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Global Arts Live presents
the Boston debut of
Natu Camara

November 13, 8pm
Crystal Ballroom at the
Somerville Theatre

Global Arts Live: 617.876.4275
globalartslive.org

Boston, MA — **Global Arts Live** presents the Boston debut of Natu Camara on Saturday, November 13 at 8pm at [Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre](#), 55 Davis Square, Somerville. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$32 day of show, general admission, standing room only. For tickets and information call Global Arts Live at 617.876.4275 or buy online at globalartslive.org.

Natu Camara grew up in Guinea and led West Africa's first all-female hip-hop sensation, The Ideal Black Girls. Now she's out on her own with an effervescent sound that blends Afropop and soul with her passion for social justice to create inspirational songs of hope and healing.

Dedicated to helping her country and, in particular, young women in urgent need of mentors and strong female role models, Natu splits her time between Conakry, Guinea, and New York. Whether it's singing of forced child marriage and disunity in her own country or the loneliness and sadness she has witnessed in the developed world, Natu sings real stories about real issues in real people's lives. "I sing about truth, love, peace, and the rights of women and children," she says. "Meaning, my daily life is my inspiration." And though she performs her songs in five languages, they need no translation. Everyone feels the power of energy. And everyone speaks the language of the heart.

Born in the Ivory Coast and raised in Guinea, Natu's devotion to music exploded in early success when she joined three friends to form West Africa's first all-female hip-hop band, the Ideal Black Girls. Their first album, *Guinea mou monèra* ("It's not a shame to be a woman") went on to sell in the millions and was nominated for Best Album 2002 in Guinea. The Ideal Black Girls toured throughout Africa while managing to finish college, an inspiration for an entire generation of girls. And the band's impact has been lasting. They organized Rhapsody, a revolutionary festival of live music and mentorship for women, and their song "Didi" continues to be played extensively, often as an expression of love at weddings. Their second

album, recorded in Senegal, was also successful, but it marked a new phase to Natu's career.

Natu traveled to New York to spend time with her husband, only to endure a tragedy. Not long after she arrived, he tragically passed away from cancer, leaving her suddenly alone at the beginning of a long, dark period of mourning. Alone in a foreign country with nothing but grief and a guitar her husband had bought for her as a wedding present, she quietly began playing and writing. When a peculiar bird came to her window uptown in 2013, she took it as sign that it was time to begin anew. She rapidly learned English, formed a band, and began to sing and write an entirely new form of music. Though she'd been playing hip-hop music her entire young life, now she sang inspired by such stars as Ali Farka Touré, Mory Kanté, Fela Kuti, Baaba Maal, and Nina Simone.

She recorded a couple of her songs in New York with Salif Keita's musicians and then traveled to Mali. In Mali, master guitarist and producer Djessou Mory Kanté introduced her to the world-class musicians who would help her record *Dimedi* ("Child"). The album was a hit! In her home country, all those who knew her as a hip-hop performer were stunned by her metamorphosis. The Guinean child was celebrated on an hour panel discussion on national TV, where she performed three songs with just guitar and percussion. It was reported a nation was brought to tears when she performed "Dimedi/Child".

Until it was stalled by COVID, Natu's hugely successful North America tour passed through San Francisco, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Montreal, Quebec, Washington DC, Port du Prince, and New York. She was also selected from among 1300 applicants by the NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music and Theatre to fund her next album.

Throughout these dark days in the entertainment world, Natu's drive and verve have kept her positive and performing at many Virtual Festivals, among them The Madison World Music Festival, The International Festival de Louisiane, Global Arts Live, and a live performance for Voice of America in Washington. She was also selected to appear on state TV in Guinea to celebrate the life of Guinean superstar Mory Kante. Natu has also been selected by GlobalFEST to appear in an exclusive video performance alongside 16 celebrated artists. It is the first time an artist from Guinea has been selected for this prestigious honor.

For more information: www.natucamara.com
High resolution images [here](#).

Please note: Masks will be required indoors for all patrons, and staff. All must present either [proof of vaccination or negative COVID test](#) in order to enter the venue. For details see globalartslive.org/covid-safety-protocols

Global Arts Live is a nonprofit organization that brings inspiring music and dance from all corners of the world to stages across greater Boston. By putting the spotlight on exceptional artists and reflecting the diverse and vibrant community that is Boston, we aspire to transcend borders, cultivate community, and enrich lives. A trusted curator for almost 30 years, Global Arts Live has made live, international music, and dance a vital part of Boston's cultural scene by featuring more than 800 artists from 70+ countries in over 1,500 performances attended by more than one million people. To be as inclusive as possible, foster experimentation, and support a diverse community of artists, Global Arts Live is not bound by walls. Instead, it brings outstanding artists to the most appropriate setting—from intimate 200-seat clubs to 2,500-seat theaters and everything in between. Each year, it presents over 60 concerts in more than 15 different venues across the city.

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