

# Blandilo (Canada, Berlin)

furious electro-organic percussion and drums duo

## Merlin's Magic, Joannie's Intuition



This duo is about to take you by surprise, not only by dint of their expertise and precision, but by a certain connection between **Joannie Labelle** and **Merlin Ettore**, the two percussionists who comprise this duo.

Between them, they generate the humid passion of Latin, the electro-speak of the laptop, the rhythms of far shores beaten by hands on

indigenous instruments and the restless funk played by sticks on a western drum set.

Between them, they've done internships in Cuba, pursued advanced percussion studies, devised multi-media presentations, and worked the drumset to frenetic heights.

As you will see from Joannie and Merlin's first note, this is no thrown-together outfit. They've been active in the Montreal scene, adding finesse to their presentation. Expect great things from Blandilo.

Blandilo has been invited to appear at the Montreal Museum of Modern Art and at the **Montreal Drum Fest 2007**. Their first album had been released in fall 2007.

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## STYLE

Experimental Tribal Groove Electronica Avant-garde furious Percussion duo

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Merlin is officially endorsed by **Ableton Software**, **Yamaha Drums** and **Paiste cymbals**. Joannie is officially endorsed by **Mountain Rythm percussion** and **Dream** cymbals and gongs.

They divide their time between Montreal, Berlin and Milan.

**Blandilo in the Internet:** [www.crossculturemusic.de/blandilo](http://www.crossculturemusic.de/blandilo)

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## MERLIN ETTORE: drums, live electronics

Merlin Ettore (est. 1984), third generation percussionist, is a hybrid artist performing in a frenetic, jaw dropping yet clearly genetic style.



- 1986: age 2, destroys his mother's kitchenware with makeshift drumsticks.
- 1996: age 12, plays his first professional gig.
- 2006: age 22, has released his first album, played his fourth canadian tour, and is planning his third european.
- 2007: Merlin's drumming wizardry puzzles and astonishes peers, audiences and collaborators.

Collaborators, on stage and in studio, include Quebec percussion superstar **Luc Boivin**, jazz legend **Guy Nadon**, Frank Zappa's keyboard player **Don Preston**, King Crimson drummer **Pat Mastelotto**, world renowned installation artists **Dejode / Lacombe** and sound architect Nick Bugayev.

Recent clients include a commission from the Montreal Museum of Archeology and History for the **2007 Port Symphonies**, exclusive percussion workshop with the **Cirque du Soleil** executive, exclusive performance for **Louis Vuitton Inc.**, conception and performance for **McDonalds**, Merlin has also worked extensively as a promoter and event producer.

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## JOANNIE LABELLE: percussions, vocal

Joannie Labelle (est. 1985), as a rhythm worshipper has evolved through music since her youth. Percussion now fuels her everyday life.



- 1992: age 7, starts piano lessons, and does folkloric dance.
- 2000: age 15, discovers her first bongos.
- 2002: age 17, studies percussion in college with **Alain Labrosse**.
- 2005: age 20, comes back from **studies in cuba**, and follows a workshop at Berklee University (Boston).
- 2007: age 22, finishes her university studies in latin percussion, finishes her 3rd recording and plans her 4th trip to Cuba.

**Educators** include Alain Labrosse, Afro-Cuban All Stars Rolando "El nino" Salgado, latin percussion god **Giovanni Hidalgo**, Quebec percussion superstar **Luc Boivin** and Celine Dion percussionnist **Paul Picard**.

Recent clients include exclusive percussion workshop and special performances for the **Cirque du Soleil**, promotional performances for various companies such as **Amarula**, **Boris**, **Molson** and more, also performed with world music bands at the **Francofolies de Montréal** and the **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**.

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## performances (choice)

### 2006

Canada, Montreal Main Hall – w/ **Don Preston** , **ex-synthesist of Frank Zappa**  
Montreal Theatre Plaza – W/ Estradasphere  
Canada, Gatineau Loft 455 – New Year Party

### 2007

Montreal Café Campus - Blandilo  
Montreal SKOL – Blandilo  
Gatineau Loft 455 – W/ Mystika  
Montreal Victoria Hall  
Montreal Cultural center of Marie Uguay  
Montreal Place Royale (Old Port)  
Montreal Cultural center of Ahuntsic  
Montreal TULIPE – Blandilo  
Montreal The Saints W/Estradasphere  
Montreal Hotel Sheraton w/ samajam  
Canada, Toronto Tour in Toronto w/ **sound Factory**  
Montreal Tohu w/ sound Factory  
Italie, Bari **Festa dei Popoli** - Blandilo  
Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art Blandilo  
Montreal C.A.S.H. – W/ Floating Band  
Canada, Richelieu Super 9 - Blandilo  
Richelieu Bay Club - Blandilo  
Montreal Café Campus - Blandilo  
Montreal **Montreal Drum Fest** - Blandilo  
Montreal Sala Rossa - Blandilo

### 2008

Montreal Theatre Plaza – Blandilo  
Germany, Berlin Werkstatt der Kulturen