriously blurs the lines. One of the most live sounding tracks is the most digital cut-up one! The end result is hopefully as organic in feel as a good dub record. Important to me was that, nevermind how much studio-tricknology was applied, behind every track is a song.”

In addition to the sampler and mixing desk Radio Citizen maestro Schabel plays alto saxophone, kalimba, percussion, rhodes, clarinet, flute and synthesiser. Schabel has his own jazz quartet, and plays with the Express Brass Band, the Poets of Rhythm, Jojo Kuo (ex-Fela Kuti), Nik McCarthy (Franz Ferdinand), the Last Poets, and many more. His Radio Citizen tracks are often accompanied by Wolfi on flute and sax, and by the other-worldly Bajka. Her unique vocal styles incorporate multiple languages as she sings, raps and chats her way through tracks.

“If you like Ursula Rucker, Massive Attack and Nostalgia 77, you'll love this.”

**BLUES & SOUL**

(SINGLE OF THE FORTNIGHT)

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