





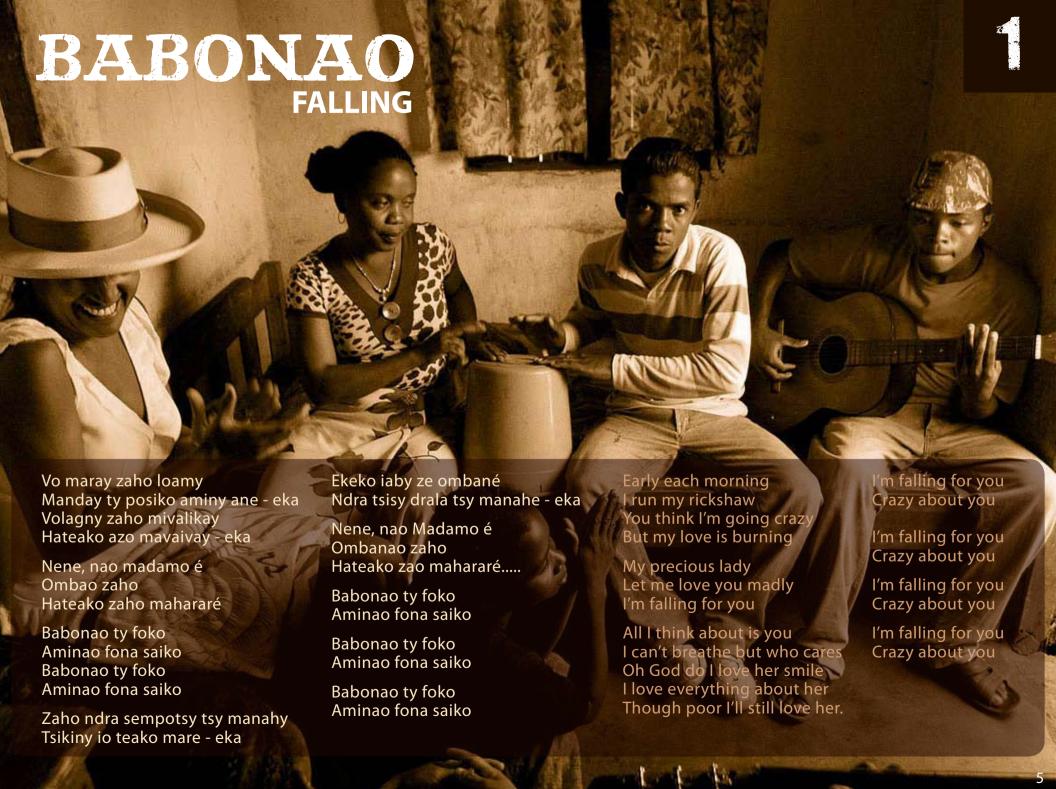
Singer and songwriter Razia Said's nomadic life has taken her across Africa to France, Italy, Ibiza, Bali and New York City, but despite these wanderings, her heart and soul remains inexorably tethered to Madagascar, the land of her birth. Her musical explorations have also been wide ranging, and over

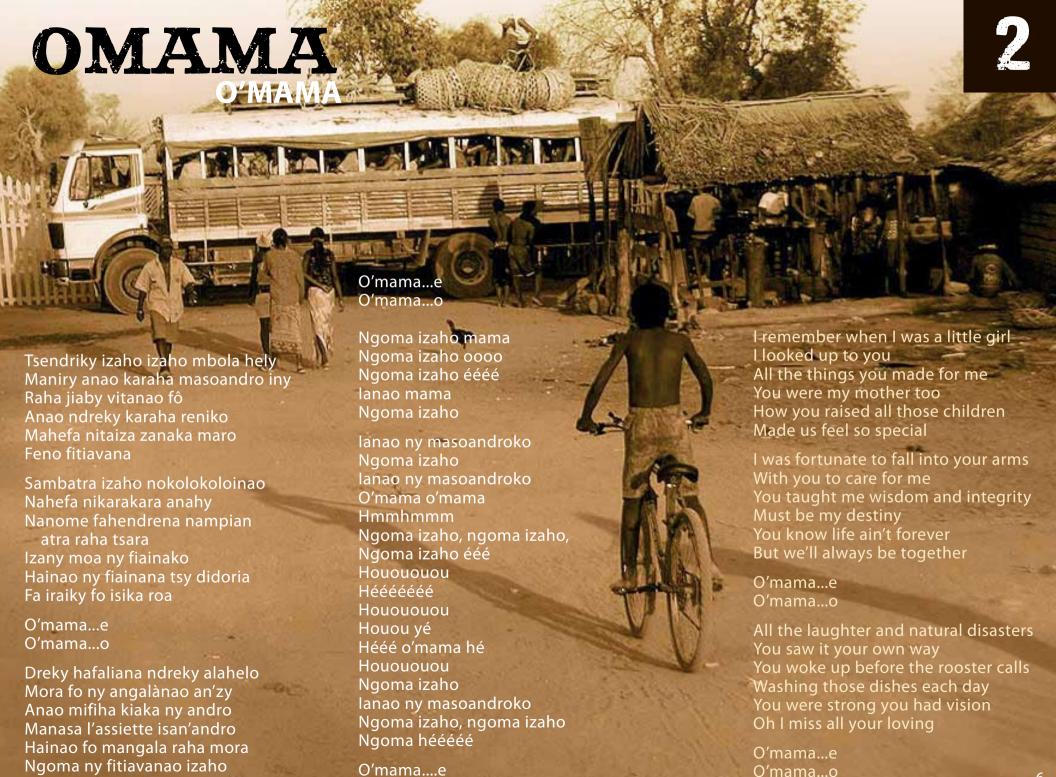
the years Razia has experimented with French chanson, rock, jazz and even smooth, Sade-style R&B. But it took reaching back to her cultural roots for Razia to uncover her true artistic calling as one of African music's most promising talents.

With the album **Zebu Nation**, Razia has created an inspiring collection of songs that draw deeply on the music she heard growing up in the town of Antalaha in northeastern Madagascar. The source for the world's most prized Bourbon vanilla, Antalaha is one of Madagascar's wealthiest communities, although there remains a great gap between rich and poor. Razia was born on December 1, 1959 when her mother was just a teenager and not yet ready for the role of parenting. To diffuse the scandal, her mother was sent to the Comores Islands and Razia's grandparents raised her in a bustling household filled with relatives. Razia first heard the infectious rhythms of local salegy music blasting out of the town's ubiquitous radios. It was one of Razia's older uncles that first introduced her to French music as well as The Beatles, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix and other Western stars. Her uncle even invited her to sing the latest French pop songs on stage with his band when she was just ten years old.

Believing that her grandparents were her parents, Razia was in for a shock when she learned at age eleven that "Aunt Hassanatte" who regularly visited from the Comores was actually her mother. In fact, by that time Razia's real mother had married a French architect and wanted Razia to join them in the West African country of Gabon. Suddenly, Razia was uprooted from the world she knew and traveled on an epic journey through Dar Es Salaam, across the Congo River to a new life and family. In Gabon, Razia discovered that the local church had a choir, but one had to be Catholic to join, and Razia was raised a Muslim. Music was far more important to her then the details of which God she prayed to, so she begged her mother to allow her to convert...which she did. Razia was also exposed to the funky grooves of Fela, Pierre Akendengue, Papa Wemba and other African artists who were popular in Gabon at the time.







## YOYOYO

Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé

Explaining to my child why I cry My native country is so far away While in my sleep I'm always there Don't you forget that I still care

Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé

The tribal fights that we still endure
The misery remains despite our prayers
O ancestors how could we dare?
To forget you though so far away

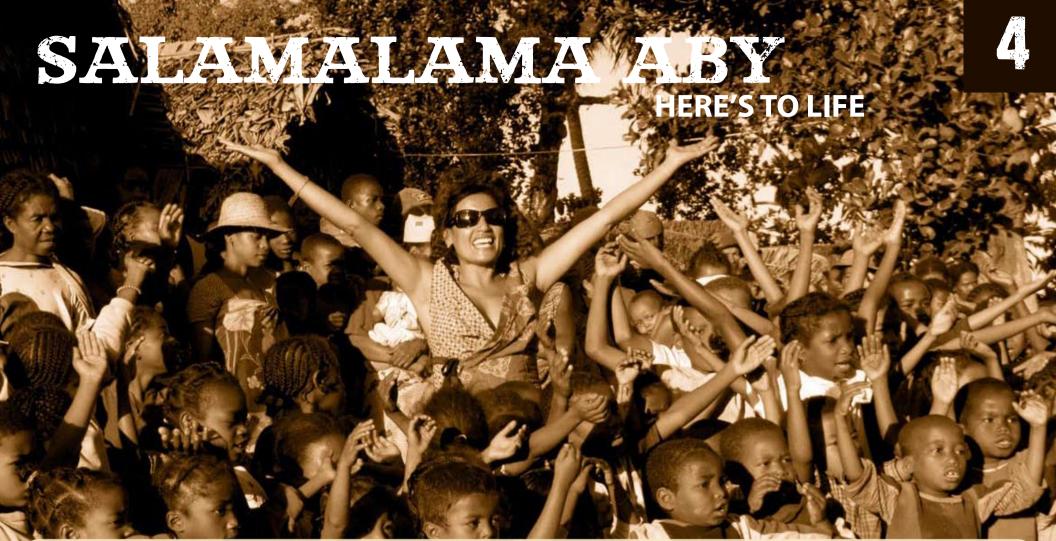
Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé

Volaniko aminao manina tomany Taniko zaho lavits'iny La fa matory zaho mieritreritra Kalina fa mahatsiaro ny aty e

Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé Yoyoyoyo Yéyéyéyé

Adim-poko hianantsika Fijalia maro ndra mivavake Manao akory tsy afarany Tsy manadino ndre da lavitre





Na ianao mainty na fotsy Hiara - hikorana no ady ety Na trema ianao na hoe ory Miara-mifaly no tanjon'ety

O! Razoky, ô! Razandry Fetintsik'izao ny androany Koa mitsangana hiara-mifaly Horakoraka mihira hoe

Salamalama aby e! lanareo Ny masoandro tsy manaraka Mitsidik'isambaravarana Fomba tsara ho ahy sy ianao Mitaona antsika hihira hoe:

Salamalama aby e!

Ehe Ranina e — Salamalama nareo Avy izahay zao — Salamalama nareo E he ranina e — Salamalama nareo Tsika hilalao — Salamalama nareo No matter what's your race
whether black or white
We're going to have a party
Whether you're rich or poor
Let's party together
Older brothers, younger brothers
Today is our celebration
Wake up so we can have some fun
So we can sing together as one

Cheers everyone

The sun shines on us all It shows up on every doorstep So the best thing for you to do Is to follow me so we can sing this together

Cheers everyone



### NY ALANTSIKA NATURE LAMENTS

Lakalaka ny fiainana eto ambonin'ny tany Ny tontolo efa tsy hiainana ka mampitomany

Raha tsy mihetsika isika niany ity, ts'isy tavela ho an'ny mandimby Antsika ny tsiny raha toa ka very ny fanantenanan'jareo

Ireo zava-boary Efa tonta avokoa O ry zava-boary Efa tonta avokoa (Hé hé hé)

Ry sakaiza tsara indrindra, mitodia ianareo Mba ho iray hifanentana hamonjy ireo alantsika

O ry zava-boary Efa tonta avokoa O ry zava-boary Efa tonta avokoa (Hé hé hé)

Mitomany Ny atin-tany May sy kila avokoa

Ireo na ny biby Manan'aina Mitaraina avokoa (Hé) CHOICE?

Life on earth is unpredictable, But one thing is sure: What we inflict on our planet is sad

If we don't react fast enough
There will be nothing
left for our children
And we would be
the only ones to blame.

Oh Mother Nature Everything is being destroyed

Oh my friends look at what we've done Let's get together and save our forests

Oh Mother Nature Everything is being destroyed

Our land cries out It's all burned and dried up

Fauna or flora All life forms are lamenting

Our land cries It's all burned and dried up

Fauna or flora
All forms of life are crying for help

## SLASHAND BURN

One day in may It was a beautiful day I felt so alone When the sky opened up And changed to charcoal grey

One day in may Just like any day It chilled my bones When i heard you say That the hills have burned away

Slash and burn
Slash and burn
No where left to hide

On the mountain side
Still the children play
Things feel the same way
But something is gone
It's all gone up in smoke

This is our day And this is our land Not just to abuse Let's not give up and say

Slash and burn Slash and burn A slow death in disguise

Down on my knees Tears in my voice Where are the trees Watch the rivers bleed Listen to them cry

Don't we have a choice?

Slash and burn It wasn't meant to be

Who could have said
What have we done
This is our day
And this is our land
What will tomorrow say?
This our place
And this our time
This our land
And this is our home
This is our day
What will tomorrow say?

Slash and burn
Slash and burn
This is our way
Don't we have a choice?
Slash and burn

Think of the universe
Think of the world
Think of your people
Think of ourselves
Think of our children
Think of the generations to come

Don't we have a choice?



Ho simba ve ny tontolo Noho isika olombelon'o Ndao re hiara - hitolona Hiaro mafy ny ampitso

Ny Rivotra aza miova Manempotra izay aleha Aiza re ny ho avintsika Ny hiafarana e Ndao hiady é

Ndao hiova é Sao tara e Ndao hiova é Tsy hanen'isika

Tsy ozona re izao Fa loza mitatao Azo atao ny miala dian'izao Tsy hanenenana e Ndao hiady é

Ndao hiova é Sao tara e Ndao hiova é Tsy hanen'isika

Lorsque l'espoir s'en va Je te suis pas a pas Au tombant du silence La ou la vie s'ennivre Quand le vent s'engouffre Malgre toutes les tempetes Le soleil brille toujours Et les enfants sourient

Ndao hiova é Sao tara e Who will we be
the ones responsible
For the destruction of our world
Let's act together with conviction
To protect our only future

The winds have turned, Hot and suffocating. What will become of us? Let's wake up Do something about it Before it's too late

Let's fight, Let's create some change Because it's not too late Let's wake up So we won't regret

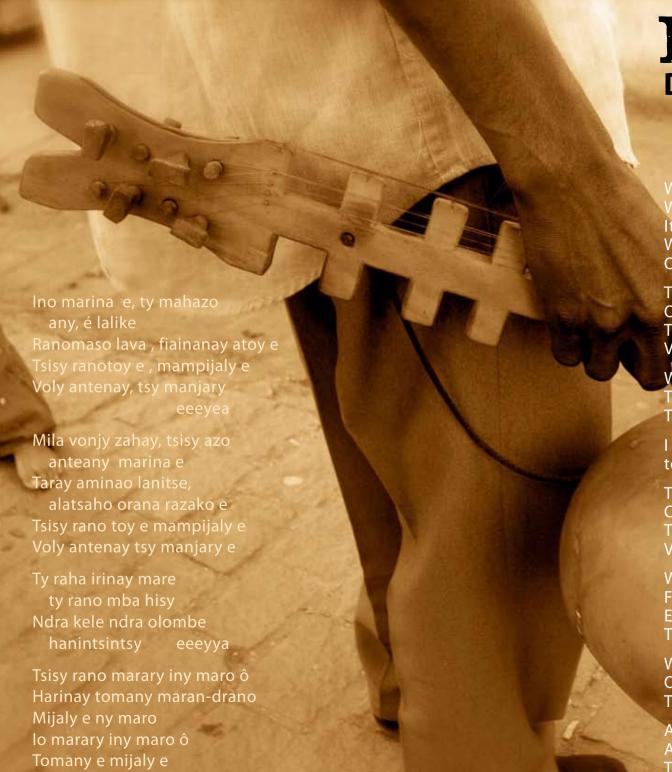
It's not too late

It's not a malediction
But an urgent call
Lets react now
So we won't regret

When hope flies away I follow your footsteps. When silence falls Where life flourished When the wind swells Despite all the storms It's not too late







LALIKE DEEP THOUGHTS

What is the truth
What's going on
It's so hard
We're been crying forever
Our entire life

The water's gone
Only suffering remains
The crops we were hoping for
Vanished

We're screaming for help There's no hope That's the truth

I plead to the heavens to please bring us rain

The water is gone
Only suffering remains
The crops we were hoping for
Vanished

We strongly wish For rain Even just a little To cool us down

Without water
Our people will be dying of thirst
The animals are crying for water

A great deal of suffering A great deal of sickness That's what hurts us the most.

# TIAKO RO THE SUN WE LOVE

#### Hoohoo

Tsy natao ho safidy ny ampitso Lahatra sy anjara efa didy Zaho sy ianao hé he Tsisy safidy é hé é Ny ho ampitso hé hé he

Mikorana anao Masoandro Mikorana hoy aho e Mikorana anao ry Andro Mikorana hoy aho Mikorana anao Masoandro Mikorana hoy aho Mivolana

Tiako re Tiako ro Ny mandré Hafatré

Aminao-ny mba ho avy e' Ho anay ma rô o

Mikoràna Tiako rô Ny mandré hafatré Ny mba ho avy ho anay marô ô

Voleo vonikazo, tsiky, isan'andro Aza asiana tondradrano, na tsonami Ry masoandro I é y I é Tsy asina ngidy é y I é Ny ho ampitso Ié he We have no say about our future We can only follow the road of destiny

Talk to me sunshine
Please talk to me
Talk to me daylight
Please talk to me
Tell me what is my destiny

For each and every day
Please sunshine allow
flowers and smiles to grow
Don't create storms nor tsunamis

Oh sunshine Relieve our sadness That's our only prayer

Talk to me sunshine
Please talk to me
Talk to me daylight
Please talk to me
Tell me what is my destiny

## MIFOHAZA WAKE UP

E' ya mifohaza é ya E' ya mifohaza é ya

Mifohaza ry zana-tany Tsy hiady, tsy hiankany Fa hiaro ny atialan-tsika. Tsy hivadiky ho lasa hiéka.

Na ny an-tany na ny andriéka Tsy aràtra tsy angatsiéka Kè ny atiala ndrèky biby Tsisy azon'ôlo ambidy

E'ya mifohaza é ya E' ya mifohaza é ya

Ampia zahay zañahary Mba ahita ny manjary Taninay ity tianay () Ka tsy avelanay ho may

E' ya mifohaza é ya E' ya mifohaza é ya

Tandremo ny "plastique"
Tsy manjary, tsy mamparìky
lzy ka tsy ay ny mampiasa azy
Sady mandoto mibaribary.

Vazaha jiaby èran-tany Malahelo sy mitomoañy Kè alô-tsika hitamba-bé Na arô zaza na ôlobé

Mifohaza mifohaza E' ya mifohaza é ya E' ya mifohaza é ya Let's wake up Let's wake up

Wake up my people This is an important fight To save our forests So they won't become desert

Neither on land nor sea Let's preserve our fauna and flora And don't let anyone pretend to have rights to use them to fulfill their own greed

May god guide us
To help us find our way
Because we love our land
And we will not let it
go up in smoke

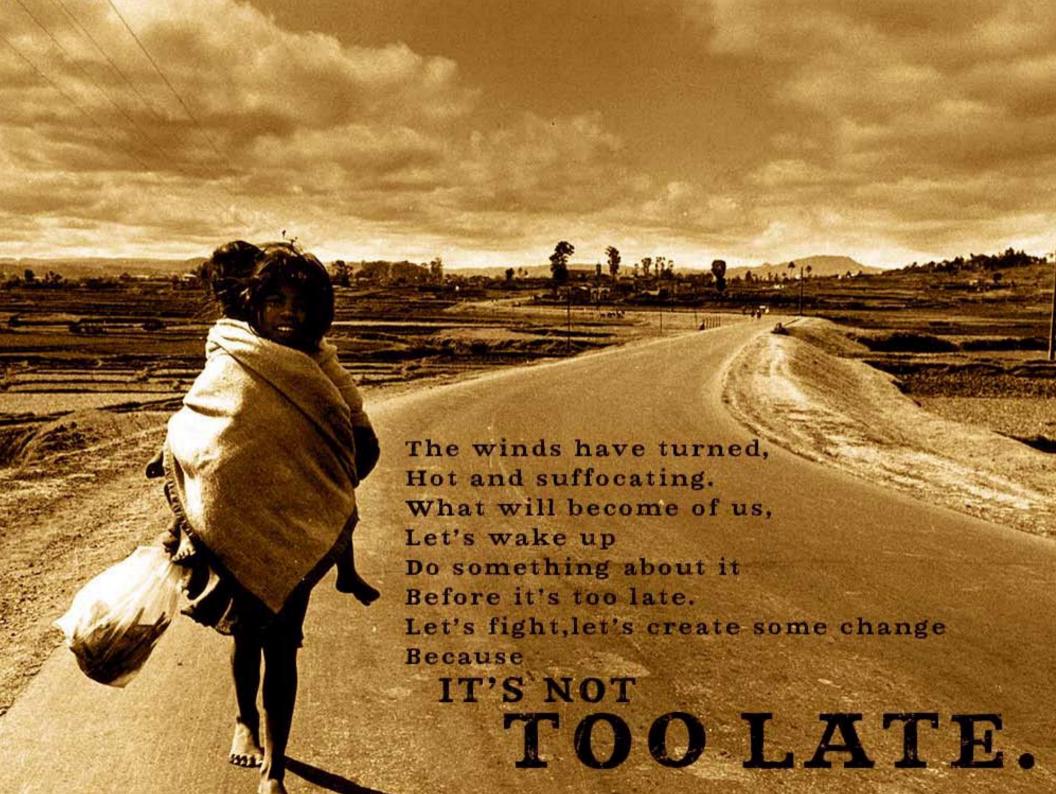
Let's wake up Let's wake up

Let's take care of plastic Let's learn to recycle, because if we don't It will soil our land forever

The whole world is concerned They share our sadness and weep So let's join forces All of us, young and not so young

Let's wake up





#### 1. BABONAO

MUSIC | RAZIA · J. AMBLER LYRICS | RAZIA · N.RANDRIAMANANA

A pousse pousse (rickshaw) boy falls (babonao) helplessly in love with a woman he can never hope to have.

DRUMS I OBED CALVAIRE • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I
RABESIAKA JEAN MEDICIS • VOX I ABENA KOOMSON I DAVID RAJAONARY • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 2. OMAMA MUSIC & LYRICS | RAZIA

I wanted my grandmother to understand my deep gratitude for raising me by singing to her in her own tongue: betsimisaraka. It talks of my sweet memories growing up in the small vanilla town of Antalaha.

DRUMS I ABOU DIARRASSOUBA • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I REGIS GIZAVO • VOX I ABENA KOOMSON I DAVID RAJAONARY • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 3. YOYOYO MUSIC & LYRICS RAZIA

This song talks about how I long for my Madagascar despite its miseries, and the sadness I feel for the poverty and tribal dissonance.

DRUMS I OBED CALVAIRE • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I RABESIAKA JEAN MEDICIS • VOX I ABENA KOOMSON & DAVID RAJAONARY • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 4. SALAMALAMA ABY

MUSIC | RAZIA • J. AMBLER LYRICS | RAZIA • N.RANDRIAMANANA

Hi everybody! (salamalamaby) Let's rejoice and overcome our differences of age, origin and color, because there is only one life. The sun is knocking at the doors of each house in the village.

DRUMS I ABOU DIARRASSOUBA• BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA• GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA• ACCORDION I RABESIAKA JEAN MEDICIS• VOX I ABENA KOOMSON I DAVID RAJAONARY• PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 5. NY ALANTSIKA

MUSIC & LYRICS | RAZIA · BABA

This is nature's lament. The trees and animals are crying out to be heard. It's time to listen.

DRUMS I ABOU DIARRASSOUBA • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I REGIS GIZAVO • VOX I RAZIA I ABENA KOOMSON • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 6. SLASH AND BURN

MUSIC | RAZIA · DOZZY NJAVA · J. AMBLER LYRICS | RAZIA · J.AMBLER

The countryside is burning because of farming methods known as tavy (slash and burn that have left Madagascar with one-tenth of its once bountiful forest area, Don't we have a choice?

DRUMS I ABOU DIARRASSOUBA • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • SITAR I NANA SIMOPOULOS • VOX I RAZIA I ABENA KOOMSON I J. AMBLER • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 7. TSY TARA

 $\hbox{MUSIC} \; \rule{0mm}{3mm} \; \hbox{RAZIA} \; \cdot \; \hbox{J.AMBLER} \; \cdot \; \hbox{ROCA-K.} \; \; \hbox{LYRICS} \; \rule{0mm}{3mm} \; \hbox{NARCISSE} \; \hbox{RANDRIAMANANA} \; \cdot \; \hbox{RAZIA}$ 

It's not too late (tsy tara) to change the course of our nature. This song calls on everyone to reflect on what we risk losing: The beautiful green canopy above our heads. DRUMS I OBED CALVAIRE • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • VIOLIN & VIOLA ARRANGEMENT I TOMER HOFFMAN I BABA Z • VOX I DOZZY NJAVA I ABENA KOOMSON • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### **8. LALIKE** MUSIC RAZIA · CHRISTAIN RAVALISON LYRICS

N RANDRIAMANANA

Lalike (deep) is a lullaby about the arid south of Madagascar and the longing for water that never comes.

BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 9. TIAKO RO

MUSIC RAZIA · J.AMBLER LYRICS RAZIA · N.RANDRIAMANANA

A one-to-one conversation with the Sun. He has a vital role in our destiny. We ask Him to prevent natural disasters.

DRUMS I OBED CALVAIRE • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I REGIS GIZAVO • VOX I RAZIA I ABENA KOOMSON I DAVID RAJAONARY • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

#### 10. MIFOHAZA

MUSIC RAZIA · J. AMBLER · DOZZY NJAVA LYRICS RAZIA

Wake up (mifohaza) it's time to put our petty differences aside and do something about the more pressing issues facing the future of our beautiful country.

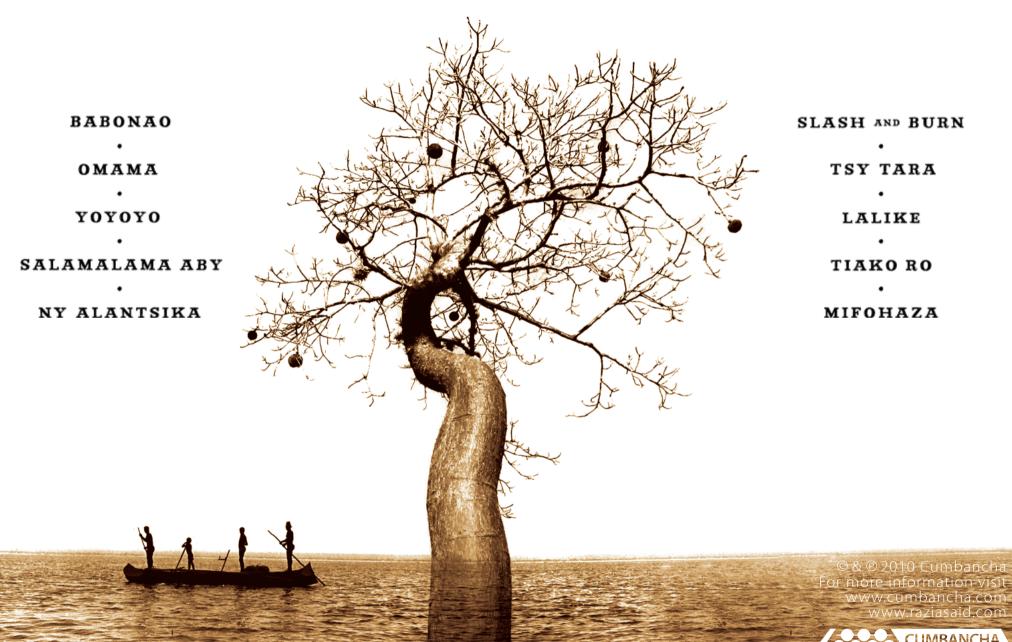
DRUMS I ABOU DIARRASSOUBA • BASS I MICHAEL OLATUJA • GUITARS I DOZZY NJAVA • ACCORDION I REGIS GIZAVO • VOX I REMANINDRY I DAVID RAJAONARY DOZZY NJAVA • PERCUSSION I MARVIN DIZ

PRODUCER I DOZZY NJAVA • EXECUTIVE PRODUCER I RAZIA • CO-PRODUCERS I NIR GRAFF & J. AMBLER • MIXING I GODFREY DIAMOND AT PERFECT MIXES, BROOKLYN • MASTERING I LEON ZERVOS AT STERLING SOUND NYC • RECORDINGS I NIR GRAFF & BABA Z AT GRAFF STUDIO, BROOKLYN • ZEBU NATION STUDIO, HARLEM I ALAN ROY & WINSTON PHILIP • AM STUDIO, MANHATTAN I YARON • VALIMAD & TALENTA VELONA STUDIOS ANTANANARIVO I MIARY LEPIERA • MONKEY RECORDING, PARIS I LIONEL HABERT • ARTWORK & DESIGN I J.AMBLER & T.JONES • PHOTOGRAPHY I PHILIPPE GAUBERT & J. AMBLER • WARDROBE I EPPERSON NYC & RAZIA • MAKE UP I SOAMEVA OF ANTANANARIVO • HAIR STYLING I RAZIA • ALL SONGS PUBLISHED BY I TUANIS MAJE (ASCAP)

#### THANKS (MISAOTRA)

Two years ago, I returned to Madagascar and was privileged to meet some amazing local musicians. They inspired me to make an album in Malagasy, my native tongue. It was my chance to reconnect in a deeper way with the music of my country. During the same trip, I realized Madagascar is in trouble. Our forests and fauna are dying. Our nature is crying out for immediate help. The new album now became not just about re-discovering a musical heritage, but also about drawing attention to the plight of our country's natural resources. Zebu Nation was born to spread a message of hope with the medium of music. Zebu Nation is aimed at bringing people and musicians together for a real need. It's dedicated to our children's future. A deep thanks to all the people who walked with me on this long path and helped to make Zebu Nation a reality. Jamie Ambler, Cheick Cisse, Zohary Adele, Achille Razafindramosa, Tsiry Fy-Tia Solofomihanta, Riri, Victor Randrianary, Mimi Arianala, Odilon Ranaivoson, Lauren Flanigan, Nili Belkind, Hasina and Chita. Find out more by visiting raziasaid.com

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