Spinning Translocal:  
A Discography of Central and West African Hip Hop

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Since its emergence in Senegal in the mid-1980s hip hop has become a translocal cultural phenomenon in francophone West and Central Africa. It is the only musical genre shared by the entire region – from Nouakchott to Yaoundé, Niamey to Cotonou, Dakar, Abidjan, Bamako, Ouagadougou and everywhere in between – contrary, for instance, to Malian Mandingo music, Ivorian Zouglou or Senegalese Mbalax.

The following discography is an introduction to contemporary francophone hip hop. It is extremely difficult to compile such a selection and many deserving hip hop artists from West and Central Africa do not appear on this discography. However, contemporary tracks (2005-2010) of some of the pioneers of the movement, as well as promising emerging artists, have been chosen in attempts to represent the great diversity in the genre. The list is far from exhaustive and necessarily subjective.

For the purposes of this discography, the countries under review are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea (Conakry), Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.
Artist: Didier Awadi (feat Doudou Ndiaye Rose)
Title: Dans mon rêve
Album: Présidents D’Afrique
Country: Senegal
Release Date: 2010
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbee18ZFxno

Artist: Amkoullel
Title: Kalan
Album: Ne Ka Mali!!
Country: Mali
Release Date: 2010
Website: http://www.myspace.com/amkoullel
Video Clip: http://www.vimeo.com/14342121

Artist: Daara J Family
Title: Tomorrow
Album: School of Life
Country: Senegal
Release Date: 2010
Website: http://www.myspace.com/daarajfamilyofficiel
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bV4qTlyw2SQ&feature=related

Artist: Nash
Title: Respectons notre corps
Album: Zié Dédjá!
Country: Ivory Coast
Release Date: 2008
Website: http://www.myspace.com/nashnouchy

Artist: DJ Gold (ft. Zion Riddim Killah)
Title: Jeux de jambes
Album: Urban Africa
Country: Burkina Faso
Release Date: 2010
Website: http://www.myspace.com/goldnbbeatzrecords

Artist: Waraba
Title: Nagioubagne
Album: Yomboul
Country: Mauritania
Release Date: 2006
Website: http://www.myspace.com/warababigpower

Artist: Art Melody
Title: To Biiga
Album: Art Melody
Country: Burkina Faso
Release Date: 2009
Website: http://www.myspace.com/artmelodyrecords
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_94I8KXwi0

Artist: Moona
Title: Toutes les femmes de ta vie
Album: A fleur 2 maux
Country: Benin/Niger
Release Date: 2009
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4QNaUe-8As

Artist: Negrissim’
Title: My People
Album: La Vallée des Rois
Country: Cameroon
Release Date: 2009
Website: http://www.myspace.com/neggrissim; http://www.negrissim.net/
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuWXjErjH94

Supplements:

Artist: Degg J Force 3
Title: Lever le Rideau
Album: Street Live in Conakry, Boulbinet (short documentary)
Country: Guinea (Conakry)
Release Date: 2009
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVldJtJszeQ

Artist: AURA
Title: Bienvenue à Poto-Poto
Album: Afrolution vol. 2
Country: Various
Release Date: 2000
Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AURA_(United_Artists_for_African_Rap
Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qf1OamO1vg