

= Daara J =

Daara J ( pronounced [ da??a ?i? ] , which means " the school " in Wolof ) are a Senegalese rap duo that consists of N 'Dongo D and Faada Freddy . Their music takes influence from hip hop , Afro @-@ Cuban rhythms , and reggae and is performed in English , French , Spanish , and Wolof .

Daara J was formed in 1997 and quickly became popular in Senegal from the release of their first cassette album , Daara J. They followed in 1999 with a more politically themed recording , Xalima , which integrated numerous musical ideas and instruments from Senegal and other African countries . 2003 's Boomerang was critically acclaimed and furthered the combination of various musical and lyrical influences of the previous two recordings . Activism has also been an important aspect of the group 's philosophy since it was founded .

= = Formation = =

Daara J , formed in 1997 , was originally a trio that consisted of Faada Freddy , N 'Dongo D and Lord Alajiiman . Lord Alajiiman performed and toured throughout the world with the group until 2008 when the group split . Since then , Alajiman evolves in a solo career while contributing to the development of the music sector in Senegal . Daara J was formed when all of its members were in high school , where they were studying accounting . The rappers were influenced by American hip hop artists such as Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five and Afrika Bambaataa but also listened to their parents ' music , which included artists such as Sly & the Family Stone and Aretha Franklin , and musical styles which included Cuban music . Faada Freddy cites the group 's major inspiration as Das EFX . Originally , the members took instrumentals of hip hop tracks from the United States and France to rap over . Later they purchased a drum machine , but even with this equipment , a member of the group would have to imitate the other instruments in the song with his voice . Positive Black Soul , another Senegalese rap group , encouraged Daara J to record and perform .

= = Daara J and Xalima = =

Daara J and Xalima were both released on the label Déclic . The group 's 1998 eponymous debut album was produced by the reggae musician Mad Professor and was successful locally , selling 15 @, @ 000 copies . Their next album was released in 1999 and titled Xalima ( English : Quill and Ink ) . The album was politically themed and included guest performances from other Senegalese artists playing instruments such as the kora and balafon .

= = Boomerang = =

The group moved to Wrasse Records to release Boomerang in 2003 . It featured performances by guests including Rokia Traoré . The album 's title is based on the idea that hip hop music was born in Africa , spread around the world , then returned to the continent . Daara J note similarities between rap and tassou ? a traditional African verbal performance technique used to discuss the social and political environment , daily life , and future aspirations . They believe it traveled from Africa by way of the United States slave trade . A year after the release of the album , Daara J won the Best African Act award from BBC Radio 3 .

The album itself was described as " one of the hip hop albums of the century " by the British newspaper The Observer and was successful on European music charts . Other reviews have been positive ; Matthew Pollesel of Splendid Magazine praised the album for its lyrical content : " ... as Daara J show throughout Boomerang , it 's possible to get the meaning of those words just by listening to the things that surround them ? the intensity of the rappers ' delivery , the quality of the beats , and how well all those other factors coalesce around the words . And on that score , Daara J 's message comes through loud and clear . " However , Katharina Lobeck of BBC Music noted that one of the tracks , the R & B @-@ influenced " Hip Hop Civilization " is " too generically soppy for

even the most hardened R & B fans " , but went on to say that the album is " a successful sonic adventure which thrives on its defiance of the margins of established sales categories " .

The group has made appearances at various WOMAD festivals around the world , the Live 8 concert in Eden Project , and Africa Calling . Daara J has also performed with other hip hop artists and groups including Public Enemy , Wyclef Jean , and Mos Def .

= = Activism = =

Like many other African hip hop groups including Positive Black Soul , Daara J takes an activist stance . Faada Freddy states : " We tell of peace and how we can live together because there are lots of conflicts going on nowadays . We 're here on behalf of the Africans to remind everybody that it shouldn 't be like that . There 's always a solution . Rather than fussing and fighting we should we 'd better learn to live in peace and live together , because that 's the only way to survive . " The group is especially focused on educating the world about Africa . Faada Freddy has also stressed the importance of understanding life on the continent : " Nowadays people are tending to show the negative part of Africa but Africa is not only about AIDS , heartache , corruption and all that even though it exists just like everywhere else . But Africa has a lot to provide . " In the Senegalese election of 2000 , Daara J were involved in editing speeches for political leaders and the promotion of that year 's campaign against corruption .

= = Discography = =

= = = Albums = = =

1998 : Daara J

1999 : Xalima

2003 : Boomerang

2010 : School Of Life

= = Discography Faada Freddy = =

= = = Albums = = =

= = = EPs = = =

= = = Singles = = =