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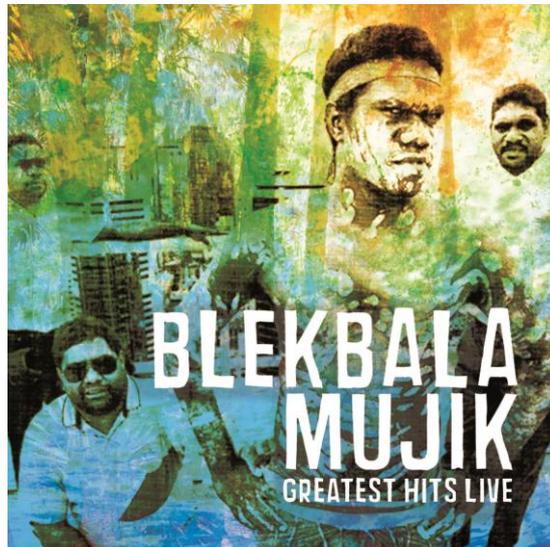
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## **Blekbala Mujik – Greatest Hits Live**

**Released September 5th 2014 by CAAMA Music**

Blekbala Mujik are one of the most influential of Australia's Aboriginal rock bands, who in the 1990's brought their message of reconciliation to an Australian audience who were only just beginning to take an interest in Aboriginal culture and art. Their live shows incorporated the modern as well as the traditional, with the latest pyro-technics accompanying ancient dance and dreamtime storytelling. Blekbala Mujik toured internationally, taking Aboriginal culture and language to another audience where 'world' music was still a new concept.

With the release of their first full length album in 1996, Blekbala Mujik really burst onto the Australian and international scene, with an east coast tour that saw them performing to over 10,000 people between Sydney and Brisbane. They also performed alongside Warumpi Band and Yothu Yindi at the highly politicised Land Rights concerts held in the Northern Territory that year. Their self-titled album won the Deadly Sounds Album of the Year Award and they were also finalists for the ARIA Awards. During the 90's they supported many international stars including Van Morrison, Tina Turner, UB40 and Ziggy Marley and the Wailers.

Formed in 1986 and led by Appak Jupurrula Miller, the band has changed often over the years, with most members belonging to the same family group in the Aboriginal community of Gulin Gulin in Central Arnhem Land. Singing in a mix of English, traditional Bunggul and Kriol, the lyrics paint pictures of ancient Aboriginal stories and modern-day life, carrying a message of reconciliation between cultures and pointing the way forward. By singing in different languages Apaak intended to carry these messages to as many people as possible.

Five songs on this new album were recorded at the Barunga Festival of 1995, where they performed to over six thousand people who demanded six encores. The rest of this album was recorded during a six-week concert tour of the Northern Territory in 2012. The combination of current concert recordings and others from the height of their career shows the longevity of this influential band, who are still making music and performing long after their contemporaries.

This live album captures the passion and energy that made Blekbala Mujik famous. Read the lyrics in these pages, see the photos of the land, listen to the music and take the time to feel.

*"When you're performing live you're going with the flow, riding the waves and bumps, and that's what's important about music. It's being able to get people to feel. They're communicating with you and you with them."* Apaak Jupurrula Miller

The first single to be released to radio is 'Come n Dance' (track 3), which combines techno beats and didgeridoo to create a classic example of the fusion of styles that made Blekbala Mujik famous. The original music video from the CAAMA Music archives will be released to YouTube to accompany the release.

Other classics included on the album are 'Drangkinbala' (track 8), 'Love is a Beautiful Thing' (track 12) and 'Don't Worry Just Be Happy' (track 15).

#### What the media have said about Blekbala Mujik:

*"Take hints of Yothu Yindi's dance fever, Bob Marley's reggae, Angelique Kidjo's tribal beat and Midnight Oil's rock and you have the essential musical spirit of Blekbala Mujik. But having said that, this band can only be compared to others for just a minute, because their music is unique and undoubtedly stands on its own red turf...Songs explore a range of tribal, rock and ballad beats, with the didgeridoo and sticks intermittently woven through to remind us of their roots...We feel like we are under the stars with them, dancing with painted faces...musically dynamic and highly danceable music, which reflects closely to their exciting live performances."* **Beat Magazine**

*"Blekbala Mujik combines the best points of all these bands (Coloured Stone, Warumpi Band, Yothu Yindi) like a true thoroughbred. Upbeat, contagious drums underpin ambient samples and a rap narrative punctuated by sharp electric guitar riffs straight outta desert rock."* **TNT Magazine, UK**

*"The Blekbala boys maintain enough of a roots sound to stay authentic, while at the same time employing enough technology to entice more sophisticated ears."* **Rolling Stone**

*"This seven-piece Top End band mixes rock, reggae and dance with traditional Aboriginal instruments and chants – an exuberant concoction that has stirred interest in Europe and Asia."* **Herald Sun**

*"Blekbala Mujik have sophistication, diversity and innovation which pushes them beyond the usual recipes with interesting and successful mixtures of synth washes, traditional singing, raw vocals, sharp riffs and dabs of reggae...some songs with no observable mainstream antecedents."* **Sydney Morning Herald**

*"A gentle, warm earthiness in the music, a mix of dance, pop and traditional that is persuasive in its buoyant optimistic message."* **Drum Media**

Blekbala Mujik have been chosen to headline the **Sand Tracks 2014** tour, organised by Country Arts WA. Beginning with a performance at **Bush Bands Bash** in Alice Springs on 6 September, the Sand Tracks tour will visit remote Central Australia until 23 September.

#### **Blekbala Mujik Sand Tracks Tour dates September 2014**

Bush Bands Bash, Alice Springs –Saturday 6 September 2014 3pm CST

Amata Community – Wednesday 10 September 2014 6pm CST

NG Music Festival, Wingellina – Friday 12 September 2014 6pm CST

Warburton Community – Tuesday 16 September 2014 6pm WST

Desert Dust Up, Warakurna –Thursday 18 September 2014 6:45pm CST

Kiwirrkurra Community – Tuesday 23 September 2014 6pm CST

#### **Apaak Miller, lead singer of Blekbala Mujik, is available for interviews on Friday 26 September**

For interview requests or more information please contact **Nicola Pitt**, Media and Communications –  
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