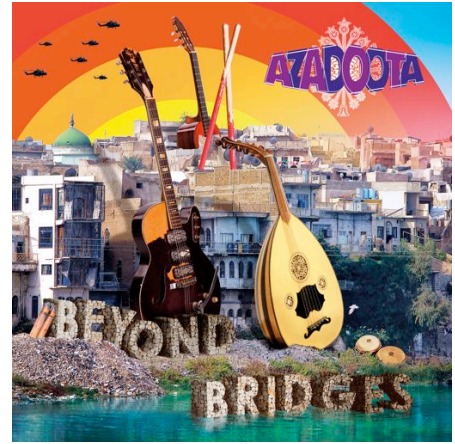


AZADOOTA'S IRRESISTIBLE NEW ALBUM BEYOND BRIDGES RELEASED!

Azadoota - one of Australia's most unique world music outfits - springs into summer with their compelling new album *Beyond Bridges*. It's a heady fusion of Middle Eastern beats and flamenco with a twist of Latin, pop and reggae led by the high energy of passionate front-man Robin Zirwanda at the helm.



Planet/MGM

Combining ancient grooves with a modern edge, this well-crafted new offering tells stories of persecution and pride, forbidden love, regret, but above all hope and renewal.

Azadoota means freedom in Assyrian, the first language of singer, songwriter and percussionist Robin Zirwanda, who was born in Iraq where the Assyrians can trace their ancestors back nearly 7000 years.

Azadoota is based in Sydney and was formed by Robin Zirwanda in 1998. With an early career as a percussionist with floor-packing Latin bands, Robin was inspired to step out from behind the congas to sing songs in his native tongue by the rise of world music legends Youssou N'Dour and Salif Keita. **Azadoota** has gone on to wow audiences at festivals and venues right across Australia, and released their debut album *Planetarian* in 2008.

There's a sense of irresistible celebration that will get you out on the floor even from the beginning of *Beyond Bridges* - From the rhythmic drum call that begins Azadoota's first song *Shakita* to the infectious pulse of *Joshie's Song*, to boys remembering a summer crush in *Kiss Me Kiss Me*, to the joyful chorus of *Eejenah*, which tells of a cross-cultural marriage.

Beyond Bridges is a joie de vivre life-force of multicultural Australia. Bringing together a blend of styles, sounds and influences it is a meeting point of cultures, people and traditions. Robin Zirwanda sings in Assyrian, English and Arabic and despite decades of conflict between the Arabs and Assyrians in Iraq, he has created this album in close partnership with Arab oud master Ahmed Al-Karawi. Classically trained in Arabic music and formerly one of Iraq's finest oud stars Al-Karawi sets the scene, expertly weaving intricate melodies throughout each song. Hot on his heels, conservatorium-trained Chris Duff makes his flamenco guitar sing, leading a tight-knit collective of outstanding young musicians to complete the big dance-driven flavour of this 7 piece line-up.

Above all, *Beyond Bridges* is a celebration of life, love and humanity. Don't miss out on catching all the passion and spirit of Azadoota's exceptional sound live.

Connect with Azadoota at:

www.azadoota.com

www.facebook.com/azadoota

www.vibedeck.com/azadoota

(Tour Dates on following page)

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT BETTINA RICHTER
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AZADOOTA 2012 TOUR DATES:

Illawarra Folk Festival

January 12-15, Bulli, NSW

Sydney Australia Day Concerts

Thursday January 26

Darling Harbour Foreshore 2:30pm

Enmore Park Enmore 6:05pm,

ACT and VIC tour

Friday February 10, The Front Gallery and Café, Lyneham, ACT

Saturday February 11, The Lomond Hotel, Brunswick East, VIC

Sunday February 12, Open Studio, Northcote, VIC

National Folk Festival

Easter Long Weekend, April 5-9, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

North Coast Tour

Friday May 4, Pacific Hotel, Yamba

Saturday May 5,

Nimbin Hotel, Nimbin, 1pm

Bangalow Hotel, Bangalow, 8:30pm

Sunday May 6, The Rails, Byron Bay, 6:30pm



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