

# Samba Sene & Diwan

## A splash of Senegalese sunshine in Scotland



**Samba Sene & Diwan** offer a unique musical experience in Scotland. Led by charismatic Senegalese singer **Samba Sene**, the band is a diverse international collection of musicians (from UK, USA, New Zealand and Nigeria), who share a global outlook and love of West African rhythms. Their music is an exuberant fusion of funky mbalax/Afrobeat grooves, with undercurrents of ska and reggae; original songs with impassioned vocals, infectious guitar licks and irresistible dance beats.

Samba recently returned from a work trip to Senegal, supported by Creative Scotland, where he was studying traditional rhythms and working with Youssou N'Dour's keyboard player Moustapha Faye, and musicians from bands of leading Senegalese musicians like N'Dour and Cheikh Lo. Sene first met Moustapha Faye when Diwan supported Youssou N'Dour and his Super Etoiles at Celtic Connections, and has kept in touch since.

Samba said: *"It was such an amazing opportunity to work with musicians of this calibre. Particularly since I've been living in Scotland for a number of years now, and can approach the music and rhythms I grew up with from a different perspective. It was a very special trip"*

Tour dates and studio sessions are in the pipeline, but first up is the return of Sene's popular club night **Ndaje: African Connections Club** in its new home at **The Mash House** (Edinburgh) with a mix of live music from Samba Sene & Diwan and specialist world music DJ James Combe (well known on Edinburgh's Salsa/Latin American scene). With special guests, ranging from dancers, drummers and musicians, from a wide range of backgrounds, this promises to be a buzzing and joyous club night, embracing many cultures under a wide, colourful African umbrella.

Growing up in Dakar, surrounded by the best musical talent in the country, the young Sene had ambitions to be either a musician or a footballer (showing talent for both), but was pushed towards a career in law or banking by his father who feared the inherent instability of a musician's life. However his son practiced music in secret, working hard to develop his singing voice, under the watchful eye of mentor Baaba Maal and his band. Still shy about performing in public however, it wasn't till a broken leg in an accident on the football pitch put an end to football as a potential career that he made the decision to follow his dream and pursue a life in music.

Recent gigs include a headline slot at Exhibition Roadshow (London) and appearances at Wickerman and Knockengoroch Festivals. He has opened for artists including Youssou N'Dour, Vieux Farka Toure and Amadou & Mariam. Guest performances include singing with Orchestra Baobab at Glasgow Fruitmarket and with Baaba Maal's band at the Celtic Connections Club. He has been featured on BBC Radio Scotland, including *Mary Ann Kennedy's Global Gathering*, *The Festival Café* and in a commissioned collaboration with Maeve Mackinnon on *The Exiles* project exploring the theme of exile/migrants in Gaelic and Wolof.

Sene's influences include former mentor Baaba Maal, Youssou N'Dour, Bob Marley, Van Morrison, Paul Simon and Alpha Blondy. His songs cover a range of subjects from love, homelessness, equal rights to outright celebration. Uplifting and upbeat, this is world music with a Senegalese heart & soul.

**For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s etc, please call Morag Neil on 0771 288 0965 email [scarybiscuits1@hotmail.com](mailto:scarybiscuits1@hotmail.com)**

### LISTINGS

#### Samba Sene & Diwan

Fri 13 Mar, 00.45 **The Jazz Bar**, Chambers St, Edinburgh £5/£4  
Sat 14 Mar 7.30pm **The Glad Cafe**, Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow £10 adv, £12 on the door

#### Ndaje: African Connections Club

Fri 20 Feb, 11pm **The Mash House**, Guthrie St, Edinburgh £5 adv, £7 on the door  
Fri 20 Mar, 11pm **The Mash House**, Guthrie St, Edinburgh £5 adv, £7 on the door  
Fri 17 Apr, 11pm **The Mash House**, Guthrie St, Edinburgh £5 adv, £7 on the door

Advance tickets for The Glad Café and Ndaje from [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

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