



Like the phoenix from the flame, Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew, Sierra Leone's superstar recording artists, are rising from the ashes of Freetown to swoop into the U.S. scene with their unique blend of hip-hop and dancehall – fused with indigenous West African rhythms and culturally-exchanged Caribbean flavor. Best known in the States for their musical contribution to acclaimed film *Blood Diamond* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew are now recording their U.S. debut (dropping summer '09) with the support of some of hip-hop's finest.

Heading up production is The Fyre Dept –the dynamic duo of Eric Krasno (of Soulive) and Adam Deitch (of Wyclef Jean and John Scofield fame) who previously have produced tracks for 50 Cent, Snoop Dogg, GZA, Justin Timberlake, and Talib Kweli among others. Also crafting organic collabos with the 'Crew are Grammy-award winners Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson from the Roots and James Poyser (producer of Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill, Common, The Roots, Jill Scott, D'Angelo, & Mariah Carey), along with Rashad "Tumbling Dice" Smith (Erykah Badu, Busta Rhymes, LL Cool J, NAS, & Notorious B.I.G.). Talib Kweli, Wale, Res and Graph Nobel all throw down on the cross-cultural conversation "Who's Fooling Who." While another standout track "Soldier" –a song about living with civil strife—features celebrated Somalian rapper K'Naan and former child soldier and international literary sensation Ishmael Beah.

Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew have been welcomed as part of The Roots/Okayplayer hip-hop community, and recently performed as invited guests at the annual Roots Picnic weekend in Philadelphia. Appearing alongside luminaries Questlove and Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter of The Roots, Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew rocked Philly. They've won over crowds at some of New York's most prestigious venues, including B.B. King's, Joe's Pub and the Prospect Park Bandshell, and were featured in the film *Bling: A Planet Rock*, starring members of the Wu-Tang Clan and Paul Wall, produced in conjunction with VH1, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Article 19 Films.

In a country recovering from a brutal 10-year civil war, Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew's music is at once deeply political, empowering, and explosively celebratory. Known in Sierra Leone as "the voice of the voiceless," speaking truths on behalf of their disenfranchised people, they fill 50,000+ strong stadiums full of worshipful youth, rocking their fans with a wild and electrifying live show, often until dawn.

Their energy is intoxicating, their sound universal yet distinctly their own, and their message pure and penetrating – Bajah + the Dry Eye Crew can't help but shine.

contact:

Virginia Suss
ginny@okayplayer.com

Eric Herman
eric@modiba.net

okayplayer.
GIVING YOU TRUE NOTES SINCE 1987

