



Niwel Tsumbu on tour at The Pavilion in Cork.
Pic: Stas Bernasinski

NIWEL TSUMBU

Sunday April 19, 10.10pm, The Pavillion, Cork City, Niwel Tsumbu takes to the stage with four of his best friends. They settle in their positions, share an excited glance, start on cue and for the next hour and half (including a two song encore) we, the listeners, are taken on a journey over rugged mountain tops of whaling sounds while being cushioned to a lower plateau, meandering down a valley of explosive sunlight. Playing a nylon-string acoustic guitar and singing in his native 'Lingala', Niwel performed a range of music that stretches from contemporary versions of Congolese traditional music from the 1930s and 40s to modern jazz.

This grows to be a fantastic evening of musicianship. The poster may have only Niwel Tsumbu's, but 'dear God' has he surrounded himself with some of the finest collection of musicians I've heard in a long long time. They ravaged and caressed each note, bringing down each song to a whisper to build it back up to tidal wave strength.

UPCOMING DATES

Friday 8 May
Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Co Wicklow
Tickets €16/14 Bookings: 01-2724030 www.mermaidartscentre.ie

Saturday 9 May
Bewley's Cafe Theatre, Grafton Street, Dublin 2
8pm Bookings: 086 8784001 www.bewleyscafetheatre.com

Saturday 30 May
Wexford Arts Center, Cornmarket, Wexford
€15 tickets Box Office: 053 91 23764 www.wexfordartscentre.ie

Since his arrival in Cork in 2004 from his war torn homeland of the Congo, Niwel has developed an enviable reputation as an elegant and fluent guitarist, vocalist and composer. The new album 'Song of the nations' perfectly showcase's his ability to vividly blend African rhythms, rumba, new jazz, classical flamenco and more.

Having performed standout performances at the Spiegeltent, Festival of World Cultures, Electric Picnic and supported many top class performers including Buena Vista Social Club, Kila, The Wailers and Nigel Kennedy, Niwel and his band are at the top of their profession.

Between songs, Niwel praised his talented band members, who display a true sign of respect and almost awe for their contributions on each song. It is wonderful to see this. They leave the music to speak for itself, powerful and controlled to the point of craziness. The full line-up was Niwel Tsumbu (Congo) on vocals and guitar, Katherine Dohner (Germany) on violin and backing vocals, Eamon Cagney (Ireland) on backing vocals and percussion, Clinio Cactuso (Italy) on clarinet, sax and backing vocals and finally Peter Erdei (Hungary) on bass.

I didn't leave the venue humming the tunes, but I did have a great big smile on my face that I shared with every person that I passed on my return to the car.

You can visit these links for more information and sample new songs from his new album, but Niwel Tsumbu's LIVE show is unmissable:
www.myspace.com/niweltsumbu
www.niweltsumbu.com

COMPETITION TIME



WIN
A Pair of Tickets to see
MICK FLANNERY
on Thursday, May 14 at



55, Pearse St.,
Clonakilty,
P: 023 33381
E: eolas@debarra.ie

Q: What Meteor Award category has Mick recently won?
Answer on a postcard to Mick FlanneryComp The Southern Star Ilen Street, Skibbereen

Or email the answer to alan@southernstar.ie

Closing Date May 11

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