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JuJu

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In Trance



(Real World)

JuJu may be a new band, but it's dominated by a well-established duo. The British guitarist Justin Adams has spent four years touring and recording with Juldeh Camara, the Gambian griot and exponent of the one-stringed ritti, and they have rightly won awards for their furious, improvised fusion of African styles, blues and rock. They have added percussion for recent recordings, including last year's exhilarating *Trance Sessions* EP, and have now expanded into a four-piece

band with the addition of a full-time bass player and drummer. It's a move that might make sense when the duo want to boost their sound at festivals or larger venues, but there's a danger that it could damage their spontaneity. At their best, Adams and Camara interact with extraordinary intuition, and one never knows where the music will go next. There's some fine playing on this set, as on the exuberant 15-minute work-out *Djanfa Moja*, but the bass lines on *Nightwalk* or the bluesy *Waide Nayde* make the band sound unexpectedly predictable, despite Camara's remarkable solos; two of the best tracks are taken from the bass-free *Trance Sessions*. **Robin Denselow**