

Press Release

For Immediate Release From October 7, 2010- January 2, 2011

Public and Press Contact: Melorra Green/415-922-1995

African American Art and Culture Complex

Presents

Zombie: The Resurrection of Fela Kuti

October 7, 2010 through January 2, 2011

Opening Reception: October 7, 2010, 6-9 PM

This exhibition is to resurrect and celebrate the creative spirit of Fela Kuti. Born Olu-Fela Anikulapo Kuti on October 15, 1938 in Abeokuta, Nigeria. Kuti was one of Africa's most controversial musicians and throughout his life he continued to fight for the rights of the common man (and woman) despite vilification, harassment, and even imprisonment by the government of Nigeria. He formed his first group Koola Lobitos in 1963. The large jazz, funk, and afrobeat collective underwent many changes in the following decades but the style remained the same thanks to Fela's vision and other key members such as drummer Tony Allen.

In 1969 after visiting America, Fela returned to Nigeria and opened club Afro Spot in Lagos also changing the group's name to Afrika 70. He played with Ginger Baker on the album Ginger Baker Live with Afrika 70 and Fela Kuti, released in 1971 and along side Bobby Gass, better known as Bobby Tench from The Jeff Beck Group, on Stratavarious which was released the next year. In 1981, Fela changed the group's name for the last time to Egypt 80.

He was known as Fela Ransome-Kuti until about 1978, when he renamed himself Fela Anikulapo Kuti, the middle name meaning 'he who carries death in his pouch'. He was a human rights revolutionary who started his own political party, Movement Of The People, to protest the kleptocracy in Nigeria. He had his own compound called the Kalakuta Republic in Lagos, which he declared independent from Nigeria, where he and his uncountable number of wives lived and they were constantly terrorized by the government.

His influence on funk and African music is unsurpassed and has put his name to many albums, the total number thought to be 77.

African American Art and Culture Complex Mission:

The African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC) is a community based 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts and cultural organization. Our mission is to nurture and facilitate the empowerment of our community through Afro-centric artistic and cultural expression, mediums, education and programming. The AAACC is dedicated to inspiring children and youth to serve as agents of change, cultivating their leadership skills and fostering a commitment to community service and activism. In addition, the AAACC is dedicated to encouraging, supporting, and promoting the work of young aspiring Bay Area artists. We also strive to develop partnerships with organizations that are similarly committed to our mission driven objectives.

Admission: Free and open to the public. Donations Accepted. Free Parking.

762 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

www.aaacc.org

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12 - 5pm