

**Artist: Jhelisa**  
**Title : Primitive Guide to 'Being There'**

**CD+DVD Cat.no.: IC 124-2**  
**UPC - Code: 801824005123**  
**Label: INFRACOM! /**  
**LC Code: 04596**  
**Release Date : 07 April 2006**

- 1. Freedom's Land**
- 2. Flute Band In Gauteng**
- 3. Culture Of Silence - Part 1**
- 4. Culture Of Silence - Part 2**
- 5. Journey Of Life In 9 Minutes**
- 6. Love Is A State Of Mind**
- 7. Walking On Air**
- 8. Far I Have Come, Far I Must Go**
- 9. Survivin' (In The Key Of Eflat)**

#### **A primitive Guide to „Being There“**

The album is released together with the exclusive DVD documentary "One week with Jhelisa - Rediscovering America" (see below for more informations).

In 2004 internationally acclaimed artist Jhelisa discovered New Orleans as the perfect place to produce her third solo album. The city's rich musical culture has played a major part in the concept of the initially titled album "Discovery of Amazing", referring to New Orleans. Having always worked with local musicians no matter where she lived, Jhelisa soon hooked up with the drummer from New Orleans "**Dirty Dozen Brass Band**", and other very accomplished musicians steeped in New Orleans tradition to play on the album.

Jhelisa performed at the world famous "New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival" and very successfully at the "Essence Festival" alongside **Talib Kweli**; she also recorded with the renowned **One Giant Leap** project.

Jhelisa just wanted to leave for her final studio session when the hurricane warning for Katrina and also the order for evacuation came in. Early Sunday morning 28 August Jhelisa left with a few of her personal belongings on a 10 hours stop and go trip for Atlanta, just in time before hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Her house as well as the recording studio were severely damaged and the release of the album had to be postponed.

Jhelisa wrote a moving statement about how she left New Orleans, about the situation there and immense loss of this musical capital. You will find Jhelisa's statement „Katrina, The Hurricane, A Catalyst for CHANGE“ on our website:

<http://www.infracom.de/fileadmin/images/JhelisaAnderson/press>

Due to the experience with hurricane Katrina Jhelisa changed the album title into **A primitive Guide to „Being There“**. She completed her recordings in Atlanta, where she now lives, adding the new tracks "*Journey of Live in 9 Minutes*" and the South-African flavoured „*Far i Have Come, Far I Must Go*“, but also "*Survivin' (In the Key of Eflat)*" which reflects her Katrina experience. Jhelisa wrote her personal song descriptions which are also added

In comparison to its highly acclaimed predecessors, her third solo album is fuelled with a vintage flavour which adds a more organic touch to her "harmonic designs" - an expression Jhelisa uses to describe her music.

Renowned for her slowly flowing tunes, Jhelisa now occasionally pushes the BPM up to 130, adding contrast to her new album as songs alternate between the fluidity of *"Culture of Silence"* and *"Love is a State of Mind"* to the highly energetic rhythm and beats of *"Walking on Air"* and *"Freedom's Land"* - an interpretation of an old traditional gospel tune in her own way. Her travel experiences are reflected in the song *"Flute Band in Gauteng"*. (Gauteng is the native word for Johannesburg, in South Africa.).

Contrasting her darkly brilliant second album "Language Electric", Jhelisa absorbs the multi-ethnic richness of New Orleans musical culture. The sub-tropical climate of the Mississippi Delta adds character and warmth that pulls back the groove and deepens the groove - a style, Billy Holiday cultivated with perfection.

The New Orleans flavour enhances Jhelisa's distinctive style and breathtaking vocal arrangements. The „New Orleans tracks“ are amongst the last recordings that have been made in the jazz capital presumingly for a long time.

As well as her unique harmonic designs, her uncompromising lyrics also demonstrate her creative freedom. When she addresses difficult subjects like "Prophet for Profit" religion in the USA, her frank speaking up puts her alongside in a row with conscious musicians like Common or Talib Kweli. The quality of her lyric writing keeps her flying high above the R&B mainstream.

Until she left New Orleans, Jhelisa has had great success with her weekly Nina Simone cover night at the Hookah Club - showcasing another aspect of her broad musical background. Regarding her long stay as an American ex-pat in Europe: her intensive European experience has given her music a distinctive and inimitable character - something which is perfectly realised on **A Primitive Guide to „Being There“**.

### **Song descriptions by Jhelisa Anderson** **A Primitive Guide to „Being there“**

#### **The Title**

I certainly look at our humanity as primitive, I look at my developing ways as **"primitive"**, but **hopefully**, I am growing into advancement in my struggle to "BE THERE", to arrive at an ultimate strength of faith and hope and unpenetrable endurance of spirit.

**much like evolution.**

**from my perspective, "a primitive guide to being there" is to me like a global gumbo, ready for consumption, in all of its varying degrees.**

#### **Freedom's Land**

opens with **native son of New Orleans Kendrick Marshall**, Channeling a **slice of** classic New Orleans Piano rippin **tradition, to help me get home** on freedom's land, along with drummer Terence Higgins (**Dirty Dozen Brass Band**) driving traditional foot stompin rhythm that I heard growing up in the African American church music culture. This is one of my efforts to remember what it was like growing up in that environment, a part of my quest in returning to America after 10 years of change. Honoring the traditional civil rights movement anthem **"ain't gonna let nobody turn me around."** You will find your body shaking from the first 8 bars.

#### **Flute Band In Gauteng,**

One of my favorites on the album, because it is the most out of the ordinary style for me, lyrics, and music. **a remnant from my first trip to Africa, on our first night out, we went to an Area called Melville in Johannesburg** (which is what the natives call Gauteng). **Local musicians from Soweto were playing in a small smokey bar, in an area of Johannesburg, that 15 years ago, they would not have been allowed to play in that area** because of the color of their skin. **4 flute players**, "telling the stories of many rains" through their melodies, as they played "telling the stories of many rains" in four parts, this listening experience made a great impression on me, there was something mystical about there harmonies, that said so much through their collective harmonic designs. Hence, **Flute**

**Band In Gauteng**, a story of experiencing a language that awakened me. With the contributions from Phil Hudson on guitar, Julian Crampton on Bass, and **Gorilaz** drum programmer Remy Kabaka adding the rhythmic texture made this track difficult to categorize. As a bonus inspiration Chaka Khan is doing a cover of it, which is definitely better than a poke in the eye. **This song is one of the treasures I brought back from Africa as my evidence of that night.**

#### **Culture Of Silence,**

**my ache, my frustrations with the system, the broken system in america that seems to be my bizarre mysterious training ground.** I seemed to have inherited, by a freak of nature, this young country called America, with a violent and hypocritical sociopolitical past, that is shrouded by a constitution that struggles to be realized, a constitution that has been corrupted from the very beginning. As a result of the contradictions in this constitution, and the mass delusion and conflicting actions that this has produced in American Culture, most Americans are silent as we are now and have been, repeatedly abused and manipulated. This silence fascinates me. **paralyzed, as we self destruct.** Many civilizations have surrendered their will without much opposition, but others have made great change with loud voices united. It angers me, it frightens me, it most of all puzzles me, I do not understand the nature of injustice, and how it can dominate, when there is always only a few in control of the many. A culture of silence, perhaps this is process of a dying star.

#### **Journey Of Life,**

**An experiment in form, a happy accident,** actually **playing music** with my Russian descending guitarist, **Sagat Guirey**, who **was willing to jump with me, as I was trying to arrange this ambitious monster.** I think he thought I was a bit crazy at the time we recorded it, but I think he likes it now. On percussion Pandjit Danish's powerful percussion playing with a myriad of exotic percussion instruments **set it off**, and away we went. **A crystallization of chaos and order at once**, trying to represent some of the sudden changes and turns in my life, at moments of the extreme I fondly think of Frank Zappa.

#### **Love Is A State Of Mind,**

what a welcome relief, a nice slice of easy esoteric soul music, with a lyrical expression of immortal love, although swimming in the flexibility of ambiguity. Love is a state of mind was written with an effort to come to terms with distance, the distance of death, as well as the distance that threatens to keep you separated from love. It feels good to sing the refrain that love is a state of mind, when it seems every year I have to make that transition, from being able to touch someone, and then sometimes they leave, and you don't see them anymore but somehow they are always with you.

#### **Walking On Air**

was such a different departure for me melodically, it was so simple I was afraid of it, of course I had to try to corrupt it the best way I could, put two moods together that are not **supposed** to go, I had to put suspense in happiness, plopped in the middle is the darker verse, the hesitant seductress contradicting the good and pure mood of love from the chorus, I felt new about love again and it felt so so good. when I wrote this song. I was suspicious of this much happiness, but I explored it anyway. thanking another New Orleans native son Terence Higgins on the African Latin New Orleans rhythms, and New Orleans based James Singleton on acoustic bass. Our work was cut short by Katrina, but we managed to make this song live.

#### **Far I Have Come Far I Must Go**

was brought to me by my co-producer Raj Gupta, I had never written anything quite like this in lyrical form or melodic form, it is a treasure to me, it relaxes me, it lets me not think too deeply, I just feel regenerated when I listen to it, hopeful, that it is so true a statement, with no promises or guarantees other than, far I have come, far I must go.

and finally

#### **Survivin' (In The Key Of Eflat)**

the post Katrina track, that started out quite different in New Orleans, but when I got to displaced to Atlanta it changed drastically. One of the last tracks to be recorded, with help of Atlanta crew Michael Simanga, Bert Elliot recording engineer, Jackie Pickett on acoustic bass and Kenito on percussion and drums, we all jumped, took it to Jai, and we put it all together and this is what came out. my freedom to explore.

**Please contact INFRACom!: phone: ++49 69 244 5000; mail: [contact@infracom.de](mailto:contact@infracom.de)**

**Documentary: "One Week with Jhelisa - Rediscovering America", 52 Min DVD**  
**Director and camera: Markus Bader**  
**Production and interviews: Jan Hagenkötter**

For one week in April 2005, Jan Hagenkötter and Markus Bader filmed Jhelisa in New Orleans as she worked on her third soloalbum.

They visited the local radio station - WWOC - where Jhelisa was interviewed, and enjoyed her weekly Nina Simone tribute residency at the Hookah bar, and her performance at the legendary Jazz & Heritage Festival (1).

Jhelisa introduces the diversity of New Orleans to her Frankfurt visitors - from the slave plantations to the city's boiling nightlife. The excursions are more than just sightseeing tours. Jhelisa presents her own view from a very personal and critical perspective, moulded by her European years and her journeys through Brazil and South Africa - "Rediscovering America".

"One week with Jhelisa" portrays the remarkable artist Jhelisa and her music. The documentary features four tracks from the forthcoming album "Discovery of Amazing": „Culture of Silence“, „Love is A State of Mind“, „Flute Band in Gauteng“ and "Freedom's Land". In an exclusive interview section, Jhelisa reveals her family's musical background, discusses her amazing career, and remembers her exciting years in London. Jhelisa also describes her creative work in progress and her collaborations with renowned colleagues.

"One week with Jhelisa" is an intense portrait of an exceptional artist and draws an impressive, and very personal, picture of New Orleans as well.

1) Unfortunately it was not allowed to film at the Jazz & Heritage Festival. So the documentary contains no footage.

## **History**

Internationally acclaimed recording artist Jhelisa Anderson began her career in 1990 with the UK band **Soul Family Sensation** releasing the critically acclaimed "New Wave" album on One Little Indian. Jhelisa then went on to experiment with labelmates **The Shamen**, recording two top ten hit singles "*Love Sex and Intelligence*", and "*Phorever People*" earning Jhelisa a platinum album with The Shamen, as well as guesting on **Bjork's** "Debut" album on the song called "*There's More to life than this*".

In 1994, after developing into an accomplished solo artist singing, writing, and producing under her first name - Jhelisa, she released the album "Galactica Rush" on Dorado Records with **Greg Osby** playing saxophone.

The album received widespread critical acclaim and - two years later - it was followed by "Language Electric", on which she worked amongst others together with **Munyongo Jackson** on percussion who used to play with Miles Davis.

Jhelisa's best known track is "*Friendly Pressure*" which has been remixed, bootlegged, and re-released to the max. She began to record with such diverse artist such as **Bryan Ferry**, **Courtney Pine**, **Block 16**, and - most recently - with **Massive Attack**, **Chaka Khan**, and **Da Lata**. Even **Madonna** dropped some positive remarks on Jhelisa's music.

Music has always been at the roots of the Anderson family tree. Jhelisa was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and is the daughter of a gospel radio announcer. The Anderson family was a singing family, with Jhelisa's father on the piano and organ. Throughout the southern region of America, the family performed in churches and large gospel events, where little Jhelisa was placed standing in the chair so the audiences could see the little girl with the big voice. The Anderson family made their first record when Jhelisa was 5 years old.

Touring in the UK, Europe, and Japan following the release of "Galactica Rush", Jhelisa shared the bill with the legendary **James Brown**, **The Roots**, **Michael Franti**, and **Roy Ayers**.

Besides her musical activities, Jhelisa was featured in the Italian film **"The Protagonist"** starring British actress **Tilda Swinton** and was also one of the featured artists on the **Nitin Sawhney** tour in 2003, opening up for Sting, and culminating in a successful performance at the world famous Royal Albert Hall in London for a sold out audience.

Jhelisa has traveled extensively in both Africa and Brazil and taken inspiration from the rich musical cultures around the world. These experiences have added fuel to the frequency design of her upcoming composition and musical work. In 2004 Jhelisa moved to Orleans to record her third solo album in the city's exceptional musical culture. She evacuated New Orleans on 27 August and now lives in Atlanta, where she finished the recordings for her album.

## **DISCOGRAPHIE**

### **Own Releases:**

2006 A Primitive Guide to "Being there" (with DVD "One week with Jhelisa rediscovering America") - INFRACom!  
1998 Friendly Pressure (Sunship Mixes) (12")- Dorado  
1997 Sell Me Away (12") - Dorado  
1997 Language Electric - Dorado  
1997 Freedom From Pity (CD5") - Dorado  
1997 Everybody Jump Off (12") - Dorado  
1995 Wheels Keeps Turning (12") - Dorado  
1995 Galactica Moods (The Acoustic EP) (12") - Dorado  
1995 Limited Edition Galactica Dub (CD5") - Dorado  
1994 Hold My Peace (CD5") - Dorado  
1994 Galactica Rush - Dorado  
1994 Friendly Pressure (12") - Dorado  
1993 All I Need (12") - Dorado  
1992 Sally's Knocking (12") - Dorado

### **Jhelisa appears on:**

2004 Da Lata "Serious" - Palm Pictures  
2004 [re:jazz] "Inner city life" - INFRAom!  
2004 Arsenal feat Deeply Light "Far I Have Come" - Wally's Groove World Records  
2003 GenerationCocktail "Hey Jude2" - Blue Note  
2001 Block 16 "Find an oasis" - Nuphonic  
1999 Courtney Pine "Underground" - Verve Records / Talkin' Loud  
1999 Bryan Ferry "Maumona" - Virgin Records  
1995 Dana Brynt "Wishing from the Top" - Warner Brs  
1993 Bjork "Debut" - One Little Indian  
1992 Shamen "Boss Drum" - One Little Indian  
1991 Dodge City Productions "Ain't Going For That" - 4th&Broadway  
1991 Soul Family Sensation "New Wave" - Epic

**Please contact INFRACom!: phone: ++49 69 244 5000; mail: [contact@infracom.de](mailto:contact@infracom.de)**