

Explain The Sound, the podcast: reclaiming the Black and queer history of electronic music

On the occasion of France's Fête de la Musique, MansA – Maison des Mondes Africains launches Explain The Sound, its first original music podcast, written by Marie-Maxime Dricot. Across six episodes, the series explores the Afro-descendant and queer origins of electronic music.

→ The Black origins of electronic music

Electronic music is everywhere. In 2025, the global market reached \$15.1 billion, filling venues such as Berlin's Berghain, London's Fabric, Brussels' Fuse and Europe's most popular festivals. Yet behind this worldwide influence lies a paradox : the more these genres conquered the world, the more their origins were erased.

Detroit techno and Chicago house were not born in the trendy clubs of European capitals. They emerged in the 1980s on the margins of American society, driven by African American and queer communities who used music to create spaces of freedom, experimentation and resistance.

As their popularity exploded, the historical context, founding figures and political struggles that shaped these genres were gradually rendered invisible. The original narratives were decontextualized, sanitized and absorbed by an industry that embraced the forms while forgetting the bodies that created them.

→ Explain The Sound by MansA Radio: a sound manifesto redistributing power

Artists, researchers, filmmakers, and communities have long carried out this work of remembrance. *Explain The Sound* is part of that lineage while bringing its own voice to the conversation: six episodes conceived as a manifesto that opens the archives, gives the floor to pioneers and examines the mechanisms of cultural appropriation, social exclusion and erasure. Through sound archives, musical excerpts and testimonies from artists, sociologists, activists and programmers, the podcast recontextualizes, acknowledges and restores this history.

Among the voices featured throughout the series are Jeff Mills, a foundational figure of Detroit techno; Kiddy Smile, a leading voice of the Black and queer French electronic scene; as well as Suzi Analogue, Andy 4000, François X and Tatyana Jane. Their individual trajectories each reveal, in their own way, how profoundly political these musical cultures have always been.

This podcast is part of MansA's broader mission to highlight Afro-descendant cultural lineages within contemporary music – from jazz and soul to hip-hop and electronic music. To retrace genealogies. To name inheritances. To redistribute symbolic power.

→ Celebrating the Afro-descendant electronic scene at MansA during the Fête de la Musique

The launch of Explain The Sound will take place during the weekend of June 21, 2026. Choosing the Fête de la Musique as its setting is no coincidence: MansA aims to reassert, at the heart of this collective celebration, the historical and central role of Black artists within electronic music scenes.



The event will unfold over two days : participatory talks and round-tables on Saturday, followed by a carefully curated line-up on Sunday evening.

→ Weekend Program :

Saturday, June 20

The event will run from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM and will include:

- ✎ A listening session and presentation of the podcast by the *Explain The Sound* team
- ✎ A round-table discussion featuring Mathys Rennela, Marie-Maxime Dricot, and Élodie Vitalis, moderated by Laure Togola
- ✎ A Q&A session
- ✎ A closing cocktail reception

Sunday, June 21 (Fête de la Musique)

- ✎ 7:00 PM – 7:45 PM: Nexus (B4MBA + MOOKI6)
- ✎ 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Melanin (TBC) B2B Steven Julien
- ✎ 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM: Suzi Analogue
- ✎ 11:00 PM – 12:00 AM: Yasmin Regisford

Curated by Marie-Maxime Dricot

→ Plus d'informations sur le podcast :

- ✎ Format : 6 episodes – 45 minutes each
- ✎ Production : MansA – Maison des Mondes Africains
- ✎ Written by : Marie-Maxime Dricot
- ✎ Directed by : Jérôme Caron, Marie-Maxime Dricot
- ✎ Sound Mixing : Jérôme Caron
- ✎ Editorial Collaboration : Laure Togola
- ✎ Platforms : Deezer, Spotify, Apple Podcasts...
- ✎ Release Schedule : Every Monday starting June 22, 2026

→ About **MansaA**

Based in Paris, MansA – Maison des Mondes Africains is a cultural institution dedicated to producing, documenting and circulating contemporary African and Afro-diasporic cultures worldwide.

As a space for creation, thought and debate, MansA brings together artists, intellectuals and researchers through a multidisciplinary program attentive to the aesthetic, political and social transformations of our time.

Through its work, the institution supports the emergence of new narratives, highlights often overlooked legacies, and contributes to shaping critical discourse from African worlds and their diasporas.

→ About **MansaA** Radio

MansaA Radio is the sound production and broadcasting platform for the editorial content of MansA – Maison des Mondes Africains. It operates both in physical spaces through collective listening sessions and online via its dedicated platform. MansA Radio offers documentaries and audio fiction – intimate, literary and political narratives – emerging from African worlds and their diasporas.

→ Practical Information

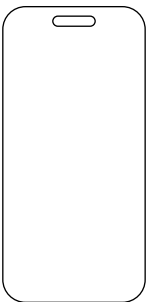
MansaA is open to the public according to its program schedule. Admission is free, subject to venue capacity.

Address : 26 Rue Jacques Louvel-Tessier, 75010 Paris

Metro : Goncourt (Line 11) and Belleville (Lines 2 and 11)

Website : www.mansa.fr

→ Extend the experience online



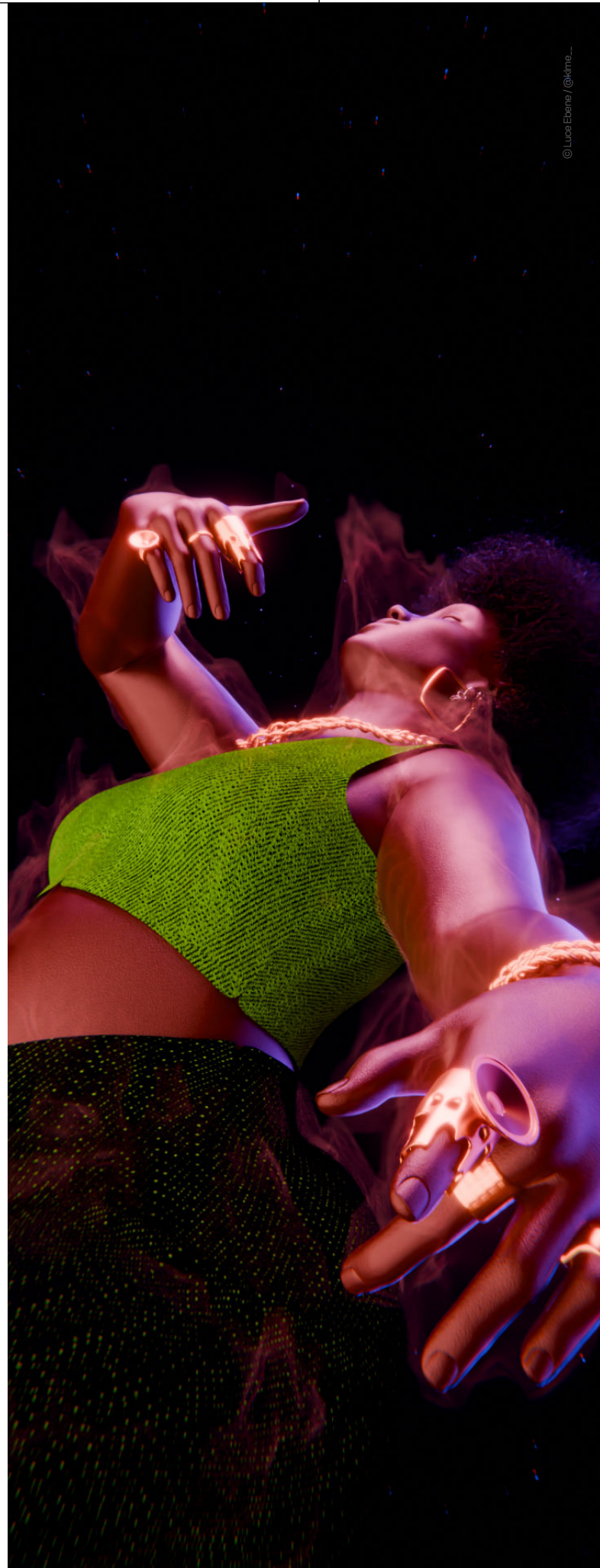
Discover now our website:

→ A space to follow MansA adventure as the days go by.



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