

Neil Sparkes

Neil Sparkes is a Vocalist, Percussionist, Composer and Producer.

Founder member, producer and co-writer of Temple of Sound, and formerly vocalist, percussionist and writer in Transglobal Underground, Sparkes has performed on international stages across the globe creating innovative combinations of world music, jazz and dub.

As 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, 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.

As well as numerous appearances on radio and television, Sparkes work has been published widely in magazines and anthologies including: "Apples & Snakes: Velocity", "Critical Quarterly", "Grandchildren of Albion", "Apples & Snakes: Popular Front of Contemporary Poetry" and the Hungarian/British collection "Fragile Continent".

As a poet and performer, he has read and performed widely in the UK, Europe and internationally at clubs, festivals, colleges and universities.

A collection of Neil's New and Selected poetry is due for publication later in the year accompanied by a New Spoken works album.

Neil's latest ventures in the studio and live combine African percussion and Jazz flavours, improvisations around structures that echo his work as a painter and visual artist. New projects also include Multimedia collaborations combining Film, the melodies and rhythms of Afro-Cuba, Jazz and Dub.

Neil's new website launches in summer 2011 in combination with new releases and gigs.

Courtesy of www.AnneReedMusic.com

"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. Sincethen 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, Late Junction BBC Radio 3**

"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**

"Complete with his own harmonious wood-cuts and drawings....Sparkes' lines are as spacious, terse and punchy as his mentors Jeff Nuttall, Mingus, Monk and Kerouac."
- **The Times**

"Neil Sparkes is one of England's living treasures, a Renaissance man for whom selling out is anathema and creative expression is all." - **Songlines**

".....a delicious organic-meets-electronic jambalaya with hearty infusions of dub, downtempo jazz and spoken word" - **Andrew Duke, In The Mix**

"Neil Sparkes has developed a sound which contains Dub, Caribbean flavours, jazz, breakbeat, poetry and Afro-Cuban percussion." - **Lulu Le Vay, Jockey Slut**

"A musical education" - **DJ Pathaan, DJ Magazine/ Globetronica**