

YAZZBOT MAZUT



Yazzbot Mazut, according to the unanimous opinion of their first album's reviewers ("W pustyni i w puszczy", December 2008), are worthy successors to the avant-garde yass scene. As musicians, they started from punk, hardcore, reggae and electronics, but it is the original rhythmic improvisation they have developed together for years that has become their main tool of communication and exploration. The core of the group consists of the guitarist Andrzej Szawara, bassist Szczepan Kopyt and drummer Piotr Kowalski; the musicians have performed e.g. at the I Lublin Jazz Festival, III Tzadik Poznań Festival (among such stars as Tomasz Stańko, or Uri Caine), as well as played with the yass legends, Mikołaj Trzaska and Jerzy Mazzol. In autumn 2009, the clarinetist and keyboardist left the band and were replaced by a young saxophonist: Lena Romul. Her musical career belonged to the opposite pole of the Polish jazz: formal jazz education, jazz studies... In this field Lena has achieved almost everything possible to achieve for a young girl in the jazz mainstream: as the

leader of her own quintet she won the latest edition of the prestigious Jazz Juniors contest (2009), and she has played e.g. with Janusz Muniak, Wojciech Pilichowski and Hanna Banaszak. From the first rehearsal together it became apparent that all four Yazzbots make up an organic whole, even though the male part of the group couldn't name ten standards, and Lena at that time had never heard of such names as Tomasz Gwinciński, Ken Vandermark, or Thom Yorke... In several months, new material was created. But it was in January when the Yazzbots crossed the Rubicon. The album "Mazut Mazut" (May 2010), recorded during a two-day session in the Dragon club in Poznań, is a convincing and electrifying blend of styles, and at the same time the band's own and unique diction, through: free jazz, free funk, recognisable echoes of the mbase, world music, neosoul, off-jazz and nu jazz, trip-hop and electro, jungle and dub, latino and afrobeat. It can be called their second debut. More mature, but blasting with twice as much impact.



Members:

ANDRZEJ SZAWARA

electric guitar & live electronics

LENA ROMUL

alto sax

PIOTR KOWALSKI

drums & percussion

SZCZEPAN KOPYT

electric bass, djembe, synthesizer, percussion & water

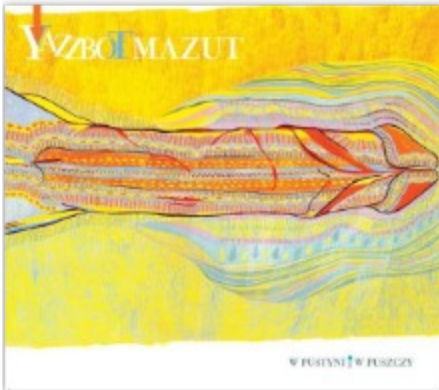
Reviews:



...Poznań-based band comprising jazz-playing musicians of the young generation. Since their critically acclaimed debut, "Pustyni i w puszczy" (2008) they have been obstinately fighting for their own piece of the Polish jazz scene. Now they have a chance to confirm the success of their first record, since the band's new album, simply called "Mazut Mazut", is to be released in May (this time recorded by a four-person ensemble). Piotr Metech (clarinet) and Dariusz Dobroszczyk (keyboards) have left the band. The gents' place has been taken by the charismatic Lena Romul (alto saxophone), known for her collaborations with Wojciech Pilichowski's band, Presidents of Soul, Niklas Muller, as well as for her own Lena Romul Quintet. The new material sounds fresh and more mature, the band has made a step

forward, confirming that the debut album's success was no coincidence. The changes in the band's sound can be heard in the very first track; for starters we get harsh guitar and alto sax parts based on a solid work of the rhythm section. The Yazzbots now more confidently and decidedly reveal the grit of their music. Solid compositions, allowing for a little bit of verve, fluently turn into improvisation. The album, track by track, reveals all possible combinations of duos, trios, and solo parts, which only enriches the material. Such tracks as the mesmerising "Lama Owca" or the powerful "Siódemka Romana P." are true gems. It is, however, an organic record which reveals its true value when listened from beginning to end, putting the listener into a trance. The band has proved they should fight tooth and nail for their own piece of the Polish jazz scene. In our country, however, were people are afraid to experiment with jazz, this will be no easy task. But don't be afraid: even though the Yazzbots sound like a monster (maybe that was the reason behind putting the huge worm on the cover?!), a monster they are not, and getting to know their music is definitely worthwhile...

(Paweł Daskocz)



For a couple of months I had waited for an electro-jazz record to bowl me over and put me into such a blissful mood. I was slowly losing hope, and then suddenly... The sounds of "W pustyni i w puszczy" balance perfectly between the early fusion, jazz-rock and an unidentified sonic experiment in free style. There's a bit of early Miles Davis, a bit of psychedelic jazz-rock, at times our associations drift towards the ruffle-haired Chick Corea and his 'Return to Forever', and it is thanks to the electric piano and harsh guitar. ... Bands, broadly speaking, are formed through cooperation of several individuals, sometimes as a combination of a strong leader and accompanying workhorses, or as a spontaneous company in which enthusiasm for playing music outweighs any calculation and pretentiousness.

Here, for the glory of joyous and energetic music making, this third option is the case, and that is why I do not favour anyone, as every member of the quintet did a first-class job. The result is that "Mao Tse-Tse" or its final echo, "Grube Ścieżki" are the kind of tracks to be played to the downhearted and frustrated, or prescribed as a cure for depression...

Piotr Iwicki (Gazeta Wyborcza)

...A reference to the classics of fusion music plus a bit of trance make the band's music captivating with simply frantic expression. The group aspires to fill the void left after the natural death of the avant-garde yass scene. Their original vision of music suggests that they have a good chance of achieving this goal.

Tomasz Handzlik (Gazeta Wyborcza)

...The group Yazzbot Mazut have decided to make their most secret childhood dreams come true. Thanks to their efforts, hard work and unceasing polishing of their musical skills, they have finally decided to present the final version of their debut album. ... The quintet reaches far beyond pure sonic form. The band have delineated carefully prepared and well marked musical paths, which can be followed through the history of jazz, fusion and ethnic music. ... Each track carries us into a different space, begins a new chapter and leaves a wide margin for interpretation. Yazzbot Mazut are much more than promising successors to the yass scene. Their album "W pustyni I w puszczy" is a reliable guidebook, which can serve as the inspiration for further exploration of the less well-known areas.

Piotr Wojdat (Screenagers.pl)



CONTACT:

mobile_+48 609 087 971

email_ yazzbotmazut@yazzbotmazut.com

www.yazzbotmazut.com