

Neil Sparkes

Biography

"**Neil Sparkes**, Renaissance dubster, poet and painter does not stop moving. His restless journey started the moment he found himself onstage poeticising over the dub alongside Linton Kwesi Johnson, Jalal and Jean Binta Breeze. Since then there's been Real World Recording Weeks, Transglobal Underground, the Temple of Sound project, solo albums like the resplendent Cuban dub vision of 'Burning Mask'....and that's not even most of it." - **Max Reinhardt, Straight No Chaser**

Neil Sparkes is a musician, producer, visual artist and poet whose work resonates through both artistic and popular cultural worlds.

Recognised internationally as percussionist and vocalist of **Loungeclash**, **BouGaRaBou**, **Temple of Sound** and formerly **Transglobal Underground**. For over a decade Sparkes has performed on international stages across the globe on the frontline of world music, dance and dub.

As a musician, composer and producer he has worked with **Peter Gabriel**, **Natacha Atlas**, **The Stranglers**, **Jah Wobble**, **Los De Abajo**, **Batucada Sound Machine**, **Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali (Nephews of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan)**, **Adrian Sherwood**, **Hossam Ramzy** and **Linton Kwesi Johnson** amongst many others.

Neil's music has been used by fashion designers Ferragamo and Valentino for their catwalk shows and by advertisers such as Pilot Pens and Adobe. Neil has contributed towards many feature film soundtracks and has composed and produced incidental music for features on BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Sky Sports as well as numerous licenses around the globe.

Neil Sparkes literary work includes several collections of poetry published by **Billy Childish's** Hangman Books.

Neil's latest ventures are LoungeClash, presenting a combination of 21st Century Lounge, Electronica and Dub and BougaraBou, the brand new percussion ensemble formed by Neil Sparkes and Ben Baddoo, master drummer from Ghana.

"**Neil Sparkes** is one of England's living treasures, a Renaissance man for whom selling out is anathema and creative expression is all. A former member of Transglobal Underground and Temple of Sound, Sparkes has teamed up with Sam Dodson (Loop Guru/Slipper/ The Transmitters) to form a new partnership, Loungeclash.

Having already proved themselves as a live act - think Gotan Project combining Exotica, Lounge, Dub and Film Soundtrack music with Burlesque, Loungeclash release their debut to high expectations on the back of rave live reviews.

Here is an outfit with personality...But what makes this debut different is it's roots in the rhythms of '70s Dub reggae. These kitsch -loving Dubsters are out to entertain as well as inspire and soothe" - **Songlines**

"**BouGaraBou** attempt to go back to the source of percussion, the rhythms of West Africa. The Jazz element is provided by award-laden saxman Alan Barnes. This inevitably led them back to Art Blakey's 60's experiments with African and Afro-Cuban percussion, the jumping off point for BouGaRaBou." - **fROOTS Magazine**

" **BouGaraBou** offer a seamless blend of African percussion and melodic jazz improvisation. Original, daring, accessible and darn-right hypnotic, this is music that you feel rather than just hear." - **Jamie Renton (fRoots / Straight No Chaser / Chilli Fried)**

"**Sparkes** helped turn a generation of Indie kids on to African rhythms and electronica, adding extra Dub and Latin elements into the mix, all the while driven by his controlled but urgent percussion." - **The Independent**