

akua naru



PRESSKIT

ABOUT

“This lady is the keeper of the cool flow.”

-Tony Allen, legendary Afro Beat pioneer, and drummer of Fela Kuti-

Regarded as “a carrier of the torch for Global Black Culture” Akua Naru gains inspiration from her hip hop childhood where she began spittin' lyrics about social issues at a young age. Gaining attention through metaphor and rhyme scheme a young Naru, drew influence from a range of truth tellers from the emotional piano ballads that framed the powerful messages of Nina Simone and Curtis Mayfield to the soulful and raw beats and rhymes that carried the (messages) of Lauryn Hill and the poetry of Ursula Rucker.



From the local and familiar atmosphere that nurtured a young emcee in New Haven (USA) came the global traveler, AKUA NARU, who has used her experiences living in America, Asia, Europe, and traveling Africa, and the Middle East, to document a unique and lyrical story of the human condition that raises the bar of excellence for mainstream hip hop.

UPCOMING ALBUM

This Fall 2014, Akua Naru is set to release her new studio album, entitled *The Miner's Canary*. Blending her signature low, raspy (and often) fiery vocals, and progressive/poetic lyricism with contemporary jazz and soul, Naru claims progression from her previous sound. The album, recorded in analogue studios across Europe and over the course of a year, will be the result of a cast of guest musicians and features invited to help Naru to continue telling her story. With time, those featuring on the album will be known. In the meantime, *The Miner's Canary* intends to contribute to the legacy of soul music and the powerful trailblazing female artist tradition on which it builds.

COLLABORATIONS/ FEATURES

From this platform, Akua Naru stands steady, climbing deeper inside live musicianship and widening (expanding) her role as emcee and performer to producer and musician. Along this spectrum, Naru has performed with the legendary drummers Tony Allen (Fela Kuti) and (the most recorded) Bernard Purdie, classic hip-hop act Lords Of The Underground, Ursula Rucker, Ben L'Oncle Soul, Patrice, Blitz The Ambassador, Mic Donet, collaborated with Questlove, Angelique Kidjo, & Tuneyards on the remake of Fela Kuti's classic *Lady for the Red+Hot Riot* Album release, featured on Wax Tailor's *In My Window* with Slum Village emcee Elzhi, and she has even lectured with famed Brown University Professor & Author, Dr. Tricia Rose.

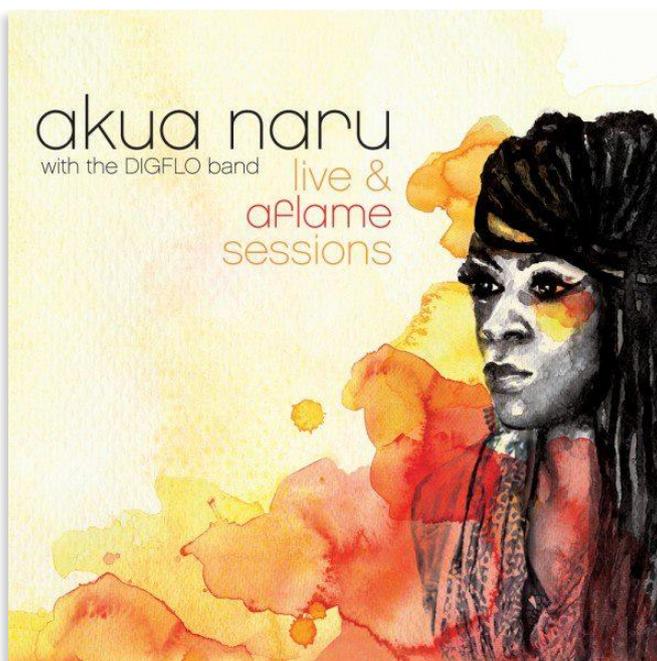
ROAD WORK / TOURING

In between working on new music, Naru along with her 6-piece band (bass, drums, keys, sax, DJ, guitar) have toured consistently from New York to Canada and Jordan, Russia to the Caribbean, Zimbabwe to India, and all across Europe. Together with her band, Naru holds an impressive list of over 70 shows within 2013 alone, and with each performance, Akua Naru underscores her reputation for captivating audiences, hyping crowds, and inspiring.

DISCOGRAPHY



Since the 2011 release of her debut album entitled, The Journey Aflame, Naru has torched and trail blazed a movement centered by the importance of hip hop's female narratives, live musicianship, profound lyricism, and global insight.



Akua's mission is especially highlighted by the 2012 release of the "Live & Aflame Sessions", a live interpretation of "...The Journey Aflame" album. The live sessions were recorded and filmed with a twelve piece ensemble including a blazing horn section and a soulful string quartet.

LIVE VIDEOS

Watch Akua Naru's "Live EPK – Video"

•Live EPK - Video•

Watch: Akua Naru's "Live & Aflame Sessions"

•Trailer•

•Rhyme Ryder's High•

•Walking The Block•

•Poetry: How Does It Feel Now?•



Accompanied by her band, DIGFLO, a six-piece ensemble including drums, keys, saxophone/flute, bass, guitar, and turntables, Akua Naru has a reputation for captivating audiences, hyping crowds, inspiring many, and forcing some to counter and dispel the myths regarding what they have been taught about women and hip hop. Clearly, her music and performances are a testament to the legacy of soul music and the powerful trailblazing female artist tradition on which it builds.

CONCERT HISTORY



Upcoming Dates 2013 (06. Oct 2013 | [CLICK HERE FOR NEWEST UPDATE](#))

| | | | | |
|---------|------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----|
| 20. Dec | 2013 | @ Cross Kultur 2013 - Tempelhof | Berlin | DE |
| 13. Dec | 2013 | @ Tamanoir | Genevilliers (92) | FR |
| 06. Dec | 2013 | @ Venue To Be Announced | Esbjerg | DK |
| 05. Dec | 2013 | @ Venue To Be Announced | Tonder | DK |
| 01. Dec | 2013 | @ Show To Be Confirmed | Bucharest | RO |
| 30. Nov | 2013 | @ Show To Be Confirmed | Iasi | RO |
| 29. Nov | 2013 | @ La Case A Choc | Neuchatel | CH |
| 23. Nov | 2013 | @ Warm Up Boom Bap – La Cartonnerie | Reims (51) | FR |
| 22. Nov | 2013 | @ Pulsations Urbaines – La Batterie | Guyancourt | CH |
| 16. Nov | 2013 | @ Le Creatives Festival Onex | Geneva | CH |
| 09. Nov | 2013 | @ FHE Diaspora Live w/ Akua & Friends | Cologne | DE |
| 02. Nov | 2013 | @ Kult 41 | Bonn | DE |
| 31. Oct | 2013 | @ Waldsee | Freiburg am Breisgau | DE |
| 25. Oct | 2013 | @ Les PrimeursDeMassy–EspacePaulB | Massy (91) | FR |
| 24. Oct | 2013 | @ *Visiting WOMEX | Cardiff, Wales | UK |
| 18. Oct | 2013 | @ World Of Worlds – Le Forum | Vaureal (95) | FR |
| 17. Oct | 2013 | @ Quest Park | Le Havre (76) | FR |
| 12. Oct | 2013 | @ Mioritmic | Cluj Napoca | RO |

Concert-History 2013 ([CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE HISTORY](#))

| | | | | |
|---------|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 28. Sep | 2013 | @ RE:Fresh Festival of Urban Culture | Maribor | SO |
| 27. Sep | 2013 | @ Festival Marsatac | Marseille | FR |
| 22. Sep | 2013 | @ Alte Malzerei | Regensburg | DE |
| 21. Sep | 2013 | @ Tempo Color Festival | Liege | BE |
| 17. Aug | 2013 | @ Lemas | Pugers Sur Argens(83) | FR |
| 16. Aug | 2013 | @ Recontres Arts Fous | Fouras (17) | FR |
| 10. Aug | 2013 | @ SummerRiseBoellerbauerOpenAir | Haag | AT |
| 03. Aug | 2013 | @ Festival Esperanzah | Floreffe | BE |

LINKS & DOWNLOADS

Website

www.akuanaru.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/akuanaru

Youtube

www.youtube.com/digflo

Twitter

[@akuanaru](https://twitter.com/akuanaru)
twitter.com/akuanaru

Online EPK Site

www.akuanaru.com/#!epk-english/c1h1f

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