

## ATA KAK BIOGRAPHY

Ata Kak is the mysterious Ghanaian electronic/rap/highlife icon who kick-started the whole Awesome Tapes From Africa phenomenon. After a long wait he is ready to swing through Europe with his buoyant live show, on his first ever tour in summer 2016.

Ata Kak's *Obaa Sima* cassette fell on deaf ears when it was first self-released in Ghana in 1994 but when American musicologist Brian Shimkovitz stumbled upon the tape at a street stall in Cape Coast, Ghana eight years later it became the stimulus for him to launch his Awesome Tapes from Africa blog, writing in his inaugural post: *'This is it. The song is called Moma Yendodo. You may never hear anything like this elsewhere. No one I know in Ghana listens to this frenetic leftfield rap madness.'*

The music on the recording - an amalgam of highlife, Twi-language rap, funk, hip-hop and electronica – traverses a pop music landscape that encapsulates international modes while reflecting contemporary Ghanaian music of the period. Presented with the sweaty passion of a Prince record and the lo-fi recording charm of early Chicago house music, *Obaa Sima's* joyous soul and casual brilliance made the enigmatic Ata Kak an underground internet sensation and a party-starter the world over. After more than a decade of searching Brian finally tracked down the singer and released the LP officially in March 2015.

*'Its positive shine, relentless energy, and alien earworm choruses feel like a portal to an alternate reality, where the sounds of South Africa's Shangaan electro, Mali's Balani Show, Syria's dabke, British grime, and Portuguese kuduro all sweat together'* – FACT Magazine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd0PV82e1jE>

<https://soundcloud.com/awesometapesfromafrica/07-bome-nnwom>

<http://www.factmag.com/2015/03/10/the-incredible-story-of-ata-kaks-oba-sima-the-original-awesome-tape-from-africa/>

<http://www.awesometapes.com/>