

RAZTERIA



BIOGRAPHY

LATIN ROOTS, REGGAE RIDDIMS, ACTIVIST INTENT & STRONG FEMALE VOCALS

Razteria can be described as a fusion of Marissa Monte, early No Doubt, and Steel Pulse. Her music unites Reggae, passionate Latin grooves, Rock, powerful messages and musical genius. Described as 'musically adventurous' and 'a one of a kind breaking of all rules' (1), her songwriting reflects her passion and strong commitment to social justice.

Razteria is currently in full production mode – her fifth album will be released in 2015. Tours are being scheduled in South America (February 2015), Europe (April 2015), and the United States (Summer 2015).

Razteria's multicultural background (US-born, Bolivian-Dutch heritage) has had a profound influence on her musical path. She has planted musical seeds in Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, USA and Europe (France, Switzerland), opening for international acts such as: Grammy award winning reggae artist Michael Rose, popular UK/JA lover's rock Lloyd Brown, The Garifuna Collective from Belize and US national touring artists Mystic Roots, Caribbean All-Stars and Taj Weekes & Adowa. Other noteworthy performances include World Fest Los Angeles, World One Festival, North West World Reggae Festival and the Montreal Jazz festival to name a few. Her music has been licensed by MTV's True Life series and various independent films.

In March of 2013, for International Women's Month, Razteria joined the stage with Irae Divine, Queen Makedah and Sol Atash for the Empress Meditations Women for Peace Tour, an exciting and unique female showcase that delivers reggae and world music influences from all over the globe in 6 different languages. The tour, backed by the Fyah Squad Band, visited many cities on the West coast while raising contributions for A Safe Place, an Oakland based charity supporting victims of domestic violence. Razteria & Empress Meditations continue to perform in support of community-based organizations such as Bread & Roses.

SELECT DISCOGRAPHY

MAZ RAZ (ALBUM 2013): Razteria's senior album "MAZ RAZ" features 11 original tracks, 2 remixes, and four classic covers delving from reggae, to cumbia, ska and alternative rock.

RAZTERIA (ALBUM 2010): All originals, dominated by reggae, this album's feature tunes include: 'Risk'/'Risk Remix', a tune promoting a message of safe sex and HIV/AIDS prevention and 'Illegal' dedicated to the struggle of immigrants.

THE BAND

Since 2009 she has been working with the Fyah Squad Band, with Waddell Bell on bass and Lou Neuburger on drums, recording her last 2 albums with these masters of rhythm and bass who have backed many artists including: Wayne Wonder, Rocker T, Junior Toots, Empress Meditations, Messenjah Selah and more.



PRESS



Razteria (aka Renee Asteria) is an amazing artist whose latest 17 song release, Maz Raz, crosses genres seamlessly without losing its Latin music foundation. Throughout the project the singer alternates between English, Spanish and Portuguese, providing me with something extremely different from everything I've received since 2014 began. Razteria's music and voice are a breath of fresh air in a world where commercial dance music has left absolutely no room in the mainstream for pure artists who make exceptional music.

Rating: 1 = WORST, 4 = BEST

MAZ RAZ

Artist: Razteria



Lyrics - 3.75 || Music - 3.75 || Vocals - 3.75

From start to finish, Maz Raz shows off the incredible voice, music, and songwriting of Razteria. This album contains 11 original tracks, 2 remixes, and four classic covers which makes this the first full album that I've reviewed this year that contains more than 12 songs. But, what made this such a special album to listen to is the fact that every song is well produced and sang. Musically, Razteria's band does a great job of complimenting her vocal talents with amazing brass section, bass, percussion, drums, guitars, keys, and vocal harmonies. On each tune, her band lays down the perfect canvas for this amazing vocalist to paint her majestic and melodic audio landscapes.

MAZ RAZ is nicely done and really does a great job of showing us what Razteria has to offer. What a pleasure it is to hear such great songwriting, singing, and music. I would recommend Razteria's music to anybody who is looking for great tunes in the reggae/ska and Latin genres that have not been tainted by the grubby paws of commercial, mainstream music. Don't miss her live either!

Reviewed by: Shaine Freeman, host of The Miews podcast, I AM ENTERTAINMENT



Latin roots, reggae riddims, activist intent and strong female vocals coalesce on Renee Asteria's rockin' new release RazteRia (Asteria Records). Drawing inspiration from all over the world Renee pulls disparate fragments from the air, the seas, the trees and the breeze and puts them to work in the human environment with intuitive intent and elusive ease. Standout tracks include "Work It," "Soul" and the effervescent "Rain." Using her heart like a guidance system and her voice as a tuning fork she confronts real life issues on "2 Faced," "Illegal," "Soul" and "Risk" (presented in two mixes) and leaves you longing for more with "La Baja." The result is soulful, rock-solid and recommended.

Reviewed by: Chuck Foster, host of Reggae Central, KPFK-Los Angeles 90.7 FM



Writing and producing her own music is just one of the many unique endeavors that Razteria is involved with. Accredited with a degree in Public Health, she conducts research on community based projects, is learning how to engineer her own music, and is in the beginning stages of developing her own record label, on which she recently released her album Razteria. Razteria's synthesis of Reggae, Latin and Folk music can, in essence, be seen as a reflection of her own cultural divergence of Dutch and Bolivian roots. The idea of fusing activism with art is the force that drives her musical efforts and her ultimate goal is for her music to generate royalties that she'd then like to use as funding for social charities. In the meantime, she is nourishing her musical seeds and hoping that they grow with the release of her new album.

The album is infused with messages of justice, love and political awareness, maneuvered into brilliant lyrics, layered over uplifting Reggae beats, in which Razteria's vocals are heavenly and infectious. Originally attracted to Reggae because of its powerful forces and its overall unifying effect on the crowds, she sees it as the best platform for sending out strong messages that she hold close to her heart. Razteria is a musical utopia as seen through the artist's eyes. With nine full length tracks, Razteria has something for everyone.

Reviewed by: Carla Ramos, Writer+Blogger+Poet at lalavalentine.com, EAST BAY LOOP



Latin Reggae sensation Renee Asteria (aka Razteria) released her album RazteRia; an exciting twist on traditional reggae with tracks radiating activism. She explores Reggae, Folk-rock and Latin musical genres to convey powerful messages about social issues ranging from safe sex to illegal immigration. With such important messages, it is a miracle this is reggae you will actually understand!

'Soul' has that traditional reggae vibe, but it feels sweet—like slow jam reggae. Listeners might find it suspiciously easy to imagine the song "Under the Sea" from The Little Mermaid after hearing this track. If that doesn't work, imagine yourself daydreaming. You are alone on a beautiful beach (this will help you) being pampered by the most delicate breeze. It carries your worries away as it passes, leaving you completely free to soul search. 'Risk' is a track warning about the risk one takes when having unprotected sex, one of them being the contraction of HIV/AIDS. Razteria warns, with deep whispery vocals, there is "one life to live...one life to give... don't give it up" by having unprotected sex. She asks "do you really want this, this risk? Do you really need this?" The track has funky bass lines laced with soulful electric guitar solos. 'Illegal' talks about illegal immigration. It opens with a melodic, catchy bass line and transitions into lyrical imagery of what it means to be an illegal immigrant; taking care of other women's homes and children, dreaming of being reunited with one's family and never knowing if you will be taken away. Razteria sings "Illegal Immigration is just an illusion." The track has a traditional reggae beat with raunchy guitar solos (maybe it is just me) accompanied by Razteria's sweet soothing voice.

These are just a few of the topics Razteria explores in her music. All of the songs on the album make some of the most controversial issues like AIDS and illegal immigration alive and allow listeners to analyze their opinions while listening to great, soothing music. If that's not progressive, what is?

Reviewed by: Whitney Lewis, Women's Radio



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DISCOGRAPHY

2013 MAZ RAZ, Asteria Records, cdbaby.com/cd/razteria3
2012 Addicted/There is no End (vinyl single), Asteria Records
2012 Addicted (mp3, single), Asteria Records, cdbaby.com/razteria2
2010 RazteRia, Asteria Records, cdbaby.com/cd/reneeasteria
2007 Faces of Agent Double E, Asteria Records, cdbaby.com/asteria2
2005 Renee Asteria (debut), Asteria Records

LICENCING/COMPILATIONS/AWARDS

2012 1st place in the International Songwriting Competition for "Illegal" (RazteRia album)
2011 Evil Bong 3 sound track "Work It" (RazteRia album)
2011 "Arte, Ciencia y Chagas" sound track, "Vinchuca" (Faces of Agent Double E album)
2010 KPFA 94.1 FM La Onda Bajita's 30th anniversary artist compilation, "Illegal" (RazteRia album)
2008 MTV True Life "I'm An Alcoholic" series, "Curly Black Hair", "Oblivion" (Renee Asteria debut album)
2005 "Anyway You Want It" KJAMZ artist compilation, "Sweet Ben", "Oblivion" (Renee Asteria debut album)

RADIOS

Access to Arising Artists	La Grosse Radio Reggae
Frequences Paris Plurielle (Paris, FR)	OZCAT Radio (Vallejo, CA)
Indie Calgary	Radio Cité (CH)
KALX (Berkeley, CA)	Radio InterDual
KBOO (Portland Oregon)	Radio Open (Tigre, Argentina)
KDNK (Carbondale, CO)	Respect Radio (CH)
KDRT Roots Hour (Davis, CA)	Rock & Pop FM (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
KKUP (Sta Monica, CA)	RSR 1ere (Radio Paradiso, CH)
KLCC (Eugene, OR)	SpoilaRanks
KPCW (Park City, UT)	WDIY (Allentown, PA)
KPFA (Berkeley, CA)	WERU (Bar Harbor, ME)
KPFA (SF Bay, CA)	WHUS (Mansfield, CT)
KPOO (SF Bay, CA)	WHUS (Mansfield, CT)
KRVM (Eugene, OR)	Women's Radio
KSLU (New Orleans, LA)	World One Radio (El Cerrito, CA)
KSWI (Atlantic, IA)	WQNR (Auburn, AL)
KVNF (Paonia, CO)	WYOU (Williamsburg, VA)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: WWW.RAZTERIA.COM