

**Winner of the 2001 Urban Music Award for  
Best World Recording**

# **SAMBA SQUAD**

**SAMBA SQUAD** has risen from a community based drumming group into one of the most dynamic and sought after acts on the Canadian world and Latin music scenes.

**Samba Squad** was awarded the **UMAC (Urban Music Association of Canada) Award for Best World Recording of 2001** for their self-titled release.

The colourful thirty-plus member drum group performs a variety of samba-based West African, Caribbean and Afro-Cuban styles of Carnival rhythms on traditional Brazilian percussion instruments and has become one of the most exhilarating live music experiences in Canada.

Led by award-winning percussionist **Rick Shadrach Lazar** (Montuno Police, Loreena McKennitt) **SAMBA SQUAD** has performed over 200 festivals (**Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival, Roots & Blues Festival Salmon Arms B.C., London's Sun Fest, Ottawa Jazz Festival** and **Muhtadi's International Drum Fest in Tobago**) concerts, benefits, special events, sporting events (Toronto Raptors, Toronto Argos and Blue Jays half-time shows) and television appearances (Governor General Awards CBC Television, The Toronto Show Toronto 1, Breakfast Television CITY TV, Open Mike with Mike Bullard, CTV).

**SAMBA SQUAD** recently opened for Grammy and Juno award winning singer **Sarah Mclaughlin** and is a regular guest performer for Canadian flamenco phenomenon **Jesse Cook**. The group has also performed with other international acts such as **Antibalas**.

**SAMBA SQUAD** can be seen on CITYTV in an award-winning promo, a sensational collage of Toronto photography seen through time-lapse and fish-eye lens. **SAMBA SQUAD** performs the sound track composed by **Rick Lazar**.

**SAMBA SQUAD** is releasing its long-awaited sophomore album **Batuque** at the Mod Club in Toronto on Wednesday, September 20 at 9:30 PM. This will coincide with the world premiere of the Riddle Films documentary **SAMBA SQUAD: Drums We Love** airing on **Vision TV** on **September 28 and 30, 2006 at 10:00 pm ET**.

**BATUQUE (baa-too-kee)**: From the Afro-Brazilian tradition, spontaneous street party – a celebration of life with drumming, singing and dancing. *Batuque* is an evolution of Samba Squad's musical journey: the path of the drum. Based on the Brazilian tradition of Samba, the Squad takes you on a dance till you drop tour of global grooves.

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