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BY ATONA DAMACHI ([HTTP://OURS-MAG.COM/AUTHOR/ATONA-DAMACHI/](http://ours-mag.com/author/atona-damachi/)) / JANUARY 7, 2015

FESTIVAL COULEUR CAFÉ

Performers from Geneva's Festival Couleur Café brought 2014 to a close with art, music and spirit. I had the lovely opportunity to watch live performances from Dobet Gnahoré and Caramel Brown.

"Our purpose is to give young Africans in Geneva the opportunity to have a place to perform and present a cultural project on Africa to Geneva," says William Makosso, President and Founder of the Couleur Café Association. To do this the association invites different African performers from around the world as well as Geneva locals of African descent to share the diverse art of the continent and promote positive aspects of various African cultures.

Performers hold workshops with children as well as put on shows for adults. During these workshops, which involve about 180 students between the ages of 12 and 15 from five different schools, children experience an educational sensitization says Makosso. Different workshops are held to expose children to African culture and involve them in memorable experiences to battle negative stereotypes.

"Buying a new toy at Migros can be easily forgotten, but 'the time my dad brought me to learn how to play different African drums with all my friends' that experience will be remembered forever," says Makosso. Children also attend workshops where they hear and learn about rap against violence and other workshops that immerse the children in attendance within the arts to battle racism and support human rights. As a Congolese and Swiss citizen, creating positive awareness of African cultures in Geneva - now his hometown - has become an important task for the barrister who has taken a moment of leave in search for a job that does not compromise his morality. Formerly based in Bern, Makosso requested a transfer to Geneva to be closer to his family. "I was offered the job to be one of the people who decide who gets sent back to their home country. Morally, as an African I cannot do that; I



([http://i2.wp.com/ours-mag.com
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DSCO1230.jpg](http://i2.wp.com/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSCO1230.jpg))

*William Makosso, President of
the Couleur Café Association*

believe in giving people second chances," he says gesturing, putting his wrists together, as if in shackles.

"Generally speaking, Swiss people are open to different cultures. In my eyes art far exceeds cultural frontiers." Watching the performances of Caramel Brown, an afro soul electro female duo, and Dobet Gnahoré, Grammy award winning Ivorian singer, I saw art transcend cultural barriers as multicultural Geneva cheered and danced and celebrated.

Caramel Brown

Shakes and shivers. Shakes and shivers! Caramel Brown, I have heard tales of their talents but never did I imagine such a gem was hidden right beneath my nose. Thank you for gracing the stage with your presence, for triggering pain, passion, and joy with your rhythms and words.



(<http://i0.wp.com/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSCO1217.jpg>)

Caramel Brown is like a delicious box of fine chocolates, some dark, some milk, some with speculoos, some with caramel, some sweet, some bitter, all delectable. Their style is a variety of soul, R&B, electro, funk, Afro beats, pop and even a little Latin twist on some tracks.



<http://iO.wp.com/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSC01217.jpg>

Caramel Brown

The duet is made up of two talented and beautiful women Brown and Karami. Brown is a poet, writer and singer. Karami is a composer, pianist and producer. Brown's voice is all the pain and beauty in this world. Her voice pierces through the air so pure and so powerful. Karami...Karami, Karami, Karami. Her rhythms are mesmerizing. So often with music today I find myself entirely enthralled by the lyrics yet wishing for better beats or vice versa, but song after song the dynamic duet captured the audience with musical excellence. Minutes after they left the stage the crowd begged for an encore. Watch it below.



<http://il.wp.com/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSCO1200.jpg>

Caramel Brown

Together the two artists create an intimate space where they perform songs about Africa, self-esteem, love, breaking up and getting back together and friendship. Completely immersed in the world of Caramel Brown, where shoes are optional, intimate thoughts can be shared without judgment, dancing is carefree and natural. I love seeing women on stage embodying elegance and a subtle provocativeness that is beautiful and sexy and so rare in our time, reminiscent of Sade.

Dobet Gnahoré

Her casual confidence is domineering as she commands the stage. "On est en famille," she says. In English, "We are amongst family". Dobet Gnahoré, a queen on her stage, belts her powerful voice to the furthestmost corners of Geneva's Theatre Pitoeff. Hitting high notes with an invigorating rasp, touching each member of the audience who remained on their feet dancing and gyrating and singing in celebration for a good part of her performance. Some people are unable to control their excitement, two fans jump on stage and dance with the singer. She welcomes them with smiles and chants of

endearment, a queen, who happily shares her throne.



(<http://i2.wp.com>

ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSCO1271.jpg)

Dobet Gnahoré and her band

Gnahoré's set is strong, stimulating, touching. At times her and her extremely talented band perform songs that make us dance. Other times they bring you near tears, even though there were many words I could not understand. The Ivorian sings in over nine languages. So you can imagine her performance as a multicultural stew of rhythm and lyrics. She sings of the unconditional love one has for their mother in 'Maman', in 'Zina' she sings of domestic abuse, something that is all too common. She sings songs of friendship, of love, of the need for political change on the African continent. When she sings I believe her, she wants change, she loves she cares. She halts her performance to console a coughing child in the audience "Koso baby, koso," she says.



(<http://i0.wp.com>

ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSCO1241.jpg)

Dobet Gnahoré and her band

Gnahoré, the 2010 Grammy award winner, had a lovely air about her. She was as humble as she was confident, everything about her and her music is so deep and touching and intimate. She signs my newly bought album, "Na Dré" (please have a listen, it's moving) and returns it to me "ça va ma belle."



[/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSC01309.jpg](http://i0.wp.com/ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSC01309.jpg)
Dobet Gnahoré and her band


<http://ours-mag.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DSC01284.jpg>

Unfortunately I was only able to attend one day of the 2014 Festival Couleur Café. Adding to my New Year’s list of resolutions, in 2015 I shall attend almost all. Performers the African continent in the multicultural gem that is Geneva, Switzerland.

[Festival Couleur Café Website](http://www.couleurcafe.ch/)

[Dobet Gnahoré’s website](http://dobetgnahore.com/)

[Caramel Brown’s website](http://www.colorsrecords.ch/artists/caramelbrown-2/)



KAMI AWORI
Titres récents

4

TITRES


813 abonnés

Suivre

KAMI AWORI - Lunation (Interlude)	3.6K
KAMI AWORI - Blue Forest	3.5K
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

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DOBET GNAHORE - SAMAHANI - Vidéo Dailym...



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