

Mp3 Kuku - The Absence Of Cool



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This Nigerian singer/songwriter offers his most intimate recording yet. During a two-hour evening session, he recorded a suite of unadorned and emotionally-charged songs - and the result is nothing short of glorious. 15 MP3 Songs WORLD: African, URBAN/R&B: Soul Show all album songs: The Absence of Cool Songs Details: A native of Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria, KUKU grew up in Lagos, Nigeria listening to the assorted sounds of American soul, folk, and jazz music, as well as the sweet African rhythms of artists like King Sunny Ade, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Ebenezer Obey and Aruna Ishola. KUKU moved to the US in 1993. After years of odd jobs, college, serving in the US Army and working as a graphic designer, in 2002 he found Bar Nun, a weekly open mic on Washington, DC's U Street. It was there that he picked up a guitar for the first time, taught himself to play and began building a following singing in U Street music/poetry and open mic scene. As his reputation grew, he rapidly worked his way into the club and caf  scene. Busking and touring while maintaining a full-time job, he released his 2005 home recording EP, Love Sessions, which has sold more than 4,000 copies. KUKU recalls, "I remember calling off sick from work several times while I was on a bus or in an airport heading to the next gig." His captivating performances, featuring an effortless blend of his Yoruba tongue and a uniquely soulful acoustic rhythm coupled with his tireless off-stage work ethic led to an invitation to perform at the Kennedy Center in 2004. This would not be the last time. 2006 saw KUKU release his first full-length recording, Unexpected Pleasures, featuring the enchanting Ife and Perfect Reality continues to be a favorite among fans. Produced by friend Alexei Tsybine Jendayi, Unexpected Pleasures has KUKU would describe in a Atlanta GA radio interview, is a album that marriages Bill Withers with King Sunny Ade. He labeled his minimalist acoustic guitar driven sound The Afro-soul Acoustic Experience. Between touring and by mid 2007, KUKU began recording and self-producing a new materials with a new album in mind. Then on Friday,

July 20th, 2007 KUKU met with Jendayi. That evening in only two hours he recorded a suite of songs live with just an acoustic guitar. His most intimate album yet, The Absence of Cool was born right then and there. Engineered by Jendayi, this record captures the true essence of KUKU's emotion-filled performances, his connection with his audiences, his comedic banter, the perfect imperfections a polished studio recording often lacks and furthered bridge the gap between KUKU's western influence and his native roots. Hailed by a fan as "the African Music Medicine Man," this Yoruba, DC-based troubadour has been touring extensively since the release of his debut recording Love Sessions. His enchanting sound has landed him on the stages of Chicagos Old Town School of Folk Music series-AfroFolk Live; New Yorks SOBs; Georgia Music Festival;; Philadelphias World Caf; and the Temple Bar in Los Angeles to name a few. In October 2007, South African guitar maestro Mongezi Ntaka (former band member of the late Lucky Dube original band) joined KUKU as he launched The Absence of Cool at his third Kennedy Center appearance. The album concept asks listeners to stop enslaving themselves to the concept of cool, with cool being the absence of emotion and instead join him on a musical journey to the raw emotions deep in their souls. Happily independent, KUKU enjoys the artistic freedom that most major label often deprives, but his biggest challenge is still getting his music heard by millions of eclectic listeners across the world without a machine. What he lacks with the backing of a machine, he makes up for as a tireless worker with a good heart. And with the digital age in full-effect, his music is reaching far more places than he has yet to visit. KUKU recently played at Washington DCs correctional facilities. He calls this is the highlight of his existence. The story continues . .

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