

## LONG BIO

Have you heard Valérie Ekoumé sing yet ? It is for those who hear and listen to her an extraordinary experience.

Valérie singing is not like some who try to impress an audience by making each note a technical feat.

She sings as others speak. She communicates with the public through her art. She has an obvious wish of communion with her audience as she seems to become one with music. Her voice becomes for whoever hears her, a delicate support guiding one's emotions to another.

From high to low pitched notes this singer's voice is inhabited by life, her life, echoing ours. Each of us can project one's own emotions, rift and joys on it. Who is this singer whose tone's quality is not just beautiful ?

Valérie Ekoumé is a singer whose origins are Camerounese. Born in France, she grew up in an environnement where music was no foreign language. She took to music at an early age but was more interested in singing.

Retlanlessly wishing to improve her own squill in singing, she integrated, in 2005, the American School of musicians based in Paris. She studied there for five years. All the while, she accumulated training in improving her vocal expression.

This singer has allready collaborated with the work of many famous singers (Youssou Ndour, Alain Barrière, Maceo Parker, Courtney Pine, Passi, MC Solaar, Papa Wemba, Rokia Traoré, Kaissa Doumbe, Etienne Mbappe, Meiday, Lofi Olomide, Coco Mbassi, Lulendo).

For eight years, she sang with Manu Dibango in Soul Makossa Gang and in Maraboutik Big Bang. This collaboration enabled her to be part of several big festivals across the world : Cannes Festival, Womad Jazz in Vienna, Zigeunerfest and Couleur Café among many. Although she spent most of her life in France, Valerie is very attached to Duala, her original language. For her the sound of Duala language expresses music, emotion, and truth which she recognizes as hers. She knows that in that language, she does more than sing, since somehow, this is where she really belongs.

Valérie presents here « Djaali », her first album : this is a three years' work result and it is also the collaboration of the singer (Author, composer, and interpreter) with Guy Nwogang (drummer, percussionist, composer) producer of the album.

This is excellent news for those who up to now were frustrated to only hear her in small glimpses in other people's world and music. This is an Afro-Pop acoustic project. It is in itself, an invitation to explore and travel in different worlds who skirt long one another, each of them bringing their own specificity in the universal melting pot to which Valérie Ekoumé aims.

The richness of Valerie Ekoumé's album reaches to human richness, thanks to all the different musicians who take part of it. These talented instrumentalists, from different fields and countries, have each of them brought their own universal touch.