

LION STORY'S 'ITAL LOVE': A REGGAE ODYSSEY OF LOVE, AUTHENTICITY, AND JUSTICE

BY RAS BANAMUNGU

Lion Story, the renowned East African reggae band, has graced the music scene once again with their latest masterpiece, 'Ital Love.' Released on January 29, 2024, this 10-track album is a compelling journey through the realms of reggae, carrying the soulful essence of Lion Story's unique musical fusion.

Having captivated audiences with hit singles like 'Liwana,' 'Kidondo Canje,' 'Rwihinda,' and 'Akabuye' from 2019 to 2023, 'Ital Love' stands as a testament to Lion Story's evolution and resilience in the face of adversity, recorded during their time in exile.

The album is a sonic tapestry woven with Afro-Cuban reggae influences and the traditional sounds of Burundi, the band's homeland. Lion Story's music resonates with a nostalgic reggae vibe, coupled with intricate rhythms and a distinctive sound that reinvigorates the listener.



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Lead singer Yarongo, the creative force behind all 10 tracks, ensures 'Ital Love' remains true to Lion Story's legacy of speaking the truth. The album carries a powerful message of love, authenticity, and social justice, mirroring the band's commitment to addressing the thoughts, worries, and grievances of their audience.

Language becomes a unifying force in 'Ital Love' as Lion Story introduces Swahili alongside English and Kirundi, expanding their lyrical horizons to connect with a broader audience. The collaboration with talented musicians from Uganda, Ivory Coast, Switzerland, and France showcases the global spirit behind the creation of this album.

Produced by Panther Production, 'Ital Love' unveils Lion Story's resilience and hard work during their exile. The band's conscious music has been a beacon of peace and justice since its inception in the 2000s, tackling societal issues prevalent in Burundi. Awards and recognition have followed, solidifying Lion Story's status as a music reference in East Africa.



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As you dive into 'Ital Love,' let the rhythms of 'Wamecoka' move you, absorb the messages of 'Take it Dub,' enter a meditative state with 'Wayo Wayo,' and revel in the beats of drums from around the world, all complemented by the unique touch of guitar solos.

The album is available on all major streaming platforms, including Bandcamp, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and the Lion Story website. Plans for upcoming concerts and tours will be announced soon, promising an opportunity to experience 'Ital Love' live. For more information, contact Lion Story via email at thelionstorymusic@gmail.com, and stay connected on Facebook and Instagram. Visit their website at lionstorymusic.com to explore the musical journey of Lion Story.

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