

Haiti Mwem Renmenw

By

Natalie Jean

Written by

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In a late night musical conversation with a fellow radio presenter a few years back, he expressed his love for world and global fusion music, but also stated that it was one of the hardest genres to get over to the western and largely English speaking continents, he added saying, that the music and production quality and over all vibe had to be perfection to hold their interest. That friend is therefore now about to get a copy of **Haiti Mwem Renmenw** by **Natalie Jean**, as the album utterly fits his own parameters and I completely expect this release to take the world 100 chart by storm.

The beginning of any project is the canvas on which we initially judge, and what better way to start than the rip roaring opening song called **Se Kanaval**. I have spent some time in the Caribbean and the beat here reminds me greatly of the soca rhythm's we use to hear. Jean's power vocals drive this song right into the very heart of musical happiness, and you will soon find that keeping your body still whilst listening to this release, is near on impossible.

The pace continues with the energetic **Smoking Ke Fan**, a slight change in tempo, but the music still retains that irresistible beat that demands action; there seems to be a pronounced Latin element within the construction of this track that makes the whole arrangement utterly desirable.

On **An Selebri Papa Dambalah** we have an entirely different composition, the beginning offers us a nature filled paradise for a minute then bursts literally into an explosion of musical colour and action, there is a real mixture of styles here, a real native power driven beat, mixed extremely cleverly with an almost blues like vocal segment, which beautifully creates

a place of sanctuary until we once again join the dance. I found this global fusion based opus an almost trance like track, and one of the most addictive pieces off the release, almost primeval in energy and with elements of an ancient vibe contained within.

Time for a change in tempo; that opportunity falls to the quite breath taking piece entitled **La Pe**. A classy and skilful percussive performance can be found here and one that has a real tribal feel to it. The ability of Jean to be able to suit her vocal style to any piece is quite stunning. You may also find a South American influence here as well, in a track that is quite brilliantly crafted; I sensed something here that seemed to speak musically to many nations across the world.

There was something very familiar to this next piece called **Lan Nuit Nou Tounin Lougarou**, but then again, those who know me will also know of my work with Native American Shamanism. This too seemed like a song sung to the ancestors, but the added animal sounds contained within, perhaps gives us a composition for shape shifting. The percussion and vocals here are incredibly powerful, one could imagine really raising the rhythm's to this one.

It's time to slip into the second half of the album as we come across a more dance, almost trance styled track, but within the composition, the originality of Haiti remains strong on the piece **Endepandans**. This is a true anthem, perhaps a reminder of the long hard road to independence and a musical reminder to never to forget the sacrifices that have been made along the way.

This next piece was one of my favourite tracks from the album, and called **Saut Deau**. Once more the impressive vocals of Jean, dance with the percussive genius of this piece, in a rhythmic moment of bliss filled calm and tranquillity. **Saut Deau** is a beautiful place in Haiti of great spiritual significance and **Natalie Jean** has created a lush and colourful narrative to allow us a little glimpse into her realm.

As we reach **Marabou** we find something amazingly beautiful, this down tempo ballad floats majestically along the river of time with such an impressive flow to its construction. **Natalie Jean's** ability to be able to sing

in many energies is quite breath taking and incredibly impressive, this has to be one of the finest ballads I have heard in this genre.

Now I live on an island and like many, that island represents good food, music and beauty, and that about sums the track **Haiti**, a proud country that has beauty in abundance, this almost *Sheryl Crow* styled song says it all, it has a fun tempo and a cadence so delectable.

Our last doorway to our sojourn in **Haiti** is now upon us and called **L'Amour a L'Infini**. This is the perfect opportunity for the artist to sum up her love for Haiti; and she does this with ease, in a ballad that contains passion, fire and of course a deep love. This is also another one of my favourites off the release.

Haiti Mwem Renmenw is a release to be proud of, the overwhelming sincerity and passion is off the scale here, and **Natalie Jean** has indeed created a world fusion classic, which will place the island of Haiti on the musical map forever. This is a release that contains everything good about the genre; it has empowering vocals, a mesmerising percussive beat, sensitivity when needed, and a freshness, which quite honestly is very intoxicating.