

BHUNDU BOYS

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This year sees the 10th anniversary of the band's first trip to these shores, when they captivated audiences with their compulsive new dance music. In those heady days, long before the expression 'world music' had been dreamt up, The Bhundu Boys were the first African band to play extensively across the country, regularly notching up 80 or 90 date tours.

The band have spent the winter at home in Zimbabwe rehearsing material for their next release, to follow their critically acclaimed fifth studio album 'Friends on the Road'.

They have also been working on the soundtrack of a forthcoming feature film in which they might also be appearing!

"Intoxicating slices of sun - an addictive celebratory high that needs no translation."

(NME)

"The giddy tripping guitar of the African township".

(Q Magazine)

"Stretches cross cultural comprehension to breaking point"

(The Scotsman)

The Bhundu Boys very name reflects the pride they have in their new country. The original 'Bhundu (bush) Boys' were the bush guerillas who fought with Robert Mugabe during the bloody war of independence. "We are as old as our country" is how Rise Kagona, founder of the group, puts it.

The band arose from the seeds of local groups like the Black Superstars and Wild Dragons, learning their craft on Harare's nightclub circuit. In a political atmosphere where homegrown African music was still considered revolutionary, they performed with borrowed gear, originally covering western pop.

The band were one of the first to attack the UK market and in 1987 and went top of the 'Indy' charts with the Zimbabwean recorded 'Shabini' and 'Tsvimbodzemoto' albums, before two albums for Warners. The band then happily returned to indy status and released their 'Live at King Tuts Wa Wa Hut'.

"Miss them and be doomed to an eternity of regret"

(Sydney Morning Herald)

"The only African group most people have actually heard of."

(Record Mirror)

The band; Rise Kagona (guitar), Washington Kavhayi (bass), Kuda Matimba (keyboard), Golden Mapika (drums).