



## **A Night In Treme January 2011**

### **BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION**

In New Orleans, a city indisputably overflowing with funk, the high honor for Best Funk Group of 2008 was awarded to Big Sam's Funky Nation at the 2009 Big Easy Music Awards. For the past few years, Big Sam's Funky Nation has been a driving force of urban funk. The band is led by trombone powerhouse, Big Sam Williams, formerly the trombonist for the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, who the San Francisco Chronicle calls "the top man on the slide trombone in the birthplace of jazz." Presiding over his Funky Nation is Big Sam, a big man with an impeccable urban fashion sense, who blows the funk out of his trombone and refuses to let the audience sit still. Between solos and trombone riffs, Big Sam second-lines (a uniquely New Orleans style of street-dance) and gets the crowd going both in movement and in replies to his call-and-response MC-style. An extremely talented group of musicians makes up the Funky Nation, bringing with them a rock sensibility, the improv-style associated with jazz and the horn-heavy front section that's the hallmark of big band funk.

Big Sam is New Orleans - born and raised. He was schooled in the fertile musical streets of the Big Easy and in the classroom at the renowned New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). He started out with the Soul Rebels Brass Band and later joined the Dirty Dozen Brass Band as a teenager. He has been working tirelessly spreading his brand of funky brass ever since. He has played with such acts as Dave Matthews, Widespread Panic, and Karl Denson's Tiny Universe among others. His distinct sound and style captivated the crowd as he played lead trombone for the Elvis Costello & Allen Toussaint's international tour and was featured on their Grammy nominated CD, *The River in Reverse*.

Big Sam's Funky Nation currently has four albums to their credit: *King of the Party*, *Take Me Back*, *Birth of A Nation*, and *Peace, Love & Understanding*. Since 2001, BSFN has been searing its distinctly funky mark onto the New Orleans music scene. The band has toured across the country and internationally, spreading its high energy musical manifesto - and always bringing the party

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