

IBRAHIM MAALOUF

RED & BLACK LIGHT

RED & BLACK LIGHT is an ode to the woman of today and her founding, essential role in the hope of a better world. The women in my family have had (and still have today) immense influence on all my work in music. Especially due to the considerable inspiration they give me through the way they cope with their daily lives and that of their entourage. Despite having lives like labyrinths, complex and often dramatic, these women have inside them a strength and stability similar to a kind of unshakeable trance. They give me the impression they never lose sight of what's essential.

Centred on an aesthetic that's more contemporary, more electro (or even pop), this album is made up of my own compositions, plus one song from today's diva Beyonce. Although the writing in these pieces is particularly complex (with polyrhythms in 19, 17 or 27 for example), we arranged them (with the three musicians who play with us) in such a way that you never hear the weight of this writing. So that was how we avoided the traps of elitism and didactic writing, and made an album that's transparent and limpid, a record for people to dance to, or even sing, but which still has many, many unsuspected themes, harmonies and rhythms superimposed over each other, and whose secrets could be revealed only through a mathematical reading of the album.

Recorded in France in Ivry-sur-Seine with Eric Legnini (keyboards), François Delporte (guitar) and Stéphane Galland (drums), this album is above all a desire to represent the importance and necessarily complex nature of things and persons that are essential.