

MENTAT ROUTAGE is a French collective performing a trans-artistic show that combines improvised music, tap-dance, painting and video-projection. At the crossroads between jazz, rock, free, and contemporary music, this outfit from Le Mans (France) creates a sonically and visually stunning universe that is considerably off the beaten track.

The band MENTAT ROUTAGE was born in the streets in 1998, during a gig on the 21st of June, which is a special holiday celebrating music in France.

Since 2002, they've won several awards: for their soundtrack for the movie "Mortinium", and for their performances on stage.

Mentat Routage recorded their first album in two sessions, in 2007 and 2009.

Their album was released in April 2010 with the international label Musea Records.

Several awards for Mentat Routage album:

1. best self-production award from SACEM (French musical organization),
2. finalist in PROGAWARDS in two categories : best first album and best production. (ProgAwards is devoted to recognizing the year's best progressive albums. The members of the jury are international.)

*Musicians :*

Ludovic FABRE, a.k.a Zörn BEHAGH : violin, various objects, composition, arrangement

Nicolas FABRE : keyboards, composition, arrangement

Karl LEDUS : saxophones, flute, samples

Piéric LE TEISSIER : drums, various objects

Sylvie DAGUET : xylophone, tap dance, effects, percussion

Didier LEDUS : improvised painting with video-projection

SPECIAL GUEST : Mike SARY : Bass

*Sound Engineer :*

Pascal BERTHAULT, AMS Studio.



## **Ludovic FABRE**

Began practicing the violin at the age of 8. Later on, he discovered progressive rock and founded his first progressive band at the age of 17 with his brother Nicolas.

His influences are bands like MAGMA, Frank ZAPPA, and violinists such as Didier LOCKWOOD and Jean-Luc PONTY.

Ludovic plays traditional music too: East European music with several gypsy bands, and Celtic rock music with KREPO, who have released three albums and have played in many renowned festivals such as Lorient, Montreux and Ortigueira. In 2007, KREPO released a live DVD.

In 1998, Ludovic discovered the Uzeste Festival, with Bernard LUBAT and André MINVIELLE. That was quite a milestone for Ludovic, discovering that improvised, free jazz music were thriving in this little village.

Together with his brother, he founded MENTAT ROUTAGE the same year.

## **Nicolas Fabre**

Studied the piano from the age of eight, he started playing with bands at 15 years old and discovered jazz music featuring Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans and John Coltrane.

In 1999, Nicolas went to live and study music in Paris. He then played with several acoustic and electric bands, organized jam-sessions, and accompanied many singers.

He also was interested in progressive music and founded MENTAT ROUTAGE with his brother Ludovic in 1998.

Nicolas recorded his first solo piano album in 2008.

He now teaches piano in Paris and plays with musicians like Cynthia McPherson, Ismaïla Touré (Touré Kunda), Eddy Waeldo, Benjamin Sanz, and Manuel Freimann.

He plays with the band PAGAILLE, with Toma Roche as a slammer.

## **Sylvie DAGUET**

Sylvie has been working on percussion along with dancing since the age of seven. At 17, Sylvie discovered tap dance, and found it was a very good way to combine music and dance at the same time! She danced in many productions, and studied with many renowned tap dancers such as Barbara Duffy, Lane Alexander, Max Pollak, Sharon Lavi, Roxanne Butterfly...

She leads PESTàCLAQ, a tap dance company, choreographing shows and cabarets in Le Mans.

In 2003 Sylvie discovered the UZESTE Festival with Ludovic and joined MENTAT ROUTAGE as a guest, first, as a tap dancer, then additionally as a xylophone player.

Since 2008, Sylvie has been playing with a theatrical street band: “ MADEMOISELLE ORCHESTRA”. She is “Conception”, the drummer of this girl band. They play very often in street festivals, in France, Spain, and Germany.

## **Karl Ledus**

Since the age of 9, he's been playing drums in French popular dancecombos (with accordion). He later discovered jazz music and studied the saxophone with Pierrick Menuau. In 1997, Karl met Nicolas FABRE, and they together founded groups such as The Bugs. He joined MENTAT ROUTAGE with Nicolas and Ludovic in 1999.

In 2006, he lived in India for the entire year. He learned the zither and became imbued with the spiritual culture of the various Indian instruments.

Always playing in jam-sessions, playing all styles of music like be bop, modal jazz, contemporary music, he's an agitated globe-trotter, using machines, samples, and effects, in order to find his own sounds.

## **Piéric LE TEISSIER**

Just like Karl Ledus, Piéric has been playing the drums in French popular dances. He later discovered jazz music and African music. His influences are Tony Williams and Elvin Jones. His playing is both percussive and subtle. He's a drum teacher and director of a music school.

He's also passionate about ecology, architecture and sustainable development issues.

## **Didier LEDUS**

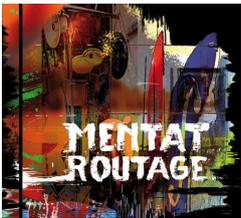
Didier is an Artist with a big "A": painter, sculptor, movie maker, actor...

In 2006, he made his movie "Mortinium", in which he was the main character. He then asked MENTAT ROUTAGE to create the music of his film. The film was awarded the best music award in 2007 (Bourges Movie Festival). It was even previewed in the Festival de Cannes!

Since then, Didier became the painter for MENTAT ROUTAGE.

## **Mike SARY**

Acting as tour manager, driver, head of the "COMPLAINTS" department, and occasional bassist for MENTAT's first US tour, Mike is the founder of the long-lived [since 1983] US progressive band FRENCH TV. They have 11 cds out, have toured the US extensively, and have also toured Europe twice, with more to come. More info on FTV's activities can be found at [www.frenchtvonline.com](http://www.frenchtvonline.com).



## ALBUM REVIEWS

*Wowie zowie! Fans of complex, twisted and funny – you might say Zappa-esque – prog rock, make sure the name Mentat Routage appears on your radar screens! This eponymous debut proposes a plethora of creative, bold and zany tracks ranging from “RDNZL”-era Zappa to Henry Cow, then from Magma to hardcore free improvisation. (...) A dizzying record bursting with chills, thrills and spills!*  
Monsieur Délire June 2010

*This French band comes with no doubt from this line of the most original creators, and if their rantings are not limited to music, to open out to dancing, painting and video, it's surely because MENTAT ROUTAGE is a collective that is inspired as much by Zappa or Magma, as Mahavishnu Orchestra, as Portishead and Salvador Dali. (...) This album is dedicated to the creative gift of a bunch of passionate artists.* Fred Delforge July 2010

*This is a disc of impeccable musicianship from band members and guest musicians alike, where the rhythm department in particular impresses. (...) Dedicated followers of adventurous and challenging music should know their visiting time on this occasion, where those with a soft spot for the jazz-oriented escapades of capital P progressive music in particular have an item worth their attention in this case.*  
Olav M. Bjornsen December 2010





Photo Jérôme DELPAH - 12/02/2011



WEBSITE : <http://www.mentatrouage.com>