

# Nagual

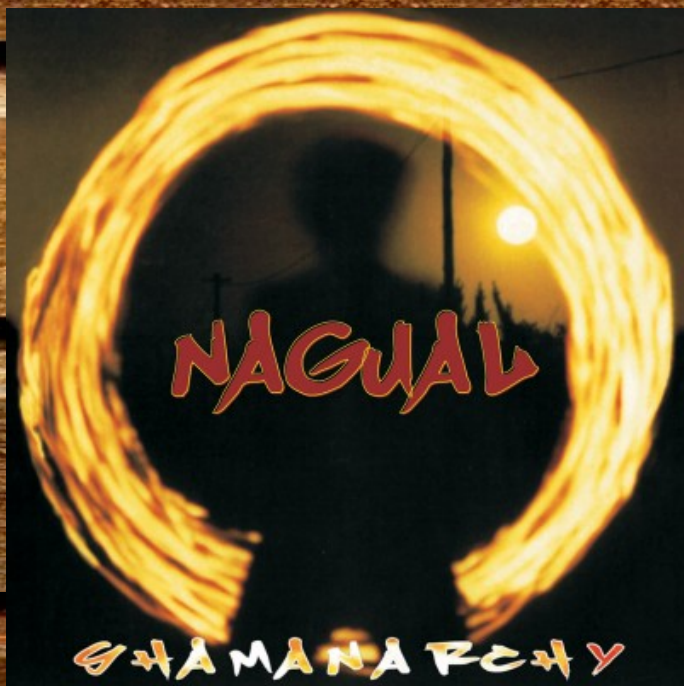
## BAND STORY

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First there was just Trance, then it became Ambient Trance and now Nagual has developed (what has been termed) Tribal Ambient Trance, a genre that seems to be developing very quickly in the South African music scene of the late '90' s/early 00' s. The differences between these genres are not always easy to define, but Nagual' s sound has achieved a personality all of its own. Nagual (an Amerindian word describing " all things that cannot be given a name") are a Cape Town-based foursome whose debut album has quickly established them, along with Jorge Carlos and THC, as the leading lights in the unique, new live African trance scene. The band was formed in 1996 in Cape Town where the underground trance scene was beginning to emerge. Damien (guitars and effects), Xendrick van der Merwe

(percussion and programming) and Derrick (keyboards and programming) had performed in various outfits including Transmission and Earth Dreams, while Chelley added her didgeridoo skills later. The group honed their live trance/occultic techno over the next few years and appeared at a multitude of parties, raves, clubs and festivals, before approaching their Knysna-based producer, Howard Kenrick-Butcher, to help them develop a more condensed Ambient Trance sound. The group entered the Peace of Eden Studios in the Reenendal area of Knysna in July 1998 to begin



### STATS

Visits	Plays
1,031	304
Streams	Downloads
253	51

### Featured Songs



the rolling square (of forgott

Other



transmission

Other

recording their debut album, 'Shamanarchy'.

The group's mentor/patron, Dave Alexander, was tragically killed in a car crash on the way back from the Rustlers Festival and the band has remained self-managed since then. Based on the critical success of the 'Shamanarchy' album Xendrick left to spread the Nagual word in Europe and Lucky joined the group on marimbas, djembes and cowbells to add a more African element to their sound. They also worked with a BBC editor to produce a short video documentary on the band and its music.

The group is styled on the look and feel of the hippie era of the 1960's but utilizes the techno and trance sounds of the 1990's to achieve a trippy and ambient direction. The band work best as a live outfit and succeeded in capturing that live sound on the eight compositions that make up their debut album. 'Shamanarchy' is a calming and hypnotic album that consistently delivers the basic Trance element of their music while simultaneously exploring a wide range of influences and styles. Here, live electronic music is blended with a variety of acoustic instruments, including marimbas, guitars, didgeridoos, flutes, monochords and African drums and percussion, to produce an album that swirls through one's consciousness like a musical dream.

The album consists of eight tracks lasting just over 50 minutes. The tracks flow into one another creating a warm patchwork of trance sound,

the fore. From the gentle synthesizer melody that opens the album on the track 'The Rolling Square', through to the textured didgeridoo drone of the closing ten-minute track, 'Perfect From The Very Beginning', 'Shamanarchy' is

a trippy and evocative piece of music that offers a new perspective on where popular music will be heading as the new Millennium evolves. It mixes beguiling melodies with a panorama of traditional acoustic and contemporary electric instruments. Standout tracks include the fizzy 'Transmission' , the ska-ish 'Cyberdredd' and the mysterious and mystical title track."

"'Shamanarchy' is a vocal-free collection of rolling grooves that works equally well (play loud!) as a pumped-up party/dance album as well as (turn it down!) ambient chill music" - Stephen Segerman

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