

Psychedelic Desert Funk
Jamila & The Other Heroes

share “YABA يابا” single

Release date: 31.05.2021

Label: Springstoff / slowtrane



DOWNLOAD/STREAM

<https://melino.com/p/e6FABW/QX5uMv5>

“Changing the music landscape of Berlin by infusing Arabic folk with psychedelic rock and neo-soul — and a dash of cultural activism” OZY

Jamila & The Other Heroes’ new single is influenced by Gnawa music, Khaliqi Gulf Region songs, as well as Westafrican Beats; appreciating the inspirations of artists such as **Aziza Brahim, Tony Allen, Tinariwen** and **Toot Ard**.

***„Let’s build a place of togetherness where everyone is allowed
- no matter what name or passports -
live in freedom of moving souls and healing hearts
but we’re separated, geographically so close, but further than stars.“***

Now Jamila & The Other Heroes release the concept double single **YABA** (31.05.21) and **BORDER SYNDROME** (mid June 2021), in which lead singer Jamila Al-Yousef is embracing her Palestinian roots by sharing her 2nd generation diaspora narratives with the world; imagining a futuristic border free Middle East that comes after the pain of being apart. *„While the soul breaking news reach us from the Middle East, we worked on the final mixes in the studio of these two songs dedicated to my fatherland - Palestine. With these songs I wanna share with my Palestinian soul mates worldwide and in the midst of the aggressions my love, my support and my energy for a change.“*, Jamila says.

In **YABA** يا با, the first single of the two to be released, **Jamila is asking her father about his memories in Palestine after 50 years in exile** and describes what she found when travelling there:

*Do you remember how your home looked like?
And which pictures were on the wall?
Do you remember the taste of the olive oil?
Tell me about it Dad!*

*Do you remember how they kicked you out?
And what you put in your box?
Do you remember the photo of your father,
the one that got lost?*

*I visited after many years
The house is still the same
I saw the sad mountains
Where did my family go, yaba?*

In the second part of the song, Jamila moves to the present, sharing her own experiences in Palestine, by addressing the sea: *Who is swimming inside of you? "This is a reference to Palestinians in the Westbank being prohibited to move freely to the Mediterranean or Dead Sea. There are people my age who have never seen the sea that is only 30 min away."*, Jamila explains. Later she is chanting to the moon: *Who is dancing and smiling under your light?*, as a symbol of her own memories of beautiful concerts and togetherness with the people in Middle East.

„We loved working on both singles with Lucky (Martin Waschkwitsch) at the famous **Bewake Studios Berlin**, where most of **Parcels'** records have their home.“ Jamila tells us.

يا بابا !
شو مالك؟
كل الخوف طيرو من راسك !

يا بابا !
كيف حالك؟
كل الفرح هيو قدامك.

Jamila & the Other Heroes is a wild Berlin based band from anywhere that creates Psychedelic Desert Funk to make you fly. Leading the band is the vibrant **Jamila Al-Yousef**. Jamila is daughter of a Palestinian medical doctor who came to Berlin as a refugee after loosing his home in the Six Day War in 1967. Born in Berlin on the day the wall came down, Jamila learned about her family's heritage as a child in 2nd generation diaspora. At the age of 18 she started regularly going to the Middle East to engage in cultural projects and connect to the local creative scenes in Jenin, Ramallah, Haifa, Amman, Tunis, Sinai and Cairo. In 2011 Jamila established the **Arab* Underground program at Fusion Festival (Germany)**, bringing hundreds of Middle Eastern artists and intellectuals together (such as **Yasmine Hamdan, Toot Ard or Talal Derki**) to share diverse perspectives on the region. Jamila's cultural activism and strong will to positively change the world is drawn deep into her artistic expression.

YABA

Oh Dad!
What's wrong with you?
Let all your fear fly out of your head!

Oh Dad!
How are you?
All the joy is in front of you.

Do you remember how your home looked like?
And which pictures were on the wall?
Do you remember the taste of the olive oil?
Tell me about it Dad!

Do you remember how they kicked you out
and what you put in your box?
Do you remember the photo of your father,
the one that got lost, yaba?

I visited after many years
The house is still the same
I saw the sad mountain
Where did my family go, yaba?

Oh Sea!
What's bothering you?
Who is swimming inside of you?

Oh Moon!
How are you?
Who is dancing and smiling in your light?

I miss the pommgranade juice
And the Manaqish, too
I miss to feel safe
Because my heart is tired

I hope the concept of borders will be over
And my girls will go back home
I hope under the Olivetree
You will dance with them, Yaba!

We are going back home
With close friends
The mountains are happy
This is my family, yaba!

يا بابا

يا بابا !
شو مالك؟
كل الخوف طيرو من راسك !

يا بابا !
كيف حالك؟
كل الفرح هيو قدامك.

تتذكر شكل البيت؟
و الصور كانت عل حيط.
تتذكر طعم الزيت؟
احكي لي عنهم ,يا بابا !

تتذكر كيف طردوك
و شو حظيت بالصندوق؟
تتذكر صورة ابوك،
اللى ضاعت يا بابا؟

زرتة بعد سنين
البيت زي ماهو
شفت جبل حزين
وين راحوا أهلي يا بابا؟

يا بحر!
شو مالك؟
مين بيسبح جواتك؟

يا قمر!
كيف حالك؟
مين برقص و بضحك في نورك؟

اشتقت لعصير الرمان،
وللمناقيش كمان.
اشتقت أحس بالأمان
لأنو قلبي تعبان.

ياريت تخلص الحدود،
ترجع بناتي ع البيوت.
ياريت تحت الزيتون،
ترقص معهم، يا بابا.

عالبيت راجعين،
مع أصحاب كثير
أجبال مبسوطين،
هدول أهلي، يا بابا.

ABOUT THE BAND

JAMILA & THE OTHER HEROES combine psychedelic desert funk with political content. While racist agitation is increasingly becoming acceptable in many circles of our society, the five musicians have made it their mission to break down prejudices towards people with histories of migration and asylum and make the abundance of cultural diversity more visible and audible. *“For us music is not free of politics! Given that in particular women of color are underrepresented in the music industry, we want to set an example for emancipation and empowerment. This is why we turn into heroes and are determined to advocate in our lyrics and sounds for a more just and fair society”*, explains the 31-year-old front singer Jamila Al-Yousef, who put together the band in 2016 after returning from a magical concert by **Erykah Badu** and **Hiatus Kaiyote** in New York.

The band merges psychedelic rock with elements of funk and Arab folklore. The percussionist **Salam Alhassan**, who fled from Syria to Germany in 2015, brought contemporary as well as folkloric musical influences from the Levant region into the mix while the guitarist **Leon Sánchez** has a Latin American music background. **Pier Caccio** shows his magic on drums, especially influenced by Afrobeat music, while **Felix Barth** gets you into the groove with his bass lines. All five band members have one thing in common: their youth was heavily influenced by rock and hip hop music. To achieve their unusual sound, they take inspiration from a variety of musicians including **Yasmine Hamdan**, **Aziza Brahim**, **Hiatus Kaiyote**, **Tony Allen**, **Novos Bahianos**, **Toot Ard** and **Altin Gün**.

After touring in Germany, the Middle East and North Africa in the past four years (amongst other opening for **BUKAHARA**), the band's raw, concentrated energy manifests in their debut album **“SIT EL KON. ست الكون** (The Grandmother of the Universe) released in 2020 under German independent label **Springstoff**. Tours in Germany, Egypt, Lebanon, VAE and other European destinations are on hold till the end of pandemic.

Web:

<https://www.jamilaandtheotherheroes.com/>

Follow Jamila & The Other Heroes

[Spotify](#) | [Soundcloud](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Management & Press

Rainer Scheerer

rainer.scheerer@springstoff.de / +491792140375



Jamila & The Other Heroes at Bewake Studios Berlin, from left to right: Salam Alhassan, Leon Hast, Felix Barth, Jamila Al-Yousef, Pier Caccio
photo by Orhan Bey