

## Eclipse

**Amadou & Mariam the legendary African musical duo**  
Amadou & Mariam, Mali



Photo: Amadou & Mariam © Benoit Peverelli

*“Amadou & Mariam take the basic DNA of Western pop and soul and make it jump to irresistible African rhythms...”* **The Telegraph, UK**

*“...a coup de theatre which gets ecstatic applause”* **The Standard**

*“This project focuses on how to feel and listen when we cannot see. Organic and joyful”* **Le Monde**

It’s dark. Black as pitch. Your eyes are wide open but you see nothing. Your other senses – touch, sound, smell – have become your eyes. In *Eclipse*, Sydney Town Hall is plunged into total darkness for an all-senses experience with Malian superstars **Amadou & Mariam**.

Legendary African musical duo Amadou & Mariam met at the Bamako Institute for the Young Blind in the ‘70s and have been creating inspired blues-infused Afro-pop ever since.

With multiple Grammy Award nominations and collaborations with the likes of Santigold, Damon Albarn and Sydney Festival alumni Nick Zinner and Manu Chao, who produced their highly acclaimed 2004 album *Dimanche à Bamako*, Amadou & Mariam have established a long and celebrated career together and are one of the most famous musical exports to come out of Africa.

They are also husband and wife and this unique and multi-sensory performance chronicles their life together as the “Blind Couple from Mali”, experiencing their story as they have experienced it themselves.

“If you cannot see, your sense of sound becomes richer,” explains Amadou. “You appreciate the qualities of sound. That’s one reason I wanted to have a series of concerts in the darkness. I wanted the audiences to try to hear the music just as Mariam and I hear it.”

Malian poet and storyteller **Hamadoun Tandina** has written the narrative interludes to accompany Amadou & Mariam’s tale, while **Kate Williams** of Sevenscent in Manchester has had the task of creating the right scents to accompany *Eclipse*. That’s right – the smells of Mali and their second home Paris, alongside scents that represent various elements of their story, are streamed into Sydney Town Hall to complete this

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2014

unique experience.

Amadou & Mariam have released seven studio albums together and in recent years toured with Coldplay and U2 and jammed with musical heroes David Gilmour and Johnny Marr. They've performed at a Nobel Peace Prize concert in honour of Barack Obama and played at the opening ceremonies of the last two FIFA World Cups.

With Amadou & Mariam's vivid music bolstered by a seven-piece band and vital Malian instrumentation, *Eclipse* is a one-of-a-kind concert experience – moving, celebratory and revelatory.

### [sydneyfestival.org.au/eclipse](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/eclipse)

Venue	Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street, Sydney
Dates	Thursday 9 – Saturday 11 January 8.30pm
Tickets	General admission \$72/\$65
Duration	90 minutes, no interval
Bookings	Sydney Festival 1300 856 876, <a href="http://sydneyfestival.org.au">sydneyfestival.org.au</a>
Accessibility	A braille program for this production will be available from the venue prior to each performance or can be posted on request



Amadou & Mariam will also perform as a duo at The Lennox at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta on Sunday 12 January at 5pm.

### [sydneyfestival.org.au/amadou](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/amadou)

#### For interviews and further information contact:

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