

## THE SASKIA LAROO BAND FT JOSEPH 'MR DEFUNKT' BOWIE



Trombonist and singer Joseph 'Mr Defunkt' Bowie is best known as the leader of Defunkt, a punk-funk-jazz band founded in 1978 in New York City.

He teamed up November 20, 2013 for a 'Pro Jazz' Concert in the Hague, with Amsterdam trumpeter Saskia Laroo, also called 'Lady Miles Davis of Europe'.

Since then Laroo and Bowie have been together on the scene playing in clubs and on festivals like Paradiso, Sugarfactory and the Amsterdam Dance Event.

With her band, the Saskia Laroo Band, Bowie performs new arrangements of his repertoire. This project's line up further features the American singer and pianist Warren Byrd on keyboard plus a rhythm section of drums and bass, now also expanded with guitar.

Bowie's 'Defunkt' was the first band that mixed popular music with other, more extreme musical genres. Thus they played from the beginning at jazz festivals as well as in rock venues. They were also pioneers in experimenting with rap.

Joseph, a brother of the avant-garde jazz trumpeter Lester Bowie and saxophonist Byron Bowie, at first learned to play piano and congas, but later moved on to the trombone. As a boy he performed with the famous bluesman Albert King. Bowie has lived since 2003 in the Netherlands, where he among others worked with Hans & Candy Dulfer.

The Saskia Laroo Band, an international touring band features a multi-national cast of musicians, playing original compositions from Saskia's albums. Their music is a combination of jazz, pop, world and dance music, consisting of stylesdriving rhythms, powerful rap, and intense solos; an improvised mix of today 's electric and acoustic groove music with respect to tradition.

### **concert review (Translated from Dutch)**

(source: <http://3voor12.vpro.nl/lokaal/den-haag/nieuws/2013/november/Vette-funkshow-met-Joseph-Bowie-Defunkt-en-Saskia-Laroo.html> )

Greasy funk show with Joseph Bowie ( Defunkt ) and Saskia Laroo. ProJazz evening at the Horse Cafe, the Hague, the Netherlands. November 22, 2013 © Jan Peter Hartman

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