



Panela Produtora releases new Rhaissa Bittar Album

“Matéria Estelar” transports human afflictions to the world of inanimate objects

A pear gets dumped by a cashew; an unemployed phonebook gets an important job at Messias’s second-hand bookshop; even the pearl earring of the girl depicted in Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer’s masterpiece comes to life in the apologues of **Matéria Estelar** (Star Stuff), singer **Rhaissa Bittar**’s new album.

The uniqueness of *Matéria Estelar* is not only in the allegories of the lyrics, which mix both humor and a trace of melancholy, or in the lyricism of the melodies - seemingly simple, but with surprising harmonic solutions - or even in Rhaissa Bittar’s sensuous and vigorous performance. The album also has an unusual musical production, at least in today’s music scene.

Live Recordings – A challenge for the audio engineer

It was producer **Daniel Galli**’s idea to have all the takes recorded with the musicians playing together live (currently, the usual procedure in studios is to record instruments and vocals separately). Despite the difficulties encountered with this recording process, it had a strong effect on the organic form given to the dynamic oscillations of the music, on the tensions, and, above all, on the empathy among the artists. “Many songs were arranged with the help of the musicians during the recording sessions”, said the producer.

In order to ease the process, Daniel and his partner **Filipe Trielli** relied on audio engineer João “Janjão” Vasconcelos’ experience to turn the wide living room at Panela Produtora into a recording space with the most sophisticated audio technology, called a team of star musicians and faced the challenge.

Big Bands

The positive results of this challenge can be found throughout the album. There’s the vigorous frevo **O Guarda-Chuva**, with the special guest performance of big band **Spok Frevo Orquestra** and its 17 musicians with suits of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, as well as guitar, bass, drums and percussion. In jazzy songs such as **Artifício**, pyrotechnic images spring from the album to the listener’s imagination.

In the growling jazz song **A Lista**, which opens the album, Rhaissa is joined by another big band, this one formed by sixteen musicians chosen by the conductor, clarinetist and saxophonist Nailor Azevedo, known as “Proveta”. With an arrangement composed by the conductor himself, the song intertwines influences from the Swing era with brass arrangements and melodic nuances. Proveta also composed the brass arrangements of **Pérola do Brinco da Moça** and of the instrumental **Interlúdio**.

Another highlight is the entertaining **Palitoterapia**. The song takes place in a matchbox, where matches share the daily dramas of their compulsory collective coexistence. Four singers lend their voices to the matches (all of which called Paulo!), and their names are... also Paulo: Paulinho Boca de Cantor, Paulinho Mosca, Paulo Padilha and Paulo Tatti. The *grand finale* of this “choro” explodes in a choir of forty voices – the number of matches in a box.

There is also the dramatic tone of **A Magnífica História Nunca Antes Contada Sobre o Amor da Adaga de Lady Macbeth Pelo Coração do Rei Duncan** (*The Magnificent Untold Story About the Love of Lady Macbeth's Dagger for the Heart of King Duncan*) – possibly the longest track title ever written – composed by **Filipe Trielli**, with the special guest performance of the Ricardo Herz Trio.

Rhaissa ends the album singing the minimalistic salsa **Matéria Estelar**. Here, the Caribbean rhythm atmosphere is only suggestive, through the slow sailing of the song's hypnotic melody.

Jum Nakao

A work with so many mythical elements could not do without a great visual design. Rhaissa and Daniel therefore called designer and creative director **Jum Nakao** to take over as art director of **Matéria Estelar**.

Jum Nakao is an world-renowned artist with impactful work in several areas. The fashion show in which he designed dresses made out of laser-cut vegetable paper, *Sewing the Invisible*, is considered one of the most remarkable works of couture of the 20th Century by the Paris Museum of Fashion. Jum was also the designer in charge of the Brazilian section of the London Olympics closing ceremony in 2012. His work is cited in different bibliography and is exhibited in several important museums and galleries around the world.

Cosmos

The inspiration Daniel (composer of most of the songs) and Rhaissa had for the album's concept came from scientist **Carl Sagan's** quote in the documentary **Cosmos: we are made of star stuff**. Quoting the singer, "all this here in the world can be cut from the same cloth. It doesn't matter if it's so and so, pear, telephone book, fan... the stories are there to be told, sung, heard..."

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