



# Gestu Groupe

AfroJazz / Dakar

'**Gëstu**', which means 'research' or 'to deepen' in Wolof, Senegal's traditional language, is a quintet inspired by European Jazz and modern African sounds. This young band which is based in Dakar has been founded by Ambroise Zinsou and Conny Schneider in 2017. The five band members originate from Senegal, Benin and Germany. 'Gëstu Groupe' recently played at the festival '**Jazz à Ouga**', Burkina Faso, and the **French Institute Dakar**.

Their first album called 'Alekle', the name a traditional percussion instrument from Benin, contains eight original compositions and was produced and recorded in Dakar in 2018. 'Gëstu' develops and arranges their compositions collectively. The band mixes traditional rhythms from their respective countries with jazz, African sounds and of course a zest for groove and melodies. They want to realize their dream of a peaceful and productive co-existence of cultures.



Photo: Stephanie Nikolaidis





# Video + Audio

<https://www.musicinafrica.net/directory/gestu-groupe>

# Concerts

Jazz à Ouaga, **Burkina Faso** 2019

Institut Français Dakar, collaboration with 'Sencirk', **Senegal** 2019

Festival St. Louis Jazz, **Senegal** 2018

Goethe Institut Dakar, **Senegal** 2018





# Musicians

## **Ambroise Zinsou – trombone, saxophone**

Tromboniste since the age of 11, Ambroise started playing music in Benin's brass bands. In 1998 he joined 'L'Ecole des Arts' Cotonou, Benin, to study saxophone. He moved to Dakar in 2000 playing with various bands as Nicolas Meihem de Africando, Orchestra Baobab and Youssou N'Dour and since then tours internationally with artists such as Cheikh Lô and Orchestra Baobab. He performed, amongst many others, at the festivals '**WOMEX**', '**SFINKS**' Belgium and '**WOMAD**'.

## **Conny Schneider – saxophone, trumpet**

Conny Schneider, saxophonist and trapeze acrobat, studied at the 'Conservatory Maastricht', Netherlands, 'State School of Circus Arts' Berlin and 'Codarts' Rotterdam. She combines music and circus playing saxophone upside down on her trapeze.. She worked for '**Circus Roncalli**' and 'Tiefenrausch Ska' Berlin and also produces her own cross-over shows. Conny performed at the festivals '**Pinkpop**' Netherlands, '**L'Emoi du Jazz Abidjan**' Ivory Coast, and '**Welttheater der Straße**' Germany.



## Lamine Faye – bass

Passionate musician as long as he can remember.. Being one of the founders of 'Jamm' he toured almost every corner in Senegal. He has played opening concerts for Youssou N'Dour and Xalam and is a regular guest at the **St. Louis Jazz festival**. Lamine also has a remarkable experience as sound technician recording and mixing bands from all over the world.

## Pape Abdoulaye Dieng – drums

Pape Laye masters a broad variety of styles and is touring internationally since many years. His outstanding creativity on the drums makes it a great pleasure to work with him.





**Mermoz Deguenon – piano**

**Mermoz Deguenon studied with the French pianists  
Claudine Francois and Mario Canonge and the American  
guitarist Lionel Loueke. He performed with Anna Teko,  
Jowee Omicil and Nel Oliver.**



**Contact**

**Conny Schneider**

**T: +221 78 107 38 71**

**E: [conny@connyschneider.com](mailto:conny@connyschneider.com)**

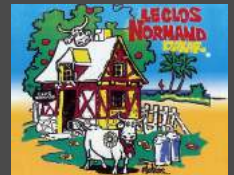
**[connyschneider.com](http://connyschneider.com)**



## Partner organizations

8 original compositions arranged  
by Gestu Groupe

INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS  
Sénégal



1. Alekle
2. Who Exactly
3. Africa Buzz
4. Supplication
5. Djoloff
6. Khorondom
7. Demons & Pearls
8. Tribute to Fela

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Institut Dakar,  
Barbara Krant

**Compositions & Arrangements** by GESTU GROUPE  
Ambroise Zinsou - trombone, saxophones  
Conny Schneider - saxophones, trumpet  
Mermoz Deguenon - piano  
Lamine Faye - bass, mix, master  
Pape Abdoulaye Dieng - drums  
Edouard Manga - kora (Africa Buzz)

[www.musicinafrica.net/directory/gestu-groupe](http://www.musicinafrica.net/directory/gestu-groupe)  
Recorded at 'Mobilsound' © GESTU GROUPE 2018



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