

## Interview

# Khadja Nine

Burundian singer, activist, member of the jury at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, wife of legendary Jacky Ickx. Her breakthrough came in 1996 with her widely popular album Sambolera.

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**WM Oasis** - I have a greeting from your fans in Sweden. What do you have to say to them?

**Khadja Nine** - Make sure I love them. I know their country well. I have driven by car throughout Denmark, Norway, Finland during midsummer with so long evenings. I'm touched that after 20 years they think about me.

**WM Oasis** - I can confirm to you that people are still asking about your records.

**Khadja Nine** -It means too much for me. I'm grateful

**WM Oasis** - What should I say to your fans about your absence from music?

**Khadja Nine** - I do a lot of great things, I'm back in Africa where I live with the villagers. We do different projects and program to help women to be self-sufficient. And when I speak about the independence of women, it's not the woman I aim it's the child. More the women have opportunities, more she will be independent, more she will help the child to go to school. They are no idea to focus on the children unless we don't invest and think about the parents. It's a mistake we make.

I was UNICEF Ambassador during 15 years and was fortunate to be an ambassador for vaccination.

Vaccin means wherever you go child. I had many children in my arms and parents around me wherever I went in the countries I visited. The vaccin for the child is one thing. Beyond the vaccin it is necessary to take care about the child's environment, his mother or his family. I think it's the mistake everyone makes, when we talk about the child. We have to focus on his family if we want to succeed to help and get healthy, educated and happy children.

**WM Oasis** - The world music term comes in 1987 to promote the music from other countries. What is your opinion about the concept world music? Before 1973, African, Asian & Latin music was classified as music from the third world.

**Khadja Nine** - We have made progress then! It doesn't bother me, I don't care, people have to put people in the land. But what makes me laugh is when I was in Montreal, in a record store, I found Erasmo Ramazzotti the Italian singer in the world music section. You see, it means nothing. When people don't know where to classify you. They put you in the world music drawer, it's almost storage facilities.

**WM Oasis** - But on the same time thanks the term world music that the customers have found your record.

**Khadja Nine** - You see, it means nothing. When people don't know where to classify you. They put you in the world music drawer, it's almost storage facilities.

**WM Oasis** - But on the same time thanks the term world music that the customers have found your record.

**Khadja Nine** - Yes, that's what I'm telling you, I don't have anything against this term, it's by facility. But one day will come when we will simply say as we say today that Stevie Wonder is American that Sting is English, Khadja Nine is Burundian and Tiken Jah is Ivorian, then we will not be anymore in drawers that day.

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