

WORLD

ZIETI

Zemelewa

Producer: *Michael Shereikis*

Grigri Discs

Release Date: *March 6*

Zieti's story begins in 1999

with two Americans recording with three musicians from Africa's Ivory Coast, a project that ended when the tapes disappeared following their studio's closure and a military coup. Their reunion more than a decade later feels like the result of a jam session, the separate sessions married together seamlessly. At Zieti's root is Afro-funk driven by guitars, percussion and accordions with group vocals. It's an Africa-inspired album that should go down easy with American audiences, especially those enamored with Paul Simon's *Graceland* and blues slide guitar. Sung predominantly in Guéré and French, some songs recall a sweaty nightclub while others sound like a soundtrack to an outdoor lunch in Paris. Michael Shereikis, the project's engineer and guitarist, constructed the album piece by piece by bringing in percussionist Atta Addo from Ghana and Cameroonian bassist Aristide Zogdoule to work on tracks created by Ivory Coast singers Tiende Laurent and Yeoue Narcisse. The unique approach allowed Shereikis to push the music in different directions, touching on the

tropical in "Tindehe," the suave "Patriote" and the gypsy jazz of "Djemin."—PG

