

ABAKUYA

Band member short biographies

FRANCOIS ESSINDI

FRANCOIS ESSINDI is an actor, dancer, storyteller and musician from Cameroon. A leading percussionist in his native country, Essindi is renowned for his powerful onstage energy crafted with his delicate phrasing and touch. Essindi is the recourse that cannot be ignored for the new wave of local artists and singers in Cameroon who are compelled to reuse the Tam-tam call, the Mvet and the Snail shell that had been banned from popular Cameroonian music. Today based in Paris, Essindi refines the art of the traditional harp from central



Africa, the Ngomo from Cameroon as well as the Mvet, another endangered string instrument.

A storyteller from the Bulu world, **François Essindi** is a creative in the truest sense, who never stops exploring and studying traditional ways of writing alongside developing new ways to touch an audience with the magic of African rhythms.

JIMI SOFO

An Australian bass player and composer, **JIMI SOFO** is an inspired globe-trotter, bringing his ears, experience and expertise to ABAKUYA.



Ever since he could pick up an instrument, Jimi has been playing and composing. After graduating from the Canberra School of Music, Jimi followed his well trained but still unique pulse across the globe to listen, play, record and tour with both emerging and very established musicians. Jimi's projects vary in genre from classical to jazz to African and in medium from live to studio and, most recently, for music for film.

Jimi's playing is renowned to be poetic, free and lucid.

A host of talented guest musicians play regularly with ABAKUYA for varying concerts, festivals and recordings.

For tour dates, music samples, press and other info contact
ABAKUYA

abakuya@gmail.com
www.myspace.com/abakuya