

SAMBA SQUAD

Quotes & Reviews

The joyful Samba Squad is a fun bunch, 30 and more of them presided over by ace percussionist Rick Lazar and who deliver souped-up rhythms beating on surdos, caixas, malachetas, tambourim, agogo bells, shakers and other stuff. You'll hear them coming!

- Geoff Chapman, *The Toronto Star*

On a wintry Canadian day, Samba Squad might provide just the heat you need.

- *The Globe & Mail*

The debut CD is a samba sampler that not only shows off the diversity of the instruments, but also gives voice (literally) to several Squad members, who get to call out their own rhythmic catch phrases... The selection runs a surprising gamut that fuses combinations like samba/reggae, samba/soca and samba/dancehall, with some extras: like a West African agbekor number. A recording that's lots of fun in itself and also a pleasing harbinger of the increasing activity on the contemporary Afro-Latin scene in Toronto.

- *Performing Arts and Entertainment in Canada*

Samba Squad is a local Toronto group who I've adored at festivals, clubs, and street corners for years and now they've come out with a CD!!! The CD totally re-creates that feeling of seeing them live and needing to jump up and start dancing like crazy! The CD includes some terrific sambas (fast and medium speeds) as well as some samba mixed with soca, reggae, rap, and other funkiness! Drums, drums, and more drums!

- webhome.idirect.com/~beaven/music

It turns out that they were all wearing T-shirts that said "Samba Squad" on them, and there was quite an assortment of musicians in this group (old, young, male, female, pierced and non-pierced, tattooed and non-tattooed). Upon further research, they are a group that is based in Canada, and they specialize in "Brazilian Drumming and Rhythms". (If you ever have a chance to see them, GO!) They were breathtaking as they pounded on and shook all types of instruments.

- *Solsburyhill.org*

Q: Who is that awesome Samba group featured in promos?

A: It's the Samba Squad that bangs the hot latin beats in the promos you see throughout the day on Citytv. This promo recently won a Gold Promax Award.

- *FAQ's CITY TV*

An abrupt mood change. Samba Squad enters! The entire Lula Lounge becomes a drum. About 13 drummers and percussionists dance and play before us, with Lazar in front, playing his drum with one bare hand and a beater, bleating his whistle, and conducting this orgy of drum sound as it expands the room. The five bass drums are felt in the stomach, the two snare drummers excite us on, the two cowbell players ding-a-ding, and the four tambourim drummers drive us crazy with their high end whipping of the sonic beat. Whew. The entire evening was music for the feet and the mind.

- *The Live Music Report*