

## Luiz Baliardo aka ANTONIO DE PLATA

Born July 10, 1951 in Montpellier, died autumn 2001 aged 51, after his father's 80th birthday on August 7th, 2001. There is not much I can say about Luiz Baliardo aka Antonio de Plata. He was a true gipsy macho in the very best sense of it. He was proud, he was strong, he was wild, he was witty, he was intelligent, he was sage, he was honest, he had a big heart, he loved life, a true "bonhiomme" a gentil homme, (as they say in the South of France) ... he was my bloodbrother and my friend ... the best you can have. You could trust him blind. And on top of it he was enormously talented ... what a "surprise" with a father like Manitas de Plata.

In his life he wasn't very lucky. Antonio had stabbed and killed an Arab, who had molested Antonio's wife. He was sentenced to 25 years of prison in Marseille. He came out and rejoined his father's band in 1999. Instantly he balanced it so well, personally and musically, tamed and structured his father's wild ingenuity. He never spoke about his time in Marseille (but if you want to get an idea, read Jean Genet's "Querelle"). Antonio was well together and determined to finally get a life and follow the gigantic footsteps of his iconic father. He was on a fantastic way ... and you can hear his astounding and exceptional talent on the two recordings he made ... and further it will be heard on many live recordings which will yet be released. Only two years god gave him ... and he is sadly missed by so many. The man and the artist.