# Transglobal Underground continues to innovate world music fusion with upcoming Aberdeen show



Formed over three decades ago in 1991, Transglobal Underground continues to be a pioneering force in blending world music with club culture. The collective is renowned for its seamless fusion of Western, Asian, Arabic, African, and Eastern European musical traditions, incorporating genres such as drum and bass, dub, acid house, bhangra, funk, and hip-hop.

Hamid Mantu, a founding member of the group, emphasised that their distinctive sound developed organically from the diverse backgrounds of the musicians involved. Speaking to The Press and Journal (Aberdeen), he said: “When we started there was no great manifesto of ‘we are going to do this style of music’. Instead we are what we are due to the make-up of the musicians in the group. We have always collaborated with Indian, African, Caribbean and Arabic musicians. Wherever we go in the world we always find someone that would love to collaborate with us – and we collaborate with them.”

Their ongoing commitment to global collaboration has been recognised with accolades such as the BBC Radio 3 Award for World Music in 2008, awarded following the release of their seventh album, Moonshout.

Transglobal Underground’s music journey began with releases on Nation Records, a label created to unite Western dance with Arabic, Asian, and African sounds. Their debut release, Temple Head, featured Polynesian vocals and gained support from leading DJs including Andy Weatherall and Danny Rampling.

The band’s most recent album, Walls Have Ears, was released in May 2020, shortly after the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown. The album saw the return of singer Natasha Atlas to the studio alongside performances by notable musicians such as jazz trumpeter Yazz Ahmed, guitarist Adam Blake, harpist Julia Thornton, and Tunisian vocalist Nawel Ben Kraiem on the track "Chants Sans Adresse". Despite the challenging timing of the release, which limited promotional opportunities, the album has remained a significant part of their repertoire and has been supported by numerous remixes.

Transglobal Underground are preparing to begin work on new material, a process that is expected to be gradual due to the international locations of the members. Hamid Mantu explained the logistical challenges and their modern approach to recording, saying: “It’s not like the old days when we went into the studio and did an album. We record remotely as Tim (Whelan) lives in Paris. I live in London and Sheema (Mukherjee) lives in Portsmouth. We all have the same set-up and we swap ideas via the internet, which has become normal for us. I have an idea which I sent over to Paris for Tim to do his bits. Then he will send it to Sheema in Portsmouth to work on then it will come back to me. This is our normal way of working these days. I don’t know if I prefer working that way but it certainly gives you more time than if you go to the studio and only have two hours. Then you can maybe be a bit rushed and have to live with what you have done. But this way we can tinker about with it forever.”

The core band currently consists of five members: Hamid Mantu, Tim Whelan, Sheema Mukherjee, Tuup, and Rav. Occasionally, Natasha Atlas joins them for special performances when requested by promoters.

Transglobal Underground are scheduled to perform in Aberdeen on Friday, 25 April, at The Tunnels. This rare appearance in the city is organised by Granite City-based Interesting Music Promotions, a promoter with over two decades of experience presenting innovative live shows. Past events facilitated by Interesting Music Promotions have featured artists such as Boredoms, Thee More Shallows, Carla Bozulich, and Faust. Fans of Transglobal Underground and world music fusion can find further details about the upcoming performance at www.transglobalunderground.net.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transglobal_Underground> - This URL supports the formation of Transglobal Underground in 1991 and its early musical influences. It highlights how the group evolved from previous collaborations among its founding members.
2. <https://transglobalunderground.net/a-history/> - This URL corroborates Transglobal Underground's reputation for flamboyant live performances and their blend of world music with club culture.
3. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/entertainment/6731504/transglobal-underground-world-music-aberdeen/> - This article supports the claim about Hamid Mantu's comments on their organic musical style and collaborations with diverse musicians from around the world.
4. <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803105336345> - This reference corroborates the group's formation in west London and their blend of world music styles.
5. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/01/08/transglobal-underground-perform-sold-out-gig/> - This article mentions the pseudonyms taken by the founding members and their diverse musical backgrounds.
6. <https://www.transglobalunderground.net/> - This is the official website of Transglobal Underground and can provide information on upcoming performances and releases, such as their appearance in Aberdeen.
7. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/entertainment/6731504/transglobal-underground-world-music-aberdeen/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data