

**Straight No**

SPRING 2007 £3.50

INTERPLANETARY SOUNDS: ANCIENT TO FUTURE

# Chasem



**CINEMATIC  
ORCHESTRA**  
STATES OF BEING

**JAMES BROWN**

TRIBUTE TO THE GODFATHER OF FUNK

**WALTER MOSLEY**

VOICE OF THE UNDERDOG

**4 HERO**

RAW CANVAS

**HIP HOP 07**

JOHN ROBINSON

LITTLE BROTHER

VON PEA

**WORLD CIRCUIT 20**

ALI FARKA TOURE, TOUMANI DIABATE,

OUMOU SANGARE, ANGA, CHEIKH LO,

RUBEN GONZALEZ

+ BLACK LILY, KARIZMA

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# BLACK LILY FILM + MUSIC FESTIVAL MAY 4-6 2007

**The Black Lily, a flower of one of the rarest varieties, is due to come into bloom again in Philadelphia this May, at the World Café Live.**

The Black Lily showcase ruled Philadelphia's Five Spot from 2000 to 2005 and successfully threw the spotlight on cutting-edge women artists. Revered for breaking artists like Jill Scott, Floetry and Jaguar Wright, its unfortunate demise has removed an important counter balance to the skewed gender dynamics of the music business, world over. However, this May brings the *Black Lily Film and Music Festival* back to Philly's Painted Bride Art Center and World Café Live.

Founders Mercedes Martinez and Tracey Moore, of the Jazzyfatnastees return with film maker and festival creator Maori Karmael Holmes, who explains: "[The] Black Lily never died, as far as I know, though it did go on hiatus, I suppose. In 2005 I completed a film (Scene Not Heard: Women in Philadelphia Hip-Hop) and in the process of producing it, I developed a relationship with Mercedes. I started thinking about how fantastic it would be to have an all-women's film festival in Philadelphia and it occurred to me that it would be even more fantastic if it was an outgrowth of Black Lily. Mercedes and Tracey and they were very excited about the idea".

Alongside film screenings, workshops and awards ceremonies which take place at the Painted Bride Art Centre, two Black Lily concerts will take place at the World Café Live on the 4th and 6th of May. Friday's opening concert will feature a few of the long-time Philadelphia series vets along and some new or little known artists, whereas original Lily house band, The Roots, will be on board for Sunday's concert with some Lily honorees, some

established acts, and some break-out artists. Toshi Reagon and Malene Younglao are two names worth checking who, alongside many others, will deliver 15-20 minute showcase sets, the intervals will tap into the female side of Philly's dance and spoken word community.

For Mercedes, the event is more than just a reminder of the gender imbalance that exists within major label marketing and A&R budgets: "We see the Black Lily Film & Music Festival as a natural step in our plan to expand the Black Lily brand. We always hoped to grow beyond the weekly music series into an organization that encourages, supports and highlights women artists. Most artists make art because they have a perspective they want to share with others. Hopefully the Black Lily Film & Music Festival will be a means to that end and a source of inspiration".

Mercedes is conscious that the Lily's complex message risks being lost in translation, but points out that it's been across the world and seen women artists of all races and cultures wanting to be a part of it. "Our goal was to allow artists to develop their distinct voices and to provide a nurturing environment for them to do so. It was never just about Black music – though the over-sexualized, hyper-

consumerist images we are fed makes Black music one of the forms most in need of this kind of event". With Mercedes and Tracy sitting in a holding pattern for the Jazzyfatnastees long awaited third album, this event should be an important catalyst for a movement that seriously needs to get back up and moving again.

(Words: Will Page, Photography: Jati Lindsay)

**More info and watch the excellent 'History of the Black Lily' documentary video: [www.blacklilyfilm.org](http://www.blacklilyfilm.org)**



Maori, Tracey & Mercedes