

## **Artist Bio - Alicia Saldenha**

<http://lovealicia.com>

<http://facebook.com/aliciasaldenhamusic>

<http://youtube.com/soulsistah100>

Alicia Saldenha, born in the Caribbean island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, has been taking Japan by storm with her unique brand of funky soul island sugar. Her unique style defies attempts to define and categorize her. One would have to imagine the vocal sweetness of Roberta Flack, Minnie Riperton and Linda Lewis, mixed with the raw funk and stage energy of Chaka Khan and Julie Dexter.

Resident in Japan, an environment notoriously difficult for "foreign artists" unsigned to major labels, Saldenha has been breaking down barriers between races, cultures and languages and is performing with top Japanese and international artists. Leading her own band, she performs her original music throughout Japan. The shows are dynamic and full of energy, often featuring visiting international artists, such as Ezra Brown (American sax player) and Blitz the Ambassador (hip hop).

Her debut solo album, "Dance with the Sun," showcases her talent as a vocalist and composer, as well as her determination. Without the resources of a record company or sponsor, with only a shoestring budget cobbled together from her savings, Saldenha ventured alone to New York City to record her album with some of the finest musicians and highly respected producer, Andrew Felluss of Radian Records. Andrew Felluss has been producer and engineer for the likes of Mariah Carey, Pat Metheny and Sting.

Grammy Award nominated pianist and composer, Barney McAll (of Groove Collective, Fred Wesley and the JB's), noted drummer, Chris Eddleton (featured on Saul Williams and Lizz Wright recordings), Mark Kelley (bassist for The Roots, the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, Meshell Ndegeocello), Kaleta (percussionist for Fela Kuti) and Takuya Kuroda (trumpet player signed to Blue Note Records; plays with Jose James) are among the stellar musicians on the album.

Alicia Saldenha is also the featured vocalist on the indigo jam unit album, “Rose,” released on September 2, 2011. A successful release tour included sold-out performances at Billboard Live Osaka and JZ Brat, Tokyo. “Rose,” featuring covers of rare 1970s soul and funk by the likes of Nina Simone and Doug Carne, spent several weeks in the Billboard Japan Top 100 and Top 50 Charts for Independent Albums. Before this Saldenha also performed with the legendary Paul Jackson of Herbie Hancock and the Headhunters.

Always looking for new challengers, Saldenha is releasing “The Lady A Project” in 2016, featuring a cutting-edge mix of hip hop and Caribbean electronic dance music which she produced herself. In addition, she is the creator and host of *VibeOlogy*, a new music program on Blackan Radio, Japan.

Saldenha's resumé includes a long list of experiences - as actress, dancer, scholar, activist and university lecturer. Many creative plans are in the works, so stay tuned...

### **Discography**

- Can You See Me? (Hands in the Air) - Lady A aka Alicia Saldenha (Single. Jem Adar Music. Digital Release November 24, 2015)
- Love & Unity - Alicia Saldenha and Artists in Japan for Haiti (Single. Shalestone/Jem Adar Music. Jan. 2013)
- Dance with the Sun - Alicia Saldenha (CD. Jem Adar Music. June 13, 2012)
- Ooh Boy - Alicia Saldenha (EP. Jem Adar Music. Digital Release February 22, 2012)
- Ooh Boy (Jenifa Mayanja Remix. Digital Release February 22, 2012)
- Rose - indigo jam unit feat. Alicia Saldenha (CD. Basis Records. September 2nd, 2011)
- Sounds for Pray - Mizuho Masuda (Charity Single for Tohoku, Japan. July 2011)