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The Baboons are back!

Urban Tribal Afro-Caribbean Funk 'n' Roll returns to South Florida

The Baboons, Miami's ultra-rhythmic global-funk pioneers, are back with a brand new boogaloo.

After a 20-month hiatus, South Florida's award-winning worldbeat provocateurs return to the concert stage with a new line-up and a fresh batch of genre-bending tunes to headline Global Groove at the ArtsPark in Downtown Hollywood on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 9 p.m. The Baboons' return marks the rebirth of a South Florida favorite which has been celebrated for its joyful live performances and adventurous recordings. "We took some time to clear our palettes in order to paint a new musical canvas, to keep it fresh for the audience and the musicians," said lead vocalist Majica. "We're ecstatic to unleash The Baboons once again."

The Baboons continue to draw celebratory inspiration from South Florida's rich international culture. Blending Caribbean carnival rhythms, Latin & Brazilian musical traditions, the propulsive backbeat of funk, mysterious Middle Eastern elements and the deeply connected branches of blues, rock, R&B, and jazz, The Baboons have continued to add ingredients to their *Global Gumbo* since the original line-up first took the stage in the summer of 1993.

"For us, The Baboons are about the ways in which we're all connected," said founder and drummer Mano Pila. "Music knows no borders, and our sound is a celebration of our communal shared roots, the blurring of boundaries that is happening everywhere. For that reason, we are happy to perform at the Global Groove festival, an event that truly fits our musical philosophy."

Since their inception, The Baboons have received many honors, including *New Times Miami's* "Best Album 1999" for *Evolution*, and a Florida Jammy Award for Best Worldbeat Band. The band has shared the bill with Jimmy Buffet, George Clinton's P-Funk All-Stars, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, The Radiators, and many more. Festival appearances include performances at the Tobacco Road' annual anniversary bash, Alachua Harvest Music Festival, Fiesta Tropicale Mardi Gras, and Hollywood Beach Clambake. The Baboons have also appeared on Spanish language TV show, *El Mikinbin de Miami* and have worked with video director Joe Massott (Led Zeppelin concert film *The Song Remains the Same*.) In July 2008, The Baboons will celebrate their 15th anniversary with a traditional Quincea gala, during which the band will perform highlights from its long history and invite former members to help celebrate the group's legacy.

The Baboons have not been idle during the hiatus. The band returned to the recording studio with producer Phil MacArthur (Ricky Martin), who engineered 1999's award-winning *Evolution* and 2001's *Global Gumbo*. The infectious new *Baboon Boogaloo*, a booty-shaking tribute to the Latin-soul dance craze of the '60s, features the percussive primates in party mode and will serve as the title track for the band's next CD. For two years, lead singer Majica and drummer Mano Pila have been spinning world music and Latin jazz as hosts of the *Latin Jazz Quarter* and can be heard every Saturday and Sunday from 8-11 p.m. on WDNA 88.9 FM (www.seriousjazz.org.) "The radio show has broadened our influences," said Majica. "This voyage of musical discovery has inspired our recent compositions."

The Baboons features the talents of vocalist **Majica**, drummer **Mano Pila**, percussionist **Miguel Rega**, guitarist **Isaac Rodriguez**, bassist **Matt Schuler**, keyboardist **Steve Krupp** and saxophonist **Dominick Cama**. For more info, please call 305.298.1845 or email thebaboons@bellsouth.net. Check out <http://thebaboons.com> and join our community of friends at <http://myspace.com/thebaboonsmiami>. To view the band's online promo pack, please visit <http://www.sonicbids.com/TheBaboons>.
Band photo credit: Edwin Cardona

What the press has to say about The Baboons:

"The Baboons like to call their music 'urban tribal Afro-Cuban funk-n-roll,' but it should really be classified as 'everything but the kitchen sink.' From airy rockers worthy of Carlos Santana to percussive jams, their tunes incorporate a number of incongruous sounds that, under their direction and care, are collected into a harmonious whole. The Baboons make unabashedly happy music that is easy to enjoy and difficult to criticize. The quintet, led by singer Majica, has been around for a minute (its last album, *Global Gumbo*, was released in 2000), so it knows how to move a crowd." - *New Times Miami*, 5/13/04

"A gem of a band." - *The Miami Herald*

"The Baboons are definitively Miami: rife with multiculturalism, shirtless and shoeless sand-kicking fun, consistent unpredictability, cramped clutches of hyperactivity...What the tropically topical outfit has been doing for years is generating soul-stirring, ass-shaking music that only a birdbrain would try to pigeonhole." - *Street (Miami Herald)*

"Ultra-rhythmic, multicultural, eclectic... One of the city's most promising acts." - *New Times Miami*

"Defies all categories...notorious...infectiously percussive" - *City Link*

"Diverse, stirring, and tropical as an August day on Virginia Key, *Evolution* is pure Miami and pure pleasure." - *New Times Miami*, Best of Miami 1999, "Best Album of the Past Twelve Months"

"The 'boons have released...two CDs, but despite the merits of the recordings, particularly the masterful new release *Global Gumbo*, it remains their live shows that cream collective musical jeans. All this gifting locals with mad party, half spectacle, half joyful orgy live performances has grown the 'boons in size and exuberance..." - *Street*

"Reviewers have struggled to classify the music of The Baboons ever since the band premiered a decade ago. 'Spicy rhythmic gumbo!' said one. 'Afro-Cuban funk and roll!' declared another. 'Urban-tribal funk,' one more dribbled. And so on. Would it help if we added, 'The Baboons are what the Miami Sound Machine would sound like if the Miami Sound Machine didn't suck?' Whatever. Look, we all know that there are two forces at work today in American music -- the Homogenizers, whose aim is to commodify and Britney-fy everything you listen to, and the Resistance, who, in the pursuit of something new and original, defy the convenience of labels. The Baboons are the percussive commando unit of the Resistance.

They were originally into performance art and experimenting with percussive styles and spoken word poetry, but the Baboons have evolved into masters of reggae, blues, and Cuban funk; added a sexy *vocalista*; released two CDs; and forged a new genre-busting style of Floridian music." - *New Times Broward Palm Beach*