

PRESS RELEASE FOR OLAONABULE, 2011 ALBUM, SEVEN SHADES DARKER

OLA ONABULÉ

Press Release -

www.olasmusic.com

2011 will see the release of British singer and songwriter, **Ola Onabule's** 7th studio album entitled '**SEVEN SHADES DARKER**'.

The album features **14 tracks** that will only solidify **Ola's** growing reputation as one of the **finest singer songwriters** writing today.

Grooves undoubtedly rooted in the **Soul and Blues** of the late sixties and early Seventies make an unlikely but easy peace with mournful, complex **African melodic** lines. On other tracks, wailing distorted guitars cling to the helter-skelter ride of poly-rhythmic time signatures that seem to unsettle and soothe the ear in equal measures. Seemingly conventional 4/4 grooves beguile with inviting familiarity whilst slipping potent lyrical nuggets under the radar of our assumptions. Ballads are new requiems, odes to the passing of loved ones, Funky jaunts document the ebbing away of precious time, and deal with jealousy, cowardice, loss of identity and the world through the eyes of an unwanted visitor is set to the galloping gait of an african church hymn. **Ola**, in very fine voice, twists and turns at every step, eluding definition and revelling in all his gifts like a child, celebrating this rare feat in the modern recording era of a seventh album!

The sweet irony for **Ola** must be that this steadily progressing career is indeed a gift to himself. Spanning almost two decades, it is a career carved out of a presentiment that the currently prevailing **DIY** ethics were going to be the way things would be done; ...**OLA** knew that keeping his music alive meant self building studio's, setting up labels and touring his band extensively when major label support was either absent or undesirable. Today, **Ola** is a frequent traveller to international destinations to perform at international **Jazz Festivals**, concert halls, and special appearances with **Big Bands and Orchestras**.

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BACKGROUND

OLA ONABULE set up his **Record Label Rugged Ram Records** in the mid 90s and has since released six albums of original, self-produced material, with the last album, **THE DEVOURED MAN in 2007**, taking him on tour dates to theatres and Jazz festivals across the world.

The Press say,... **Ola** possesses "a stunning voice of enormous range and emotional clout". His voice is "beautifully clear and appealingly textured, almost classical ...with a range and elasticity to match his rich tonal qualities". "The influences of **Soul, Jazz** and the **West African music of his childhood** come together in subtle and sophisticated melodies and time signatures. **OLA's** songs feature lyrics that are layered with metaphor and allegory. **Ola** seamlessly documents the issues of the day with the universal subjects of love and loss. **OLA** has guested and/or shared stages with some of the most prominent soul and jazz artists including **Diane Reeves, Maceo Parker, Gladys Knight, Al Jarreau, Patti Labelle, Roberta Flack, Joe Zawinul, Natalie Cole, Raul Midon, David Sanborn, Incognito, John McLaughlin, Chick Corea, Randy Newman.** And **Roy Hargrove.** **OLA Onabule's** music has appeared in films such as '**N'est Tres Pas Catholique**' and '**Second Hand Lions**' featuring **Robert Duvall** and **Michael Caine.**

OLA was the featured vocalist performing with the **WDR Radio Big Band of Cologne** in a memorial concert for **Hiram Bullock** in 2008 which featured **Randy Brecker, Dean Brown, and Frank Gravis** at the **Cologne Philharmonic Concert Hall.**

March 2010 saw **Ola** return to feature with the **WDR Radio Big Band and China Moses with Dennis Mackrel** conducting (director of the **Count Basie Orchestra**) at some special radio concerts featuring music from the 1920's.

OLA continues to perform at many **UK and International music festivals** including the main stage of **The Montreal Jazz Festival, Vancouver Coastal Jazz Festival, Victoria Jazz Festival, Edmonton Jazz Festival in Canada, Umea Jazz Festival Sweden, Blueballs Music Festival Switzerland, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Leverkusen Jazz Festival, Slida Jazz Festival of Norway, The Duke Ellington Jazz Festival at The Kennedy Center in Washington, Ingolstadt Jazz Festival and Aalener Jazz Festival,** as well as many of the world's most famous jazz venues

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including Ronnie Scott's, Blue Note, New York, Joe's Public Theater and Quasimodo's in Berlin.

Ola will appear at select festivals in Europe this Autumn with tour dates beginning in from January 2011 with a concert with the award winning Babelsberg Film Orchestra at the Nikolaisaal in Potsdam, Germany.

Ola Onabule at the 30th Anniversary of The Montreal Jazz Festival 2009

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvTvQ-r91vg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fewD0hvhT4c>

<http://www.vimeo.com/14125711>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdjFPoica5Q&feature=related>

<http://vimeo.com/15318023>

http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/2010/dmep/spotlights/ola_onabule/

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99kL8At2lew>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD8JR7YsxpQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hljJaXVQwsQ>