

AZ**KAL**

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ASPHALT TANGO

**Belgrade's 'Gypsy Clash' release powerful debut**

The current enthusiasm for Balkan Gypsy music has found UK media focusing on such non-Romani opportunists as Frankfurt's DJ Shantel and New York punks Gogol Bordello. Kal's debut album should rectify things, since this young Serbian Gypsy band mix traditional acoustic instruments with contemporary beats, a dynamic rock'n'roll approach and a tough anti-nationalist/anti-racist political stance. From the jittery Balkan rockabilly-rap of "Komedija" to Roma hymn "Djelem, Djelem" given a soulful Latin makeover, this is eclectic yet focused, driven and angry. Kal make fiddles and accordions rock like few since the glory days of The Pogues. GARTH CARTWRIGHT