



MEDIA RELEASE

Album release: Roots and Wings

Artist: Yeshe

Label: World Citizen Records

More information: www.yeshemusic.com

Title: Roots & Wings

It seems ironic that the origins of a deeply soulful world music album would come from a multi-national behemoth but stranger things have happened. The meeting of the old and new worlds began on that cross cultural super highway known as Google where it was that world music troubadour Yeshe from Byron Bay Australia crossed paths again with an old musical companion, world renown South African reggae singer/ multi-instrumentalist Tefo Hlaele. Yeshe and Tefo had lost contact for almost 15 years and found each other on a Google search. As Yeshe recalls afterwards:

"It was very emotional and we were so happy to reconnect and see each other again that we decided to record some tracks together before Tefo's return to London. That's when 'Peace of Mind' was born which landed me number one in the World category at the esteemed Billboard World Song contest."

London based Tefo Hlaele is a founding member of Ipi N'tombi of the world famous South African Dance Theatre, and was part of the first performance ever to a mixed (black/white) audience during the Apartheid era. Tefo was a big musical influence on Yeshe and one of his early mentors when touring around Europe in the early 1980s.

Yeshe, an internationally respected and critically acclaimed musician in his own right has been exploring the terrain of world music since the 1970's with a strong foundation laid down at a young age. Yeshe immersed himself in world music culture and spent many years in Africa honing his percussion and developing an affinity for the traditional African sounds of the Mbira and Kamele ngonni. Yeshe says:

"I totally immersed myself into the Shona culture, studying and playing with Mbira master Garkayi Tirikoti, basically never leaving his sight and sleeping on his floor in the ghettos of Harare."

After years of international touring Yeshe found inspiration in the hills of Byron Bay and it was here that he continued the award winning work started with Tefo and took it to a new level. Recorded at 'Art of Audio' in the hills near Mullumbimby part of the magical Byron Shire in Australia, "Roots & Wings" was co-produced by the recent Grammy nominated Kamal Engels, recognised for his "Pure Sound" album by The Gyoto Monks of Tibet to be announced at the upcoming 53rd Annual Grammy Awards World Music Category.

Yeshe drew upon a rich reservoir of his past and present musical cohorts from nine countries including Harry Manx (Canada's most awarded blues artist and long time collaborator with Yeshe), Ganga Giri (Australia's international Didjeridoo/dance export), Violin virtuoso Cyé Wood (Lisa Gerrard), Siaka Diarra (one of Yeshe's Ngoni teachers from Burkina Faso) and Avishai Barnatan (founding member of Israel's favourite 'Sheva'). Additional recording was done in Sydney, L.A, Ubud (Bali) and Accra (Ghana) adding to the rich layered world sound.

Two of the songs have been sung in French, inspired by the success of Yeshe's debut album 'World Citizen' in Quebec, Canada which had chart success. As Yeshe states

"I loved playing to audiences in Quebec so much that I decided to record my version of the Quebec classic 'La Ballade de Jean Batailleur' by Zachary Richard"

The other French song 'Ta Chambre' Yeshe wrote as a love song to his wife while on one of his trips around French speaking West Africa. The record also has songs in English as well as original interpretations of traditional African songs. A very unique version of the classic 'Summertime', featuring Harry Manx on Mohan Veena (Rajastani slide guitar) and Siaka Diarra on Kamele Ngoni provides real contrast in the material although the record is heavily flavoured by Yeshe's African foundations and instrumentation binding the styles strongly together. In fact the title Roots and Wings honours his musical roots in Africa, which as Yeshe says, has "helped me grow my musical wings".

With international acclaim from the Billboard World Song Contest to springboard from, along with the high calibre of musical personnel featured on the record, it is clear that 2011 will be a big year for Yeshe. For all the details on the upcoming tours go to www.yeshemusic.com.

