

Strange Fruits

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Magassy “Mags” Mbow

- August 30th 1992 (Silver Spring, MD, USA)
- B.A. Sociology, Concordia University
- Illustrator, singer, songwriter, producer

Naïka Champaigne Boissinotte-Alexis

- February 21st 1995 (Montréal, QC)
- D.E.C. Social Sciences, Dawson College
- Guitarist, singer, songwriter, composer

Sage “SageS” Stewart-La Bonté

- May 25th 1996 (Montréal, QC)
- D.E.C. Modern Languages, Dawson College
- Singer, songwriter, producer

Strange Fruits

- Founded June 25th 2014 under NoBad Sound Studio (Maison des Jeunes Cote-des-Neiges)
- First EP release: September 19th 2014
- First music video release: February 20th 2015 (directed by Jai Nitai Lotus)
- First international performance: July 08th 2017 (FESTA2H, Dakar, Senegal)

Discography

- **Strange Fruits – The EP**, 6 tracks, September 19th 2014
- **Blossom This Froot For Thought**, 6 tracks, July 14th 2016
- **Mahalia Melts in the Rain - Original Motion Picture Score**, 3 tracks, October 20th 2018

Videography

- “Green Apple”, written by Mags, directed by Jai Nitai Lotus, February 20th 2015
- “Sunflower Soul”, written and directed by Mags, May 13th 2017
- “The Wanderer”, written by Mags, directed by El Hadji Malick Sy and Marie-Michèle Cyr, June 22nd 2018

cont.

Panels

1. La Sala Rossa (Suoni Per Il Popolo and Rock Camp for Girls MTL) June 13th, 2015

Mags and Naïka were invited to speak during the Suoni Per Il Popolo event, “Who’s In the Front?” a talk on gender, music, and personal experience, facilitated by Rock Camp for Girls MTL

2. La Sala Rossa (NorthSideHipHop Archive) March 9th, 2017

Strange Fruits was invited to speak at “I Was There!”—a national archiving initiative organized by Northside Hip Hop Archive co-presented by The Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI)

3. Casa del Popolo (Lux Magna Festival, CJLO 1690AM) January 27th, 2019

Strange Fruits co-hosted the screening “Strange Fruits OnRotation” for the Lux Magna festival, based on the 2016 radio documentary by CJLO 1690AM. The screening was followed by a panel facilitated by Patricia Petit Liang.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Debut EP launch at **Hip Hop You Don’t Stop festival** September 2014
- Sharing stage with **Lido Pimienta** for Reclaim Turtle Island’s anti-colonial hip-hop show September 2014
- **We Day** Montréal (both English and French events) with **Maripier Morin** and **Kardinal Offishal** February 2016
- Closing the **RIDM Festival** opening night November 2016
- Co-headlining hip-hop archive event with **Nomadic Massive** and **Narcy** March 2017
- International concert debut at **FESTA2H** International Hip-Hop Festival (ft. **Onyx**, **M.O.P**, **Rhapsody** and more) July 2017
- Opening for American hip-hop artist **Princess Nokia** June and August 2017, and August 2018 with **Big Freedia** during **Fierté Montréal**

Shows

1. Hip Hop Café (NBS Showcase) July 11th, 2014

First showcase of the summer for the NBS artists, Strange Fruits debut performance

2. Shaika Café (Jeunesse 2000/Head & Hands) July 18th, 2014

Eleventh edition of annual all-female showcase *Do My Ladies Run This?!* presented by Jeunesse 2000/Head & Hands, a non-profit organization providing healthcare and legal services for NDG youth; first non-NBS show.

3. Sub V (NDG Arts Week) August 21st, 2014

Eleventh edition of *Street Vibes*, an annual event presented by NDG Arts Week, showcasing talented urban youth from the area.

4. Studio Backstage (McGill Frosh) August 30th, 2014

Rad Frosh, segment of McGill University's Frosh programme; evening of performances.

5. NoBad Sound Studio (Reclaim Turtle Island) September 13th, 2014

Night of anti-Colonial Hip-Hop presented by Reclaim Turtle Island, an organization defending resource extraction from Indigenous land; performances by artists of color resisting white supremacy and remnants of colonialism.

6. Maison de la Culture CDN (Hip Hop You Don't Stop festival) September 19th, 2014

Girlz n' Hip Hop event presented during the 9th annual Hip Hop You Don't Stop festival; "Strange Fruits" EP launch.

7. Hip Hop Café (NBS Showcase with Clay and Friends) October 4th, 2014

Second NBS showcase of the year; NBS artists invited to open for Clay and Friends.

8. NoBad Sound (Solidarity Across Borders) November 8th, 2014

Baile Against Borders dance party; fundraiser for local family facing double punishment.

9. SSMU Ballroom (SSMU Community Engagement Committee) February 4th, 2015

Art & Networking Mixer; a networking event with internal and external visual and performing arts groups.

10. La Sala Rossa (Howl! Arts Collective) February 6th, 2015

Howl! Artists against Police Brutality; night of performances in support of the #BlackLivesMatter movement

11. Les Bobards (Strange Fruits music video launch) February 20th, 2015

Premiere of "Green Apple" music video, directed by Jai Nitai Lotus

12. Divan Orange (Hip Hop Week MTL) March 19th, 2015

No Bad Sounds night of performances, in context of Hip Hop Week MTL, a week of shows and panels organized by a group of McGill students; fundraiser for NBS Studio

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13. La Vitrola (Climate Justice Montreal) March 28th, 2015

Slam the Tar Sands – Rap Battle for Climate Justice; night of performances to raise awareness on climate change, fundraiser for Aamjiwnaang & Sarnia Against Pipelines

14. Dawson College (The Legacy MTL) April 25th, 2015

Talent show highlighting talented Black artists presented by Dawson's Student Union Legacy Club

15. Le Belmont (Chocolate Jungle) May 1st, 2015

Seasonal 90s dance party presented by 2Marvelous and Smitty City Entertainment in collaboration with Hip Hop Karaoke Montréal; performed "Pump Up The Jam" by Technotronic

16. Manoir NDG (Monnaie Money) May 2nd, 2015

Annual Free Pancake Breakfast presented by Monnaie Money, Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Cote-des-Neiges and the Jamaican Canadian Community Women's League of Montréal Inc.

17. Atomic Café (Auberge de la Grève à Trois-Pistoles) May 15th, 2015

Cabaret Fleuve, a fundraising show for the Auberge de la Grève à Trois-Pistoles, a residence for activists and artists for individual and collective projects.

18. Le Bleury- Bar a Vinyle (Urban Science) May 28th, 2015

#LECYPHER, weekly live hip-hop jam session and improv open mic; Strange Fruits opening act.

19. Parc Girouard (Head & Hands) June 13th, 2015

Samedi in the Park, an outdoor concert and family event presented by NDG Arts Week.

20. NoBad Sound Studio, July 18th, 2015

Documentary screening "Mic Drop: Where the Ladies in Hip Hop?" presented by Sarah Amira Aldridge. Fundraiser event held at NBS organized by Mags and Aldridge.

21. La Sala Rossa (Rock Camp for Girls MTL) July 24th, 2015

One of the daily lunchtime bands booked for performance and Q&A session with the kids, during the week of Rock Camp for Girls MTL.

22. Private artist loft near Vendome Metro (Lucas Charlie Rose Manniversary) July 24th, 2015

Secret Location event celebrating transmasculine artist Lucas Charlie Rose's first year on testosterone.

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23. Divan Orange (Tshizimba) July 28th, 2015

Featured artists in several of Tshizimba's tracks on latest EP "Everything x Alright"; special guest performers at the EP's post-launch event *Cheese for Everyone*

24. Shaika Café (Jeunesse 2000/Head & Hands) July 31st, 2015

Twelfth edition of *Do My Ladies Run This?!* Presented by Jeunesse 2000/Head & Hands

25. Village au Pied-du-Courant (Or Sale) August 13th, 2015

Performance during Or Sale's carte blanche at the pop-up beach Village au Pied-du-Courant

26. Felix (Dayna Danger & Cerise Sur le Gateau) August 15th, 2015

Seventh edition of Beyoncé themed party *Bow Down*; special edition during Montréal LGBT Pride

27. Unitarian Church Montréal (Jeunesse 2000/Head & Hands) August 27th, 2015

Twelfth edition of Street Vibes for NDG Arts Week

28. Open Air Pub (McGill Frosh) August 31st, 2015

Outdoor concert organized by McGill's engineering students association during McGill Frosh

29. Maison de la Culture CDN (Hip Hop You Don't Stop festival) September 25th, 2015

Soulful Jam event featuring Urban Science and Illa J, presented during the 10th annual Hip Hop You Don't Stop festival. First performance as AstroFroot (Mags and Sage).

30. Le Bleury- Bar a Vinyle (Urban Science + CJLO 1690AM) October 1st, 2015

#LECYPHER, weekly live hip-hop jam session and improv open mic; special edition in collaboration with CJLO for their FUNdrive. Strange Froots opening act; live radio broadcast performance debut (Phantastiq Cypha).

31. Allure Bar & Lounge (Cerise Sur Le Gateau and DJ LYKX) October 16th, 2015

FEMME FRIDAYS, a bi-weekly dance party honouring queer women of color.

32. Theatre Ste Catherine (Spectra Journal) October 22nd, 2015

Launch of SPECTRA Journal, volume II, funded by Queer Concordia.

33. ECOLE House (CKUT 90.3 FM) October 29th, 2015

Thursdays (A)live, a seasonal showcase presented by CKUT 90.3 FM

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34. Les Studio de Rouens (Talent Nation) November 8th, 2015

“Live Sessions” industry showcase open to close friends and family, in context of *Talent Nation*, Season 3

35. Le Bleury (Urban Science + Divest Concordia) November 26th, 2015

Rap Battle for Climate Justice III, third rap battle against the Tar Sands, opening for #LECYEPHER

36. Club Soda (Talent Nation) December 13th, 2015

“Live Sessions” industry showcase open to the public, in context of *Talent Nation*, Season 3

37. Le Cagibi, January 8th, 2016

Live show with 4 artists on the bill and a DJ set

38. Club Balattou (Heaventide) January 10th, 2016

Opening act for afro-soul group Heaventide.

39. Virgin Mobile Corona Theatre (FRO Foundation) February 4th, 2016

Opening performance for the first night of the 4th annual FRO Festival, presented by TD Bank.

40. Espace Mushagalusa (ACSioN + HSAC) February 12th, 2016

Performed “The Wanderer” for the Soul Night (Kiskeya), presented by ACSioN and HSAC. First performance as SparkFroot (SageS and Naïka Champaïgne)

41. Exit Bar & Spectacles (OCEANS vs. MOUNTAINS) February 13th, 2016

Opening act for alternative group OCEANS vs MOUNTAINS for Valentine’s Day weekend.

42. Theatre St. Denis (Free the Children) February 22nd, 2016

Spoke at We Day Montreal and performed an acoustic and amended rendition of Million.

43. Theatre St. Denis (Enfants Entraide) February 23rd, 2016

Spoke at Unis Pour L’action (French version of We Day Montréal) and performed their French song “La Balade du Matin”

44. Oscar Peterson Concert Hall (Monnaie Money) February 27th, 2016

Competed and won 3rd place in the R&B/Jazz category in the Annual Monnaie Money Talent Show.

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45. Reggie's Bar (Rap Battle For Social Justice) March 4th, 2016

Night of original performances for the *Rap Battle Against Austerity* co-presented by Divest Concordia.

46. Divan Orange (Montréal Sisterhood) March 4th, 2016

Performed short set for the International Women's Day event *I've got 99 problems but feminism ain't one* presented by Montréal Sisterhood.

47. Reggie's Bar (Spectra Journal) March 5th, 2016

One of the invited bands set to perform at the "Queer Prom" themed launch for Spectra's volume 3, funded by Queer Concordia.

48. The Rialto (The Record Breakers) March 25th, 2016

Opening act for West Island rock and folk band The Record Breakers at their album launch, covered by 94.7 Hits FM.

49. Le Belmont (2Marvelous) April 8th, 2016

Performed with all-star lady line-up for Chocolate Jungle + Hip Hop Karaoke Montréal: Ladies Edition.

50. Reggie's Bar (Rap Battle For Social Justice) April 9th, 2016

Night of performances at the Rap Battle for Gender Freedom, to raise money for Qouleur.

51. Le Cagibi (Rock Camp For Girls Montréal) April 30th, 2016

Opening act for the RC4G Choir's Showcase Concert.

52. Café Campus (Fringe Festival) May 30th, 2016

Opening event for the St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival. First performance as PhoenixFroot (Mags and Naïka Champaigne).

53. La Sala Rossa (Suoni Per Il Popolo) June 3rd, 2016

Opening act for Elise Barbara (Jef E. Barbara's Black Space) as part of the Suoni Per Il Popolo.

54. Bar Le Ritz PDB (Université d'été féministe à l'UdeM) June 15th, 2016

Launch of UdeM's *Université d'été féministe's* programming. A PhoenixFroot performance.

55. Parc des Amériques (Fringe Festival) June 17th, 2016

Performed at *Fringe in the Park* outdoor show co-presented by CJLO 1690AM for the St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival.

56. Groove Nation (CJLO 1690AM) July 14th, 2016

Strange Fruits launched their second EP *Blossom This Froot For Thought*, produced as part of their OnRotation Artist Residency with CJLO 1690AM.

57. La Sala Rossa (Rock Camp for Girls Montreal) July 28th, 2016

One of the daily lunchtime bands booked for performance and Q&A session with the kids, during the week of Rock Camp for Girls MTL.

58. Parc Henri-Bourassa (Hoodstock) August 13th, 2016

Performed at *Sommet Noir*, for the 3rd edition of Hoodstock, an event presented by Montréal Noir whose aim is to mobilize racialized communities via workshops, panels and performances.

59. Reggie's Bar (Concordia Student Union), September 8th, 2016

Headlining Concordia University's back-to-school hip-hop show as CJLO's Artists-In-Residence, presented by Concordia Student Union (CSU).

60. Club Balattou (POP Montréal) September 21st, 2016

POP Montreal festival debut at Club Balattou. Mags also featured in dream-pop act Smileswithteeth's set.

61. Parc Girouard (Hip Hop You Don't Stop) September 25th, 2016

Performed at the *Elementakiza* closing event of the Hip Hop You Don't Stop festival.

62. Casa del Popolo (CJLO 1690AM) September 28th, 2016

Performed at CJLO's FUNdrive kick-off with CJLO's other Artists-In-Residency

63. Café L'Artere (Froots in Dakar) October 30th, 2016

First event of the *Froots in Dakar* fundraiser series. *Stranger Froots*, a *Stranger Things* themed Halloween hip-hop show.

64. Bad Lunch (Femme Fest) November 5th, 2016

Closed the day-long Femme Fest presented by the DIY venue Bad Lunch.

65. Ancienne École Des Beaux-Art De Montréal (RIDM) November 10th, 2016

Closing the opening night of the RIDM festival.

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66. Bistro Le Ste-Cath (Froots in Dakar) November 11th, 2016

Dinner show at Bistro Le Ste-Cath; second event of the *Froots in Dakar* fundraiser series.

67. Coop Katacombes (SOGEECOM) November 29th, 2016

Performed at the 40th anniversary of Le Comité Femmes de Maisonneuve.

68. DESTA Black Youth Network (DESTA) December 10th, 2016

Performed at DESTA's Facebook livestream telethon, co-presented by OFC Legacy.

69. Café L'Artere (NoDAPL) December 16th, 2016

Performed at a fundraiser for Standing Rock Indian Reservation in support against the Dakota Pipeline.

70. Centre Notre-Dame-de-Fatima (Projet EMPREINTES), January 21st, 2017

Performed for Projets EMPREINTES day camp on Ile-Perrot, following 2 workshops on consent and cultural differences

71. Le Belmont (Rap Battles for Social Justice) February 15th, 2017

Rap Battle Against Police Brutality, presented by the Rap Battles for Social Justice, backed by Urban Science.

72. Resonance Café (Froots in Dakar) February 25th, 2017

Black to the Future showcase of young African artists; fifth event of the *Froots in Dakar* fundraiser series.

73. La Vitrola (Black Lives Matter MTL) February 28th, 2017

Follow-up show *Black to the Future 2*, co-presented by Trans Trenderz

74. La Sala Rossa (NorthsideHipHop Archive) March 9th, 2017

I Was There!: Celebrating Montréal Hip-Hop was an event honoring Canadian pioneer DJ Butcher T, archiving performances by Montréal hip-hop artists (Narcy, Nomadic Massive)

75. Le Cagibi (Froots in Dakar + Rock Camp for Girls) March 11th, 2017

Double fundraiser for Strange Froots and Rock Camp for Girls; sixth event of the *Froots in Dakar* fundraiser series.

76. Champlain College – Lennoxville (Annual International Symposium) March 23rd, 2017

Invited to speak at College Champlain's annual International Symposium about DIY Culture, followed by a performance.

77. NoBad Sound Studio (Froots in Dakar + CJLO 1690AM) May 13th, 2017

Pop-up shop, BBQ, final event of the *Froots in Dakar* fundraiser series co-presented by CJLO 1690AM. Premiere of “Sunflower Soul” music video.

78. Le Bleury- Bar a Vinyle (Urban Science) June 1st, 2017

Opening #LECYIPHER, kicking of the *Froots in Dakar* mini-tour

79. La Sala Rossa (Suoni Per Il Popolo) June 8th, 2017

Opening for Princess Nokia at the Suoni Per Il Popolo festival

80. Parc des Amériques (Fringe Festival) June 16th, 2017

Performed at *Fringe in the Park* outdoor show co-presented by CJLO 1690AM for the St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival.

81. Maison de la Culture Douta Seck (FESTA2H), July 6th, 2017

International debut at the 12th annual hip-hop and urban cultures festival FESTA2H in Dakar, Sénégal.

82. L’Endroit (Froots in Dakar), July 15th, 2017

Performed a live mash-up of “Dokandeme” and “The Wanderer” with Cheikh Lo at L’Endroit Bar-Lounge (Dakar, Senegal).

83. La Vitrola (Black Lives Matter MTL), August 20th, 2017

Performed at the Black Queer Lives Matter event, as a closer/counter-event to Pride Canada 2017, raising funds for Black Lives Matter MTL

84. Somerled/Prince-of-Wales (NDG Arts Week), August 27th, 2017

Outdoor performance at Sunset on Somerled for NDG Arts Week

85. Club Soda (Suoni Per Il Popolo off-season), August 28th, 2017

Opening act for Princess Nokia, presented by Suoni Per Il Popolo.

86. Concordia University (CSU Orientation), September 6th, 2017

CSU Orientation outdoor show co-presented by POP Montréal.

87. Jansport Stage (OUMF), September 8th, 2017

Outdoor show near UQAM for the OUMF festival.

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88. Rialto Piccolo (POP Montréal), September 16th, 2017

POP Montréal opening set for Think About Life. Featuring Ebhoni.

89. La Vitrola (CKUT + Lux Magna), February 23rd 2018

Benefit show for Le Centre des Femmes's incest survivor program. Performed as headlining act.

90. Divan Orange (Grand Analog), February 24th 2018

Opening act for Grand Analog and DJ Kilojules (Valaire).

91. Groove Nation (DISPARAT), March 29th 2018

Headlining full Black femme lineup organized by DISPARAT, a series of events focusing on women of colour. Featuring Annie Sama and Tati au Miel.

92. General Assembly (DIY Spring Festival), May 4th 2018

Headlining show for SparkFroot during the DIY Spring festival in Ottawa, ON. Featuring Thandie Dice and SeiiizMikk

93. Bootlegger, L'Authentique (Chocolate Jungle) May 18th, 2018

SparkFroot returned for Chocolate Jungle's 80s Ladies x Hot Mess edition; performed "I Feel For You" by Chaka Khan

94. Bistro Le Ste-Cath, June 1st, 2018

Dinner show at Bistro Le Ste-Cath; a SparkFroot set featuring a solo acoustic set by Naïka.

95. La Sala Rossa (POP Montreal + SistersInMotion MTL) June 22nd, 2018

Music video premiere of "The Wanderer", directed by El Hadji Malick Sy and Marie-Michèle Cyr, and joint screening of "Mahalia Melts in the Rain" by Colonelle Films. Opening acts feature Aiza, and LOTUS Collective.

96. Parc des Faubourgs (Fierté Montreal Pride), August 15th, 2018

One of the opening acts for Princess Nokia and Big Freedia for the Excellence show during Fierté MTL Pride.

97. Reggie's Bar (Rap Battles for Social Justice), September 28th, 2018

Night of performances at the Rap Battle against Sexual Violence to speak out against sexual assault and harassment

cont.

98. La Vitrola (Lux Magna), January 26th, 2019

Headlining concert during the second edition of the Lux Magna festival. Featuring THE LYONZ and Backxwash.

99. Black Squirrel Books & Espresso Bar (CUSA REC Hall), February 8th, 2019

SparkFroot performing at Black History Month showcase for queer and trans artists.