

Guy Schalom

& The Baladi Blues Ensemble (Egypt/UK)



The Baladi Blues Ensemble plays the urban Egyptian dance music known as **Baladi**.

Their music echoes the urban sophistication and pace of 1950's Cairo - all presented with a charming and enigmatic **stage presence**.

Soulful accordion and saxophone **improvisations**, energised by **powerful Afro-Egyptian percussion** give the Baladi Blues Ensemble its distinctive sound.

Leading the group is the charismatic percussionist, dancer and record producer Guy Schalom, described as "**one of the most interesting and versatile percussionists working in the UK today**" (fROOTS).

Guy Schalom is best known for his work with Klezmer-revivalists the Other Europeans, The Klezmatics, Frank London and David Krakauer as well as **Egyptian stars** Natacha Atlas, the Musicians of the Nile, Mahmoud Fadl and Suraya Hilal.

In the Baladi Blues Ensemble, Guy unites some of **Egypt's most celebrated master musicians**: quarter-tone accordionist and Baladi expert **Magdy Tewfik**, legendary Nubian saxophonist **Ahmed El Saidi** and master percussionist **Aly el Minyaw**. The band is augmented by UK frame drum wizard **Adam Warne**.

Nominated for **Best Group** in the *Songlines* Music Awards 2013, they were featured in the BBC documentary "**Bellydancing and the Blues**" (which Guy himself presented) and were a hit at WOMAD 2013.

They have released three CDs to date. Their debut, **Baladi Blues**, was described by fROOTS magazine as "**Outstanding, fresh and compelling as well as technically superb**".

"Schalom has just the right touch"

All About Jazz

"Absolutely spot on" fROOTS

"Masterful..." Songlines

"Baladi isn't just a dance style, it's a culture"

Hossam Ramzy



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