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funk
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BROOKLYN FUNK ESSENTIALS RELEASE 5TH STUDIO ALBUM 'FUNK AIN'T OVA'

November 13th 2015

Single: 'Blast It!' October 2nd 2015 on Dorado Records

The cult funk ensemble **Brooklyn Funk Essentials** will release their fifth studio album '*Funk Ain't Ova*', worldwide on 13th November 2015, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of their celebrated debut album '*Cool & Steady & Easy*' (Dorado/RCA 1995) which featured the legendary talents of **Maceo Parker**, **The Tower Of Power Horns**, **Michigan & Smiley** and **Dizzy Gillespie**.

Brooklyn Funk Essentials was founded in 1993 by iconic producer **Arthur Baker** and bassist/musical director **Lati Kronlund**. The band's members came from New York's buzzing hip hop-jazz and slam poetry scenes and soon formed into a 12-piece live outfit, rotating some of the city's finest young musicians, DJs, poets, rappers and singers.

"The merging of different musical styles happened because of people's various cultural and national backgrounds - it was sort of inevitable...", explains band leader and producer **Lati Kronlund**, and continues *"But the main idea behind BFE was always the all-star band, where every singer and musician shared the same spotlight"*.

Lead track '*Blast It!*' will be released on 2nd October 2015. An all-star funk jam, featuring the soulful voices of **Stephanie McKay**, **Desmond Foster** and **Papa Dee** along with **Everton Sylvester's** dub poetry, it heads up a collection of eclectic, funky soul songs, using BFE's signature melange of funk, disco, jazz, ska, latin and house flavours.

Other standout album tracks include the deeply funky '*I'm Gonna Find Me A Woman*', a re-working of an unreleased track recorded in the nineties with the late, great **Isaac Hayes**; the disco jam '*Dance Or Die*' which sees the return of **Joi Cardwell** on lead vocals, who also appears on '*Gabriel*', a ska/boogaloo re-imagining of the **Roy Davis Jr** and **Peven Everett** seminal club hit. **Stephanie McKay** sings lead on the anthemic '*Prepare*', which was co-written and background vocalled by legendary house diva **Crystal Waters**; and '*Unique*', co-written by **Carlton McCarthy** which features the vibraphones of **Bill Ware**, who returns for the first time since '*Cool & Steady & Easy*'.

The album sees **BFE** go back to their roots, bringing together many of the original members, and reuniting with original label **Dorado Records**, who first signed the band back in 1994.

"There is a lot of wood and steel on this record", says Lati. *"Everything was recorded live in the studio and I guess there are a lot of references to the classic vocal groups and instrumental funk bands from the seventies. It's the music we love."*

The horn section, led by **Iwan VanHetten** (trumpet and keys) and **Anna Brooks** (saxes) also includes cameos from founding members **Josh Roseman** (trombone), **Bob Brockmann** (trumpet) and **Paul Shapiro** (sax and flute). Drums are played by **Hux Nettermalm** and **Yancy Drew**, with **Danny Sadownick** on percussion and **Desmond Foster** and **Masa Shimizu** on guitars.

This summer, **BFE** tried out many of the songs from '*Funk Ain't Ova*' playing festival gigs in places like Paris, Istanbul and Monaco. The band will support the new album with substantial touring in 2016, soon to be announced. Short films of the album recording and live shows will be available exclusively online at www.brooklynfunkessentials.com and social channels via Facebook page BrooklynFunkEssentialsMusic and Twitter @bklynfunkesntls.

Tracklisting: 1. Blast It! 2. Dance Or Die 3. I'm Gonna Find Me A Woman (Cause It's Cold Outside) 4. Prepare 5. Hold It Down 6. Set It Off 7. Hook 8. Gabriel 9. Brooklyn Love 10. Recycled 11. Unique

For more information, contact Indy Vidyalankara at **Indypendent PR**
t: 07881 822571, e: indy@indypendentpr.com