

Brownman & Ralph talk trumpet and Canadian representation in Havana on JAZZ.FM's *Benmergui in the Morning* next Thursday.

Thursday, Nov. 17 @ 8:00 AM on JAZZ.FM 91.1

www.jazz.fm

www.brownman.com

havana.brownman.com

On Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8 AM on JAZZ.FM 91.1, thousands of listeners will once again be treated to the vibes and insights one of the Canadian airwaves' most compelling jazz interview combinations. Canadian TV and radio icon **Ralph Benmergui** will be welcoming NOW Magazine's Best Jazz Artist of 2005 **Nick "Brownman" Ali**. The multiple-award winning trumpet player has been asked to represent Canada at the Havana Jazz Festival (havana.brownman.com) just three weeks from now, getting on a plane Cuba bound on Nov 29th marking the beginning of a month and a half whirlwind South & Central American tour that won't see him back on Canadian soil until mid-Jan. He'll be speaking his mind with passion about pride about representing Canada, sharing the stage with the greatest Latin-jazz musicians in the world, and the trumpet-playing that makes him tick.

Benmergui will be playing Brownman selections from his three foremost trumpet heroes: **Freddie Hubbard**, original composer of the signature Brownman arrangement *Red Clay* and whose soloing tradition he embodies; **Miles Davis** whose 5-era career was brilliantly encapsulated over the FIVE WEEKS FOR MILES tribute at Trane Studio in September; and **Randy Brecker**, the Grammy-winning legend who as a personal mentor & teacher during Brownman's time in New York City shaped his increasingly-legendary genre-crossing capabilities.

"What's an interview with Ralph like? Man, I love that brother! I used to watch his show when I was younger and hanging with him on-air is a real honour for me" says Ali, the chemistry between two men who speak their minds with a certain irreverence evident. "Ralph's got a gift for putting what I do in a passionate and culturally-informed context – and he gets me talking in a more personal context outside the music about the stuff that really matters to non-musicians. I'm notorious for jazz babble in interviews, but Ralph's gotta gift for keeping it real and discussing things in a way everyone can relate to, and not just other artists. I'm looking forward to the interview especially with it being three days before the big Havana fundraiser party at Lula with CRUZAO on the 20th "

Hear Ralph Benmergui's January 2005 JAZZ.FM interview with Brownman right after his return from the 2004 Havana Jazz Festival last year.

brownman.com/Interviews/JazzFM-Jan18-2005.mp3

About Nick "Brownman" Ali

The Trinidadian-born Brownman is an NYC-schooled protégé of his teacher, multiple Grammy-winning trumpet legend **Randy Brecker**. In the spirit of the supreme trumpet genre-crossing visionaries such as Brecker and Miles Davis, he tirelessly leads and composes actively for no less than 7 bands if his own and is a musical director and/or featured soloist in countless others. One of Canada's top session calls for both Universal and Sony recording studios in forms of music ranging from bebop to hip-hop, Brownman has close to 150 recording credits to his name, and is currently considered one of the most in demand trumpeters in the nation. Called "**Canada's pre-eminent jazz trumpeter**" by CKLN radio star Norman Otis Richmond and "**one of the next great voices in jazz improvisers**" by Randy Brecker himself.

Awards & Accolades

2001 Nick "Brownman" Ali & CRUZAO win the coveted Montreal Jazz Festival's "**Grand Prix du Jazz**" award
2001 Nick "Brownman" Ali & CRUZAO awarded the CBC Galaxie "**Rising Star**" Award
2002 Nick "Brownman" Ali - National Jazz Award nominee for "**Jazz Trumpet Player of the Year**"
2002 Nick "Brownman" Ali - National Jazz Award for "**Canadian Jazz Composer of the Year**"
2002, 2003, 2004 Nick "Brownman" Ali CRUZAO nominated at NJAs for "**Electric Jazz Group of the Year**"
2003 Nick "Brownman" Ali & CRUZAO - Independent Music Award nominee for "**Latin Group of the Year**"
2004 MARRON MATIZADO awarded the SilverSPOT for "**Best Toronto Salsa Band**"
2005 Nick "Brownman" Ali - NOW Magazine Award for "**Toronto's Jazz Artist of the Year**"

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