



# Ahamada Smis

**Kit press**



---

**Colombe Records** 26, rue Brandis 13005 Marseille FRANCE  
**Management/Booking** : Céline Porro  
**email** : [colomberecords@gmail.com](mailto:colomberecords@gmail.com)  
**tel** : +33 (0)4 91 76 57 88 // +33 (0)6 18 43 37 13  
[www.myspace.com/ahamadasmis](http://www.myspace.com/ahamadasmis)

## /// The journey



Ahamada Smis' story is made of words and music, which some will call poetry slam. Influenced by Marseille, faith, poetry, people's stories from all around the world, as well as his origins, the poet Ahamada Smis has for the past ten years not only cultivated his own music genre – a blend of hip hop and world music – but also collected words of all kinds. New ones, used ones, sincere ones.

Child of the Comoro Islands, Ahamada Smis landed in Marseille when he was 11 years old. He rapidly expressed his talents through poetry and when French rappers found credibility in defining themselves as being gangsters, he was talking about peace and water drops.

*"Even though I was always influenced by hip hop, I always wanted to unite different publics. Today poetry slam is allowing me to do so."*

In 1989 IAM, Black Tigers force, and MB Force were hanging out at the subway station "Vieux Port". Ahamada Smis was writing by their sides and recording tracks on B sides. After a time out of six years, he decided to come back with the goal in mind to make a living out of his writing. From the beginning he was supported by 3<sup>e</sup> Oeil, a hip hop band from Marseille who appreciated his softness and strength of identity.

Ahamada Smis multiplied the live appearances and in 2001 released his first Maxi single "Gouttes d'Eau" ("Water Drops") on his label Colombe records that he started that same year. In 2003 he puts out a 6 track-EP "Ou Va Ce Monde?" ("Where Is This World Going?") on Colombe records.

He also participated to a French-German compilation called "French Connection" (featuring Shurik'n and Faf La Rage among others) that took him on a German tour and included a performance at the Francofolies in Berlin, that later appeared on Trax, a music show of the German-French TV channel Arte.

Ahamada Smis did not want to rush. He even used time at his advantage. After years of hard work and perseverance, he went from composing in the rooms of a steal factory to writing his poetry in professional music studios. He carefully constructed a universe of his own and when everybody was expecting him to come up with lyrics about street life, he surprised everybody with his own reality.

## /// The activist

Ahamada Smis is also an activist. In 2003 he participated to several compilations who started his implication in the civil society: "Sur Un Air Positif" - against AIDS, or "Stop A l'Affront" - against racism.

In 2004 he started his "Hip Hop Lives" sessions at Balthazar first and then at Café Julien in Marseille. The purpose of these open mics was to introduce a new wave of rappers from Marseille. In 2006 these sessions became "Roots Slam Hip Hop" parties.

In 2006 he organized "Marseille Cosmopolite" ("Cosmopolitan Marseille") at L'Affranchi (Oct. 6-7), a music festival showcasing the cultural differences of the city of Marseille as well as the work of the emergent local music scene and established artists: Imhotep (IAM), Papet J (Massilia Sound System), David Walters, Cyril Benhamou, Stephane Le Borgne, Sons of Gaia, Ahamada Smis, etc.



In 2007 Ahamada Smis launched the first edition of "Hip Hop Culture" festival at La Friche La Belle de Mai. The line-up included artists like La Rumeur, R-wan (Java), DJ Scratch (EPDM), Leroy (Saian Supa Crew). The goal was to present eclectic hip hop artists in Marseille, the French capital of rap music. In 2008, he organized "Hip Hop Culture" II, whose programming the best of African Hip Hop.

## /// On stage...



Ahamada Smis' live performances are powerful exchanges with the audience. Born in the Comoro Islands, he takes us under the word tree and tells us stories. Rapper, slam poet, his flow will delight on a mix of soul/hip hop/acoustic sound played by his musicians.

Ahamada Smis is an artist who suggests and does not impose. He is a human being who is not afraid to expose his weaknesses and questionings without exhibitionism but talent.



From the successful "Hip Hop Lives" sessions to the "Roots Slam Hip Hop" parties, the journey continues with the "Nomad Slam Tour" which takes Ahamada Smis and his acoustic band (saxophonist Fred Buram, percussionist Brahim El Abdouni, guitarist Christophe Isselee, hurdy-gurdy player Pierre-Lo Bertolino) to the most prestigious world, hip hop, and jazz stages of European music festivals:

Festival Kaloo Bang (Saint Denis de La Réunion) La Fiesta des Suds (Marseille)/ Le Zebre de Belleville (Paris)/ Festival les Voix du Gaou (Six-Fours)/ Babel Med (Marseille) / La Maroquinerie (Paris) / Festival des Francophonies en Limousin / Festival Tipiment (Nancy) / Festival Bruits d'Hiver (Grand-Quevilly) / Festival Mimi Sud (R.D.C. Kinshasa) / Festival Mimi Nord (Iles du Frioul, Marseille)/ Festival Hip Hop Culture (Cabaret aléatoire, Marseille) / Tournée UDCM (région PACA) / FrancoFolies (Berlin)

## **/// The album "être" ("be") & Ahamada Smis artistic collaboration**

The whole album was conceived like a story from his native Comoro Islands where oral traditions still prevail. With an open spirit, Ahamada Smis listens to all winds of creation and feeds himself with the energy of rap music and the musical strength that each exchange will initiate. In search of his origins, he traveled from Kinshasa to the Comoro Islands and nourished himself with the various artistic experiences he encountered on his journey.

On the album "Etre" ("Be") are featured artists like Pierre-Lau Bertolino, Cyril Benhamou, David Walters, Sibonguile, Miquéu, Baltazar Montanaro, and Mike Aubé. Through these various collaborations, "Etre" ("Be") became an acoustic tribute to cultural exchanges.

*"When I met with Ulrich Eдорh, my drummer, sound engineer, and co-producer of my album, I completely freed myself musically. I always had a very acoustic approach of each of my productions. Today I am not trying to find dope samples anymore. I just want to find people who can create this sound, instruments that will sound like what I have in mind."*

"Etre" ("Be") is coming in 2010. This is the result of a universe that Ahamada Smis created around the diversity of the music genres, melting hip hop and world music together.

"Etre" ("Be") is a nice blend of roots music, poetry slam, and hip hop, and has been produced between Marseille and Africa.

## **/// Discography**

- 2010 – **Etre** (Colombe Records) / Album
- 2006 – **Hip Hop Live** (Colombe Records) / DVD
- 2004 – **Stop A l'Affront** (E-streetz) / CD compilation
- 2004 – **Sur Un Air Positif** (Virgin) / CD compilation
- 2003 – **French Connection** (Kopfnicker records/Pias) / CD compilation
- 2003 – **Où Va Ce Monde ?** (Colombe Records) / Mini album
- 2002 – Feat. in **Avec Le Cœur ou Rien** (Sony) / Album 3<sup>e</sup> œil
- 2001 – **Gouttes d'Eau** (Colombe records) / Maxi single

