

2009 was a successful year for Ntjam Rosie. She graduated from the Codarts Conservatory as a bachelor of music. She majored in Latin singing and minored in teaching. She won the Music Matters Award gaining her the title of music ambassador in Rotterdam during 2010. According to the jury, Ntjam Rosie raised the temperature from the very first moment. Apparently it wasn't enough, on the same day she also won the 'MCN World Up! Award' for most promising talent during the first edition of the Dutch World Music Day. The jury stated: "Her powerful voice and distinctive style creates an astonishing set full of soul and energy."

For the new album "ELLE", to be released in the fall of 2010, Ntjam Rosie approaches a more jazz orientated direction compared to her first record "ATOUBA". This time she found inspiration in artists like George Duke, Stevie Wonder, Patrice Rushen, Syreeta and Miriam Makeba. Artists who operate in the fields of soul, jazz and combine elements of Brazilian and African rhythms. The album breathes a late seventies sound with catchy hooks and fine sing along choruses.

Lyricaly, Ntjam Rosie shares her enjoyment of life. She wants to tell we are more alike than we think. Her emotional journey is similar to other strong determined women elsewhere in the world. She says: "On this record I take the listener on my musical momentum and from that point on, he or she can continue their own adventure. I believe that the crossing of our paths only has a meaning when we open up for each other. "

For the production she teamed up again with Nelson & Djosa. Among the musicians are Nathan Allen (Amy Winehouse, Faith Evans), Alex Bonfanti (Tom Jones, Xantone Blacq), Ronald Snijders, Tuur Moens, Roël Calister, Alexander van Popta, Tjaco Oostdijk. The recording took place at the Flowriders Music studio in Amsterdam where José James and Jazzanova, worked as well.

Ntjam Rosie has been heard and seen in the Dutch media programs Giel Beelen, Radio 2 and 6, Goedemorgen Nederland, AT5 and BNN. She was the support act for Erykah Badu, José James and Bilal. She played in prestigious clubs like Paradiso, Melkweg, Rotown and Sugar Factory and performed on the festivals The Hague Jazz, Dunya, Numoonfest, Mundial, Jazz in Duketown and North Sea Jazz Roundtown.

Ntjam Rosie is based in Rotterdam where she finds the inspiration for her creative output: "I hope that my audience will grow and I hope I'll get the chance to present my musical vision throughout the world."

Ntjam Rosie might sound like a typical name but the singer explains: "Ntjam is a name just like Rosie is. It's my African name while Rosie is my European name. Africa meets Europe!"

Ntjam Rosie was born in Cameroon in 1983. She moved to The Netherlands at the age of nine where she grew up in Maastricht. She only spoke French and one of the many Cameroon dialects: Bulu. With her studious skills she picked up the Dutch and English language quite easily.

As a young girl Ntjam Rosie started to develop a passion for arts like music, film and paintings. She wrote her first Dutch poem at the age of fourteen. She felt she had to do something with her creativity in music. During high school she started to sing in the girls group R.e.s.p.e.c.t. and took singing lessons. She also became a protégé of German producer Alex Jacobi (Axtrak recordings) from whom she learnt how to record in a studio.

Ntjam Rosie began Social studies after high school but after six months, she realized it was not what she wanted which forced her to think in a different direction. It was Erykah Badu's album 'Mama's Gun' that made her realize she wanted to become a conscious artists like her. To this day Erykah Badu is one of Rosie's biggest influences. She praises her purity and honesty as an artist, lyrically and musically. Stimulated by a friend she decided to go to the Rotterdam Conservatory. That choice helped her developing her songwriting skills and she discovered, composing music is one of her biggest passions.

In 2007 Rosie took part in the Dutch National Pop Institute Unsigned project 'The Mighty 8'. Eight young unsigned talented hip-hop and soul women got the chance to show their skills. Among them were Sabrina Starke and Giovanca. Rosie contributed the songs 'Squeeze the Breeze' and 'Bia Yon'. Both tracks would end up on her debut 'Atouba'.

'ATOUBA' was released early 2008. The album was preceded by the song 'Patience', which was released as a 12 inch single late 2007. It was accompanied by a videoclip and was heard frequently on the radio. The debut is an experimental cocktail of different styles produced by the Rotterdam based producers Nelson & Djosa. 'ATOUBA' shows Ntjam Rosie blending a daring mix of Western and African rhythms topped with soul and jazz and the distinctive, warm and soulful voice of the singer. World and soul with a bit of jazz as Ntjam Rosie states. The synthesizer has a dominant place, which gives it a futuristic and adventurous approach. On 'ATOUBA', Ntjam Rosie sings in English, French and Bulu. It's a very personal album inspired by Ntjam Rosie's grandmother: "She was a woman with guts and that force inspired me to put out these songs on my first album."

Written by Serge Julien

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