



With their intoxicating blend of sharp Western electronic music and Eastern sounds & vocals, the Parisian crew have been setting fire to clubs and festivals worldwide, playing over 260 shows on four continents since the release of their debut album *Musique de France* at the end of 2016.

Jdid (meaning *new* in Arabic) sees the band taking a giant step forward on their path, and deepening the dialogue between the northern, southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean (the northern shore extending, in this particular case, to the banks of the rivers Seine, Thames, Spree and Hudson!)

Throughout the album, club-oriented beats are taken for a ride, from suburban warehouses to smoky basements of Oran & Istanbul, from wide expanses of desert dunes to landscapes of concrete and metal, and are regenerated by the fresh breezes and the inspiring musicians encountered along the way.

Jdid features contributions by Algerian vocalists **Radia Menel**, **Sofiane Saidi**, **Amel Wahby** and **Cheikha Hadjla**, by Turkish artist **Cem Yildiz** and Syrian keyboardist **Rizan Said**, as well as tracks written in collaboration with Tunisian/Belgian producer **Ammar 808** and with **Les Filles d'Ilighadad** from Niger.

Keyboard player **Kenzi Bourras** originally joined Acid Arab to play on their live shows, but he's now become a full member of the band, and his Algerian roots played a crucial role in the development of the new tracks, some of which can be described as retrofuturist takes on raï music (the influential genre which flourished in Algeria since the 1920s, and became internationally popular in the 80s and 90s).

ACID ARAB JDID (2 X LP, DIGITAL, CD) OUT ON CRAMMED DISCS OCTOBER 18

QUICK TRACK-BY-TRACK RUNDOWN:

Stafia ("Girl from Setif") features Algerian singer Radia Menel and some gasba flute.

Electrique Yarghol is based on nasty loops and the sound of the yarghol, the traditional Palestinian reed pipe.

Nassibi ("Destiny") was written in a tour van, and features Paris-based raï figure Amel Wahby.

Club DZ: DZ (for "DjaZair") is the country code on Algerian license plates. The track might be described as Algiers-meets-Chicago.

Rimitti Dor, meaning "Rimitti plays" on the car stereo. The character in Sofiane Saidi's lyrics is driving around, trying to soothe his broken heart by listening to the music of classic raï godmother Cheikha Rimitti. All the raï tropes are there: bad boys, alcohol and unrequited love.

In **Rajel**, Acid Arab and talented Belgian-Tunisian producer Ammar 808 play around with Tunisian mezwed and 90s-tinged beats.

Soulan ("softly") sees former Sahel shepherds Les Filles d'Ilighadad bringing a touch of Tuareg blues to the party.

Was Was means "dark thoughts", this feverish track takes us back in time to you know when.

Ejma was written & recorded with Cem Yildiz (who already appeared on the band's debut album), and seems to emerge from an imaginary goth cave somewhere in Turkey.

Ras El Ain feat. dabke master keyboardist Rizan Said (who co-wrote and performed many of Omar Souleyman's tracks).

Malek Ya Zahri is eighties-style raï reconsidered, and is carried by the powerful voice of Cheikha Hadjla.

ACID ARAB IN A NUTSHELL

Formed in 2012 by Parisian DJs Guido Minisky and Hervé Carvalho, Acid Arab patiently honed their style by meeting with scores of artists from all over North Africa and the Middle East. Born in the transcultural cauldron that is Paris, their concept was to create a space for Arab culture in the world of contemporary electronic music. Moving on to create their own tracks, they became a fully-fledged musical entity by teaming up with Pierrot Casanova, Nicolas Borne, and later with sensational Algerian keyboard player Kenzi Bourras.

Since the release of their debut album *Musique de France*, Acid Arab performed all around the world. They were nominated for a Victoire de la Musique (French music industry awards) and for Gilles Peterson's Worldwide Awards (UK), while the album topped CMJ's New World Chart (US).

The band have been putting up their own *Hafra* club nights in several countries, on which they perform with up-and-coming like-minded artists. They've recently launched Acid Arab Records, their own imprint in association with Crammed Discs, dedicated to discovering and signing innovative electronic music artists from North Africa and the Middle East. The first two signings on the imprint are Egyptian producer & performer Rozzma, and Palestinian duet Zenobia.

FROM THE PRESS ON *MUSIQUE DE FRANCE*

Skilful blend of techno and Arabic music shows how diverse global sounds can be integrated into western music with both respect and dynamism. Classy stuff. (Uncut)

In a world filled with monotony, it's refreshing to hear something like this Album of the Month 8/10 (Mixmag)

One of the albums of the year (Gilles Peterson)

Musique de France isn't an indiscriminate smash and grab of appropriation, it's a wonderfully organic and experimental and occasionally psychedelic record that will take you to interesting places if you'll let it.

(The Quietus)

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