

Daby Touré Amonafi

Cumbancha (41 mins)



Prick up your ears for a story from Touré



Right from the opening track, 'Woyoyoye', a slice of the Afro-pop perfection Daby Touré is known for,

it is clear that everyone's favourite Paris-based Mauritanian singer-songwriter is back. And with plenty of stories to tell. *Amonafi* translates as 'Once Upon a Time' in Wolof. Even if the literal meanings of these lyrics – sung in Wolof, Pulaar, Hassinaya and other languages – pass us by, Daby still manages to convey the emotions and journeys undertaken. Here are the sort of catchy, lovingly crafted songs we heard on *Stereo Spirit* and *Diam*, the Real World albums with which he made his name before a Faustian pact with Universal saw him singing largely in French and shoehorned into duets with Francis Cabrel and Maxime Le Forestier on 2012's so-so *Lang(u)age*.

Daby's relief at being his own man again is palpable. While still very much a French album, with its polished edges and slick (almost too slick) production, *Amonafi* finds him emboldened, stretching out on tracks such as the rollicking, percussion-fuelled 'Kille', the melodic, hook-laden 'If You' and 'Little Song', with its jaunty, upbeat rhythms. What with his wide-ranging voice, virtuosic guitar work, and knack for songwriting, *Amonafi* repositions Daby as a force to be reckoned with.

JANE CORNWELL

TRACK TO TRY *Woyoyoye*