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Guitarist Jean-Marc Montera and drummer Ahmad Compaoré have known each other for nearly 30 years. Their collaboration dates back from 1990 when they are brought to work together on the creation of the rock opera "Helter-Skelter" by Fred Frith, then in Marseilles for an eight-month residency. Ever since, their path has been marked by various collaborations in music, dance and theatre. More recently, the collaboration between the two Marseilles-based musicians has taken a closer turn with their project **DESPERATE MONKEYS**, mainly as a duo or a trio with guest musicians (André Jaume, Louis Sclavis...). The duo is the form in which their common past can express itself to the full but also the one that gives free rein to all experimentations. A punchy music that feeds on all music styles exposing themselves to diversity and not afraid to face all kinds of differences.

JEAN-MARC MONTERA: guitars, objects, electronics

Co-founder and artistic director of the GRIM (Improvisation and Music Research Group) in Marseilles, Jean-Marc Montera comes from the rock world. Nicknamed the « John Lee Hooker of noise », he draws on the whole range of amplified and acoustic strings, resonance, percussion, distortions, extensions and all types of diversions to evoke a world of abstract sounds and the everyday mechanisms of work and city life. He is amongst the most active musicians in the field of improvised music. Since the 1970s, he has experienced cross-disciplinary exchanges with other artistic fields (theatre or choreographic creations, film scores) in an attempt to blur the boundaries between genres. His most notable collaborations include Fred Frith, Chris Cutler, Barre Phillips, Thurston Moore, Michel Doneda, Jean-François Pauvros and Lee Ranaldo.

AHMAD COMPAORÉ: drums, percussion, sampler

Of Egyptian and Burkinabé origins, Ahmad Compaoré is an unmissable musician. With feet, fists and hands, he hits, strikes, whips and strokes the brass of his cymbals and the skin of his drums where power and freedom make up the essentials of his playing. He confirms his singular talent alongside Fred Frith, Marc Ribot, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, Barre Phillips, Camel Zekri or Egyptian choreographer Karima Mansour. Twice recipient of the Culturesfrance "Hors Les Murs" award, he lived in India and Japan as part of residencies of creation. Free from boundaries, he equally enjoys the most extreme experiences in alternative and improvised music, jazz and fusion. Involved in many projects, he is currently a drummer within Lucky Peterson's quartet.

LA BOÎTE À MUSIQUE

Friche la Belle de Mai - 41 rue Jobin - 13003 Marseille - FRANCE
Mob : +33 (0)6 25 47 01 55 - Mail : contact@musiquerebelle.com
www.musiquerebelle.com - www.facebook.com/ahmadcompaoremusic