

Artist : Cintia Rodriguez
What : Concert Release album Arco Iris
When : October 7th, 2008
Where : Zinnema, Brussels/Belgium

Cintia Rodriguez lived up to the title of her new album *Arco Iris*, as she kicked off with the release concert on October 7th in Brussels, Belgium before a crowded audience : *Arco Iris* being the Portuguese word for Rainbow, there was certainly no lack of colours, sparks, fireworks and surprise acts. It was a rainy and coldish night outside, but she sure did manage to heat up the concert venue with the 14 titles of her new solo album plus a surprise song, an incredible fusion of Jazz, Soul, Reggae, Samba, Ballads and Pop forming a very original and charming entity, like the colours of the Rainbow. And Cintia is not only the performer, she has written most of the album's songs !



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Rio de Janeiro-born Cintia, who has started singing in the church choir back home in Brazil at the age of 8, who has toured with Lou Bega (*Mambo N°5*), who has danced and sung for various TV-shows and performed as back vocal for artists like Anastacia, Lara Fabian, Amanda Marshall and Los del Rio, knows the art of enchanting her audience, a true pleasure to the ear and the eye.

On stage she was accompanied by her band made up of 9 excellent musicians, supported by famous guest stars such as Bai Kamara Jr., (singer, guitar-player and composer from Sierra Leone, but also producer of *Arco Iris*), Osman Martins (singer-composer), Irene Galvão (singer) and Renaud Crols (violin).



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The show started off very well with the “lounge”-like, but nevertheless very catching *Quando*, appearing as a bonus on the album. The title song *Arco Iris* was spiced up by a thrilling and fabulous acrobatic act performed by Juliana Neves and Maira Rovay, both from the well-known Cirque du Soleil. Bluesette, masterpiece of Belgian-born Jazz legend Toots Thielemans, was brought in a special arrangement of sax, guitar and percussion, without harmonica though ; due to the decease of a close friend the night before,

Toots, who appears as a guest on the album, was not able to attend. It was the one and only downside of this release concert.

Jeito de Amar (Ways to Love), an intensely warm and moving jazz song, was one of the highlights of the evening, with Cintia singing in duet with Bai Kamara Jr., filling the instrumental parts with a swinging dance together on stage : the crown on their collaboration on this album.

Tudo Mundo Fala, a critical reggae song composed in honour of Mother Earth, was, almost logically I'd say, followed by Africa Amiga, a tribute to the origins of mankind. After that Cintia surprised her audience by singing Edith Piaf's Non, Je ne Regrette Rien, in almost perfect French, moving more than one person in the audience to a tear or two.

At the end of the show Cintia Rodriguez came back to the more traditional Brazilian music with



2 Samba songs, on both accompanied by an excellent Osman Martins on cavaquinho, which is a small 4-string guitar and an almost indispensable instrument in Samba. She ended of with a wake-up call, certainly not for her audience who was as alive as can be, but for her Brazilian fellow-countrymen, by bringing an extremely swinging yet engaged *Ve Se Acorda Brasil* (Wake Up Brazil). To add some force to her message the lively Brazilian percussion band *Batuqueria* joined in.

The concert was incredibly well produced and “packed“, excellent and at times deep music brought by fabulous musicians and good visuals supporting the texts, which were almost all sung in Portuguese, thus enabling the audience to follow. And the good news of it all is that it can be re-watched. The entire concert had been sound- and video-recorded (8 cameras) by the very professional team of rising star and Brussels-based Avalon Studio. It is therefore with an incredible impatience that we await the release of the DVD of this concert. Can we expect a release concert for the DVD release? Please....!

By Enzo Blonk