

# **ZAHO DE SAGAZAN**



**REVIEWS 2024-2025**

**Press** (page 2) **Radio** (page 51) **TV** (page 59) **Web** (page 60)

**PRESS**



**SUNDAY PEOPLE** "There's a growing buzz around French Electro artist Zaho de Sagazan who has built a reputation around her unforgettable live sets. Mixing traditional French Music with flavours of Kraftwerk and David Bowie she has people paying attention"

**MONOCLE** "French pop star Zaho de Sagazan"

**WHYNOW** "A mix of the intimate and the explosive, combining the emotive storytelling of classic French chanson with the brooding energy of modern electronic music"

**CLASH** "The singer is already a vital cultural icon in France – she sold out 116 shows globally last year, closed the Olympics, and opened the Cannes Film Festival with a special rendition of David Bowie's 'Modern Love' , bringing jury president Greta Gerwig to tears. The world, it seems, is hers"

**PUSS PUSS** "Her album, is dark and sonorous, a chiaroscuro of EDM-inflected pop songs that reflect Heartbreak and Insecurity"

**THE GUARDIAN FEATURE** "Her performances deliberately veer from melancholic, pristine, piano ballads to a kind of electro party that gets the audience sweating it out to repetitive beats as if they're in a Berlin club"

**BBC RADIO 2 - Edith Bowman** "I have been obsessed with this lady for a while now. I can't stop listening to the album"

**BBC RADIO 2 - Jo Whiley** "Just Gorgeous" - The album was her "infatuation" in November



## REGIONAL PRESS REPORT: ZAHO DE SAGAZAN (28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025)

### UPDATE

LIVE – FEBRUARY 2025

Amazing show in London and with the last show tonight in Bristol it would be great to know what is planed next for Zaho here in the UK. We are chasing up the reviews but from speaking to those who attended, they were very impressed and so we have a platform to build upon.

### INTERVIEWS

#### TOUR ACTIVITY

##### **28-Feb-25 Bristol Lantern**

Bristol 247 [Previewed](#)

Epigram, Bristol Uni want to review interview tbc

Bristol Gig Guide want to review

### PRESS RECEIVED

23-Feb-25 **Sunday Post** [Print](#) Glasgow preview

13-Feb-25 **Bristol Gig Guide** [Online Link](#) Bristol preview

6-Feb-25 **Total Ntertainment** [Online Link](#) Tour preview

6-Feb-25 **Live Manchester** [Online Link](#) Manchester preview

5-Feb-25 **Just Listen To This** [Online Link](#) Tour preview

1-Feb-25 **Bristol 247** [Online Link](#) Bristol preview

## Zaho de Sagazan

SWG3, Glasgow, tonight

One of the fastest-rising stars in French music, she moves between haunting piano ballads and Berlin-club energy, and her album, *La symphonie des Eclairs*, released in 2023, has since gone platinum. Following sold-out shows, an Olympic ceremony performance, winning four French Music Awards and having graced the covers of *Elle*, *Bazaar*, *Rolling Stone France* and *Vanity Fair*, Zaho now embarks on a UK tour.



# FINANCIAL TIMES

"De Sagazan is being hailed as the new  
hope of *chanson française*"

(november 20th, 2024)



FINANCIAL TIMES

# HTSI

23 NOVEMBER  
2024

THE  
CELEBRATION  
ISSUE

## IN THE MOOD

Zaho de Sagazan is ready to party

PLUS A HOW TO HOST IT SPECIAL WITH SALLY CLARKE, ALICE MOIREAU, FIN AND LORCAN SPITERI, PHYLLIS NY AND YOLA JIMENEZ

The French singer-songwriter Zaho de Sagazan is hosting a party, but no one has showed up. Dressed to the nines in a gown that sparkles with mirrored sequins, she's making the best of it — she can have fun on her own.

At least, that's the brief for the *HTSI* shoot in a lofty studio in eastern Paris. Relentless rain beats down on the skylights above, as [de Sagazan](#) turns up her Spotify playlist. The mix is hypnotic and frenetic in equal parts, spanning the Belarusian post-punk group Molchat Doma, the French band Frustration, and the synthpop Soviet sounds of Belarusian-Armenian artist Permsky Kray (thank you, Shazam).





As she moves for the camera with the same theatrical gestures she often incorporates into her idiosyncratic choreography, it's clear de Sagazan is accustomed to performing. "I can adapt; offer an interpretation of myself. I will say to myself, 'Put shy Zaho aside, feel confident,'" she says later, slipping into the third person, which she does a few times in our conversation. In the real world, however, de Sagazan is "incapable" of being alone. "I can be a sunny person with a lot of joie de vivre, but the minute I am alone, I become melancholic. I need to be with friends and family all the time," she admits once the shoot has wrapped and we are settled on a sofa. On the cusp of 25, de Sagazan has wiped off her make-up and changed into jeans, a zip-up hoodie and boots. She has a youthful prettiness and a shy, impish grin – a transformation from the intense gaze of her on-camera persona. Sipping on a carton of juice, she is warm, genuinely funny, and talks at a pace with the same velvety, deep timbre she uses when she sings.

With her sell-out tours and multi-award-winning, platinum-selling debut album, *La Symphonie des Éclairs* (2023), de Sagazan is being hailed as the new hope of *chanson française*. She cites the canonic singer-songwriters Barbara and Jacques Brel as influences – along with electronica acts Kraftwerk and Soulwax – on her unique brand of synth-heavy electro and poetic lyricism. Comparisons with Édith Piaf were only strengthened by her full-hearted rendition of "Sous le ciel de Paris" at the Paris Olympics closing ceremony.

---

*"I was blown away by the music. It was unlike anything I'd ever heard"*

– TOM ODELL

---

"In France, there are two types of songwriters: those who write realistic stories and are too literal, and those who are more poetic, who play with the sound of the words, without the meaning. Zaho's songs are perfectly in the middle – elegant and poetic, and modern," says Matthieu Tessier, the managing director of Warner Chappell Music France, who also works with top-selling francophone female artists Angèle and Aya Nakamura. Tessier invited de Sagazan to his office in July 2021 after having listened to six of her early demo tracks. "He changed my life," the singer says of Tessier, who subsequently co-published her album and set her up with a tour manager and publicist.



De Sagazan – full name, Zaho Mélusine Le Monières de Sagazan – grew up in the harbour city of Saint-Nazaire on France’s west coast, in a sprawling, happy home with her artist father, Olivier de Sagazan, teacher mother, Gaëlle Le Rouge de Rusunan, three older sisters and her twin, Kaïta. “It was a very fun house, not organised or tidy – but you felt a strong sense of life. We danced, we talked loudly, we sang,” she says.











Despite all this, her adolescence was marked by an almost debilitating sadness – an experience she talks about openly in interviews and onstage, and plumbs in her songwriting, exploring themes of identity and alienation. “I didn’t trust anything in life, I thought I was too ugly,” she says, of that time. “I told myself that no one could fall in love with me. I thought I was smart, but I couldn’t find myself...”

Singing proved therapeutic and her anger dissipated when she sat down at the piano. “I had total faith in my [music](#). I knew I would fill concert halls and even sing with [Tom Odell](#) one day.” While she could not have predicted that her performance of David Bowie’s “Modern Love” at the Cannes Film Festival would go viral (she danced through the auditorium in white socks), she was right about Odell, whom she has long recognised as a kindred spirit. They struck up a friendship on Instagram after she tagged him in a post during his concert in Paris in 2022. He DMed her asking for the image, and she sent him a link to her music. Last month they released a duet, ‘Old Friend’, a track de Sagazan wrote years before she met the British singer.

“I was blown away by the music straight away,” says Odell over email. “It was unlike anything I’d ever heard. I knew it was going to resonate with people, but I never could have predicted just how much. We made ‘Old Friend’ together in Nantes [where de Sagazan lives] this summer. It’s mostly her song, I just added my little verse toward the end. It’s a curious title, as honestly, we’ve not even known each other for a year but, for reasons beyond me, it really does feel like a lifetime.”

---

*“I started to feel beautiful when I started performing and dancing”*

– ZAHO DE SAGAZAN

---

Performing is how de Sagazan came into her own. “I can be a shy person. I cannot go up to someone in the street and ask for a lighter. On the other hand, I have no problem singing in front of 15,000 people,” she laughs. Over the past 22 months alone, she has clocked up over 200 gigs (more than two a week). It was through touring – rather than YouTube, Spotify or TikTok, like so many singers of her generation – that she first built her following and her confidence, thrilling audiences with shows that veer from elated electro dancing to piano-playing melancholy. “She is even better live than she is on record,” says Odell. “She is fearless, and it’s inspiring to witness.”











Such raw emotional vulnerability is intentional. “When I sing, it is up to me to go back to the emotion I was in when I wrote my songs,” de Sagazan says, “so on stage, it’s more about the act of also giving these emotions.”

Once the lights go up post-show, she can often feel depleted. “I tend to give 100 per cent every time, even if there are only 15 people in the audience. I could perhaps give a little less,” she says, laughing again. “I like making other people happy, and then that makes me happy, but afterwards, I have nothing left for me.” At this stage in her career, holidays are a rarity, though she’s looking forward to a necessary week off in Montreal with friends soon.

An unexpected appreciation for fashion, kindled by a working collaboration with Nicolas Ghesquière at [Louis Vuitton](#), has bolstered both her performances and her self-belief. “Zaho is a huge revelation for me, and I am so happy I have got to know her personally,” says Ghesquière, who discovered de Sagazan in early 2023 during a live TV performance of one of her first singles, “Tristesse”. “The sound was off, and when I saw her on the screen, I immediately turned the volume up. I was instantly captivated by her voice, her music and her charisma.” Later that year, he included three of her tracks in the SS24 show soundtrack.



“I started to feel beautiful when I started performing and dancing, and I stopped looking at myself and caring about my body,” says de Sagazan, who favours Ghesquière’s custom unitards with bike shorts to perform her more high-intensity [dance](#) tracks. “I used to hate [fashion](#) because I associated it with external beauty, but then I realised the power of clothing. It performs a different function – that makes you feel good,” she says.

By now, her team has left the studio, but the rain hasn’t stopped. It’s time to order a taxi and return to her sister’s place – her Paris base when she’s away from Nantes. As a final thought, I wonder what she would say to 13-year-old Zaho, who could be so abject and unsure?

She smiles. “I have an enormous amount of tenderness for this little person, who I find adorable, but at the same time, *la pauvre cocotte* (poor little thing).”

She shakes her head, pauses, and continues. “But I’m not sure I would tell her too much. I’m happy with where I got to this point. I would be too afraid to shake things up and change my course.” She waves at me as she steps into the taxi, all on her own.

*Hair, Ludovic Bordas at Airport Agency. Make-up, Tiina Roivainen at Airport Agency. Photographer’s assistant, Marco Marchetti. Stylist’s assistant, Sabīne Groza. Production, Mickaël Bardi*



(october 9th, 2024)

## **'Synthesisers can convey emotion too': Zaho de Sagazan reinvents the French love song despite never falling in love**



**'I like not knowing what I'll do,' says the 24-year-old who swept the board at the French Grammys and stole the show at Cannes film festival with her freeform dancing in socks**

**F**rom Édith Piaf to Serge Gainsbourg, [France](#) is fiercely protective of the *chanson* tradition of character-driven French-language love songs. So it's not often that someone is credited with reinventing the genre. Especially if that someone is a freeform-dancing, electro-influenced former care-worker hailing from the far-flung Atlantic coast.

In little more than a year, Zaho de Sagazan, a 24-year-old from the working-class shipyard town of Saint Nazaire, has gone from playing provincial music festivals to sweeping the board at les Victoires, the French Grammys. Her platinum album [La Symphonie des Éclairs](#) ("lightning symphony") is seen as redefining 1950s and 1960s *chanson française* with its spiky lyrics about hypersensitivity, coercive control, cannabis, crushes and the climate crisis, all delivered in a deep, theatrically over-emphasised diction to rival Charles Aznavour. The emotion is compounded by the cold, thumping machine beats of French electronica she weaves into her songs.

"I like the idea of futuristic retro," she says after opening the door to her parents' house on a quiet street in Saint Nazaire. "I like the way *chanson française* can convey a universal emotion in so few words, but I'm also passionate about 70s, 80s, 90s synthesisers. I love Kraftwerk. Synthesisers can convey emotion too. And I thought: 'I can't be the only person who loves lyrics but also loves synthesisers and can very rarely find a song that has both.'"

Her live performances, with their incongruous crescendo from sedate piano ballads to sweaty electro dance sets, have been hailed by Libération as “the adrenalin that post-Covid France needed”. Two recent Paris dates sold out in three minutes and – in a rarity for a young musician who only sings in French – this autumn she’ll play a gig in London, then tour the US and [Europe](#).

■ ■ *I had to shake Cannes up a bit. The idea was to be a completely free woman who doesn't care how she looks in the midst of this closed, self-conscious setting*

Saint Nazaire is central to her music: this working-class Atlantic port, one of the worst bombed French towns in the second world war, has shaped its mix of cold, hard electronic beats and quirky, flighty lyrics. “I was born into a very industrial world with lots of concrete,” she says. “This town was completely destroyed in the war and rebuilt with steel and concrete. Yet at the same time, it has this sweeping view out to the horizon. If Saint Nazaire is a mix of an industrial town and the poetry of the sea, my music is a little bit too.”

The fact that she has invited me to the bohemian ramshackle of her parents’ garden, where she curls up in a battered old armchair under a tree and cheerfully rolls a cigarette, reflects how far she places herself from the grandeur of the Paris star system. Her mother is a former literature teacher in a deprived area of the city. Her father, Olivier de Sagazan, is an artist, sculptor and performer who toiled for years before making it, and once stood [barking like a dog for three hours in a square at Paris’s La Défense](#) to warn of the dangers of the far right. She grew up in this “special house” of carefree creativity, as she calls it. She and her four sisters were allowed no TV but were all encouraged to have strong opinions and make a noise. “No one ever told us to be quiet,” she says.

When we speak, she is on a break from recording new electro tracks for a reissue of her album, not in a posh studio but on hired synthesisers in her parents’ backroom. It’s the same dark and chilly backroom where, aged 13, she taught herself to play piano on an out-of-tune upright. Her twin sister had blasted lovestruck piano ballads by the English singer [Tom Odell](#) from her bedroom speakers, and De Sagazan decided that howling with pain at the keyboard was good for processing emotions. “I was very, very sensitive and was in tears all the time,” she says. “I sat down at the piano to draw out this storm I had inside me.”



All this has made her studiously unconventional, which was in evidence when she was invited to open this year's Cannes film festival by singing David Bowie's Modern Love to the head of the jury, Greta Gerwig. Her deliberately absurdist, freeform-dancing take on it went viral after she wove through the audience of film stars, boldly kicked off her shoes and leapt about in socks on stage - moving in her personal style which she describes as "teenager dancing alone in their bedroom".

"I felt I had to shake the festival up a bit," she says. "The idea was to be a completely free woman who doesn't care how she looks in the midst of this closed, self-conscious setting." On the now famous socks, she shrugs: "I have a habit of taking my shoes off, I thought it would be more comfortable for dancing. I didn't think it was a political act. But when you think it's a festival which only a few years ago made women wear heels, well then yes, it can mean a lot of things. I hadn't realised how much impact it would have. Some people said they cried watching it. There's a thirst for liberty and authenticity right now."

At the Paris Olympics closing ceremony, she was invited to sing a graceful choral version of the classic 1950s ode to Paris Sous le Ciel de Paris, made famous by Édith Piaf, in the Tuileries Gardens - but points out she would have been equally at home in the thumping French touch electro sessions that followed at the Stade de France.

Blending styles from different eras and places is a long tradition in modern French-language music - including by the acclaimed Belgian-Rwandan singer-songwriter/rapper, Stromae, whom De Sagazan cites as a key influence for his combination of "extraordinary lyrics and getting people dancing".

But what critics see as new about De Sagazan is her theatrical stage shows. She is inspired by Samuel Beckett-style minimalism, she says: bare decor, bold lighting, a bit of steel and concrete as "a souvenir of Saint Nazaire", and wearing basic black cycling shorts, vest and boots. Her performances deliberately veer from melancholic, pristine, piano ballads to a kind of electro party that gets the audience sweating it out to repetitive beats as if they're in a Berlin club. She loses herself in freeform dancing, as thousands dance to her anthem for self-esteem: Ne te regarde pas, lache-toi ("Don't look at yourself, just let go").

“It’s like dancing in a storm,” she says. “There’s nothing more beautiful than freedom. If things are choreographed, it doesn’t feel so free. I like not knowing what I’ll do.”

All her undulating moves are held up by a very French focus on lyrics.

*Aspiration* is a song about a time when De Sagazan was smoking too many joints and knew she should stop. Its intoxicating dance crescendo has her repeating *ma dernière cigarette* (“my last cigarette”), trance-like in perfect *chanson française* diction over a repetitive electro beat. It becomes a desperate metaphor for anything anyone ever wanted to give up: that last drink, last piece of cake, last purchase. “It’s about obsession really,” she says. “I wanted to talk about that addictive spiral. That thing in your head of, ‘It’s my last, last, last, last, last one I promise, then I’ll give up.’”

Her most acclaimed song, *Les Dormantes*, was written when she was 15 about a teenage friend who was in a toxic relationship experiencing coercive control, and unpicks the mechanisms of being dragged down by a manipulator. “Music and poetry allow you to talk about these things with a bit of distance and theatre,” she says.



📷 Reinventing classics ... a publicity shot of Zaho de Sagazan. Photograph: Zoe Joubert

De Sagazan’s ironic, pleading lines about *l’amour* – from the spiky and tortured *Suffisamment* (“You love me just enough to keep me here”) to the riotously upbeat “I’m in love with all the boys” – have seen her praised as one of France’s best modern songwriters on the subject. There’s an irony to this, which is that she says she has never had a serious relationship or even been in love – a fact she likes to announce on stage during her performances.

“There’s a tendency to think love is only romantic love, but there are loads of other types,” she says. “I defend friendship, body and soul, because I think there’s nothing more beautiful.” Writing love songs is like being an actor in character, she says – some songs about imaginary break-ups had her “in tears at my piano”.

But she also thinks art must take a stand. This summer, when *Marine Le Pen*’s far-right National Rally party surged in the first round of a snap parliament election, she was among the singers who performed at a protest in Paris against their rise. In the end, tactical voting held the party back. “Some people said ‘Don’t talk politics’, but I think in this type of crisis, music is essential,” she

says. “It’s not propaganda – I wasn’t telling people how to vote. But the essence of art is sending a message about society.”

At 21, she worked as a carer for elderly and disabled people in the western city of Nantes, where she now lives. “I loved meeting 98-year-olds, it taught me what it was to be human,” she says. But she knows that doing that job “based on kindness”, and not valued or well remunerated by society, is the opposite of now appearing on stage and being adored.

Everything comes back to her lifelong hypersensitivity, the constant tearfulness that drove her to music. She says she has made peace with being sensitive. “I thought it was my biggest flaw but what if it’s actually a great quality? Being sensitive is being alive. If I wasn’t so sensitive, I would never have sat down at the piano and wouldn’t have experienced all these marvellous things.”

● Zaho de Sagazan plays the [O2 Forum Kentish Town](#), London, on 21 October. The international edition of her debut album *La Symphonie des Éclairs* (Le Dernier des Voyages) is out on 25 October



## NOFILTER

with Laura Armstrong & Janine Yaqoob



French electro artist **Zaho de Sagazan**, who's built a reputation for her unforgettable live sets.

Mixing traditional French music with flavours of **Kraftwerk** and **David Bowie**, she has people paying attention.

Tomorrow she plays the Kentish Town Forum, then the Roundhouse, Camden, and the Bristol Beacon in February.

An extended issue of debut **La Symphonie des Éclairs** (Le dernier des Voyages) is out on Friday.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

"Mixing traditional French music with flavours of Kraftwerk and David Bowie."

(october, 2024)

## No Filter

with Laura Armstrong & Janine Yaqoob

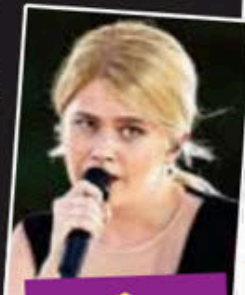


French electro artist **Zaho de Sagazan**, who's built a reputation for her unforgettable live sets.

Mixing traditional French music with flavours of **Kraftwerk** and **David Bowie**, she has people paying attention.

Tomorrow she plays the Kentish Town Forum, then the Roundhouse, Camden, and the Bristol Beacon in February.

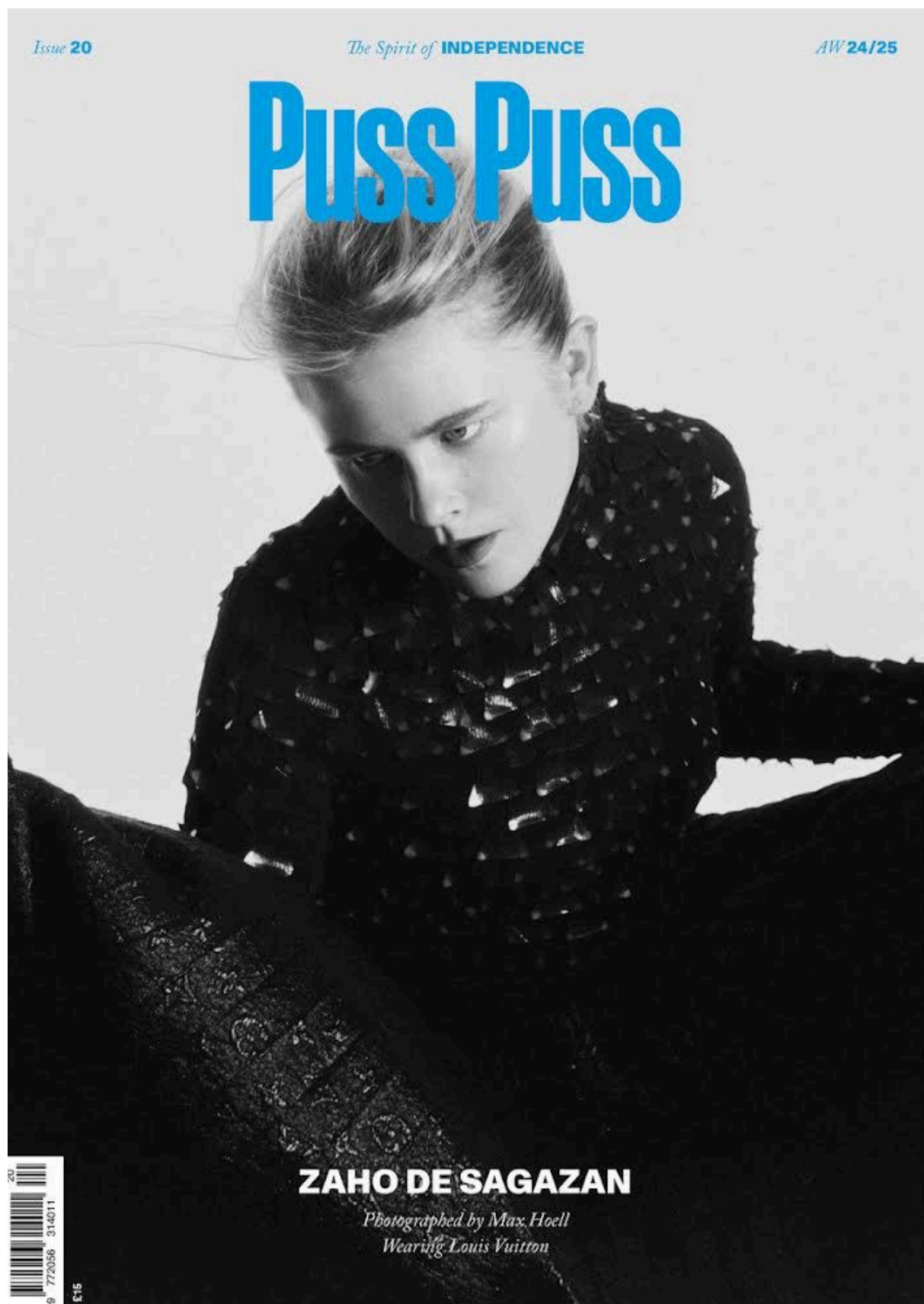
An extended issue of debut **La Symphonie des Éclairs** (Le dernier des Voyages) is out on Friday.



# PUSS PUSS

"Her music is hopeful in the way she embraces her troublesome emotions."

(october 10th, 2024)





*Photographed by*  
**MAX HOELL**

*Styled by*  
**CAROLINA AUGUSTIN**

*Words by*  
**KITTY GRADY**

ZAHO  
DE  
SAGAZAN —  
DANCING  
IN  
THE  
STORM



















LOUIS VUITTON *esp, skirt & rings*



# W

"WE ARE ON AN ISLAND NEAR A BEACH. THE WEATHER IS NICE, PEOPLE ARE ON HOLIDAY..." THE SINGER-SONGWRITER ZAHO DE SAGAZAN IS SPEAKING TO ME FROM ÎLE DE RÉ, AN ISLAND OFF THE WEST COAST OF FRANCE, WHERE SHE IS DUE TO PERFORM AT A FESTIVAL.

Her blonde hair is tied up in a relaxed ponytail and she is wearing a graphic white tee with bright cartoonish figures. Zaho has a decidedly upbeat, sunny disposition, fidgety and fast-talking in her purring French.

"When you listen to my music you get the impression of this very sad girl, but the truth is, I'm a little ray of sunshine," says Zaho, justifying my preconceptions. Released last year, her debut album, *La Symphonie des Éclairs* (*The Symphony of Lightning*) is dark and sonorous, a chiaroscuro of EDM-inflected pop songs that

speak of heartbreak, desire and insecurity. *La Fontaine de Sang* is named after a Charles Baudelaire poem, *Dis Moi Que Tu M'Aimes* (*Tell Me That You Love Me*), which is about the need for romantic validation. Even when rhythmically upbeat, the themes remain downbeat: the spiral of addiction in *Aspiration*, the way her sadness controls her in *Tristesse*, "You will not get me this evening," she howls.

"When I wrote this album I was very sad and melancholic," she explains. But her music is hopeful in the way she embraces



her troublesome emotions. In the lullaby-esque title song *La Symphonie des Éclairs* – Zaho's biggest track to date – she sings that whilst the weather is most beautiful beneath the clouds, if she was a bird she would still "dance in the storm." The song directly addresses her hypersensitivity, of which she speaks frequently in interviews, re-examining the condition positively. "It's all about the feeling of not being able to manage your emotions," she explains. "I didn't see a point in being sensitive, it was all just crying, shouting, anger. I thought being sensitive was a defect, but when I started to cry on the piano, it allowed me to make beautiful songs, I realised my emotions are my greatest quality."

Zaho grew up in Brittany in the town of Saint-Nazaire, the youngest of a large family – she has three older sisters and a twin sister. Her mother is a teacher, and her father is the well-known artist Olivier de Sagazan (his performances, sculptures and paintings are wildly kooky and a little monstrous), so it was a textbook household for bringing up creative children. "We were always seen as the crazies in our town," she says. "We had this bizarre house with sculptures and a multicoloured van. Everyone recognised us when we walked down the street." Expression was encouraged: "I could dance, sing, write on the walls. We could do what we wanted, as long as we were kind, went to bed early and ate healthily, that was very important too."

Whilst Zaho enrolled in dance classes from a young age, it was only seven years later that she touched the keys of a piano. "It was a *coup de foudre*," she says (the expression, aptly, means something between a lightning strike and love at first sight). "I very quickly told myself it would be an important part of my life. But I was in denial for a long time, I didn't think it could be a job." Zaho's first goal was to become a psychologist. "I think our depth as humans is found in our biggest moments of sadness, addiction and weakness,"

she explains. Whilst she went on to study business administration and work in a nursing home briefly, during her final year of school she started writing songs, crystallising her desire to pursue music as her life's work.

Zaho's musical influences are a bingo card of mainstream and European pop music. "I love Jacques Brel, of course," she says, before breathlessly reeling off other artists she admires: Lady Gaga, Stromae, Janis Joplin, Kraftwerk. "I can be touched by a synth melody as much as the humanity of *chanson Française*," she notes. But Zaho's guiding star is the British musician Tom Odell, who she discovered at age 13. "I completely fell in love with his music," she notes. "I don't know why, but very quickly I saw myself as him. I had the same piano. We sort of looked the same, with our blonde hair. He seemed to be hypersensitive, like me, the way he would cry at the piano. I did the same but in front of my mum." In a full circle moment, earlier this year Zaho met the singer, and they performed *La Symphonie des Éclairs* together, their blonde mops floating above the piano in a delightful harmony. "Little Zaho was in a state," she laughs.

A performance alongside another notable blonde quickly followed. Zaho was invited to perform at the opening ceremony of this year's Cannes Film Festival. Serenading jury president Greta Gerwig with a cover of David Bowie's *Modern Love*, a song featured in the director's 2012 film *Frances Ha*, it was Greta's turn to tear up. Zaho swapped shoes for white socks for the performance. "In my family, it was a thing to turn up to super luxurious places and try and do something weird," she explains. Whilst Zaho tells me she had been extremely anxious about the performance, it was a viral success, the French girl with a peculiar name lighting up millions of screens across the globe. After Cannes came the 2024 Paris Olympics closing ceremony, with Zaho performing Edith Piaf's *Sous le Ciel de Paris* in front of a golden hot air balloon in the

Tuileries Gardens.

Yet whilst 2024 has been a rocket ship for Zaho in terms of successes, she has remained spiritually and creatively grounded. She owes this to the fact she runs her own music label – a striving for creative independence inspired by her father. "He never made any concessions. He had the audacity to do what he wanted to do, how he wanted to do it, whoever he wanted to do it with," she notes. Her team and collaborators are a menagerie of friends and family, including her older sister, a dancer-choreographer. "I thank the heavens every day that I can work with people I love."

One distant admirer of Zaho who managed to enter her orbit is Nicolas Ghesquière, creative director of Louis Vuitton, who brought the singer in as a brand ambassador; it's Nicolas's creations she is wearing for this shoot. "I wasn't interested in fashion, but over time I've learned the power of a good outfit," she notes. The pleated, monochrome dress she wore on stage at La Croisette was from the brand. Elsewhere she has embraced Louis Vuitton's futuristic, aerodynamic styles. "Cycling shorts, like I've just got back from the Tour de France," she jokes, "because I need to feel completely comfortable, to be able to dance like I'm insane."

As well as releasing new music, this year and next, Zaho is set for a marathon of international touring in the UK, Germany and the United States. Matching her monochrome costumes, the scenography of her live performances consists of atmospheric light shows, the perfect backdrop for the singer to release a rainbow of feelings. "I used to say that my emotions were like a storm ready to explode at any moment. Being able to sing, cry and dance every evening for an hour and a half in front of 15,000 people, it's great," she explains. "I don't want people to leave and think, 'Wow, she's beautiful'. I want people to see a sensitive woman, who is liberating herself with music, in a total tornado of sadness."



























*Makeup: Tiina Roivainen at Airport Agency  
Hair: Ludovic Bordas at Airport Agency  
Nails: Sophie Adam at Calliste  
Casting: Maria Joudina-Robinson  
Production: Ecelyne Bonneau at Foudre Paris  
Photographer's assistant: Cam Lindfors*



# METROPOLITAN

---

"Earlier we mentioned freedom: I feel most free when I'm on stage. It brings out a side to me that I don't let through in everyday life."

(september, 2024)





# Z A H O D E S A G A Z A N

## The Edit *Travels with...*

She's wowed critics (and Greta Gerwig) and captured audiences' hearts. We catch up with the Victoires de la Musique-winning singer-songwriter to talk music, travel and freedom... / Adorée du public, adulée par les critiques, lauréate aux Victoires de la Musique, sans parler de sa performance à Cannes devant Greta Gerwig... Zaho de Sagazan est l'auteure-compositrice-interprète du moment

**You've been described as a mini whirlwind. Why do you think your music resonates so powerfully with so many?**

It still hasn't hit home. It's all a bit like a dream right now. But it feels as if there's an element of destiny at play. There are reasons for this that are bigger than me. But, firstly, my music melds two things that rarely go hand in hand: French chanson and electro. It feels good to dance and cry at the same time, right? And maybe this is a bit lame or soppy of me, but I think it's also to do with the fact that I express everything I have to say with a lot of authenticity. People can see I'm for real.

**You once said, "You don't have to have lived a lot to have a lot to say. All you have to do is watch, and ask the right questions." Can you explain what you mean by this?**

Half my songs are about romantic love, but that's something I have yet to experience myself. It's about compassion, being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes and being curious. Charles Aznavour and Jacques Brel did it long before me. Sticking to what you have first-hand experience of would be pretty sad.

**You've been on the road for a year now.**

**Are you writing music as you go? What's the creative process like for you?**

My lifestyle plugs me into so many different people and ways of seeing the world. It gets you out of your head. This is just one stage in the creative process: where you're soaking up what you've been given before you go on to release it all out. I call it inspiration then expiration.

**Do you feel free?**

Yes, because I'm lucky enough to actually be free. I set up my business with my best friend, who's also my manager, and, to be honest, we run the show. We're completely independent and free. I write what I want to write, and I make my songs however long I want.

**On te décrit souvent comme une petite tempête, un ouragan. Pourquoi penses-tu que ta musique résonne auprès de tant de personnes ?**

Je ne réalise pas que ça touche autant de monde... Je ne réalise pas grand-chose en ce moment. Mais je me dis que ma carrière est sous de bons auspices et qu'il n'y a pas que des raisons qui viennent de moi. Déjà, je mixe deux choses qui se mélangent rarement : la chanson française et la musique électronique. Danser et pleurer en même temps ça fait du bien ! Et je vais dire peut-être un truc un peu couillon, un peu niais, mais je crois que c'est aussi parce que tout ce que je dis, je le dis avec beaucoup d'authenticité.

**Tu as dit, « nul besoin d'avoir vécu beaucoup pour raconter beaucoup. Il suffit de regarder, de poser les bonnes questions ». Peux-tu élaborer ?**

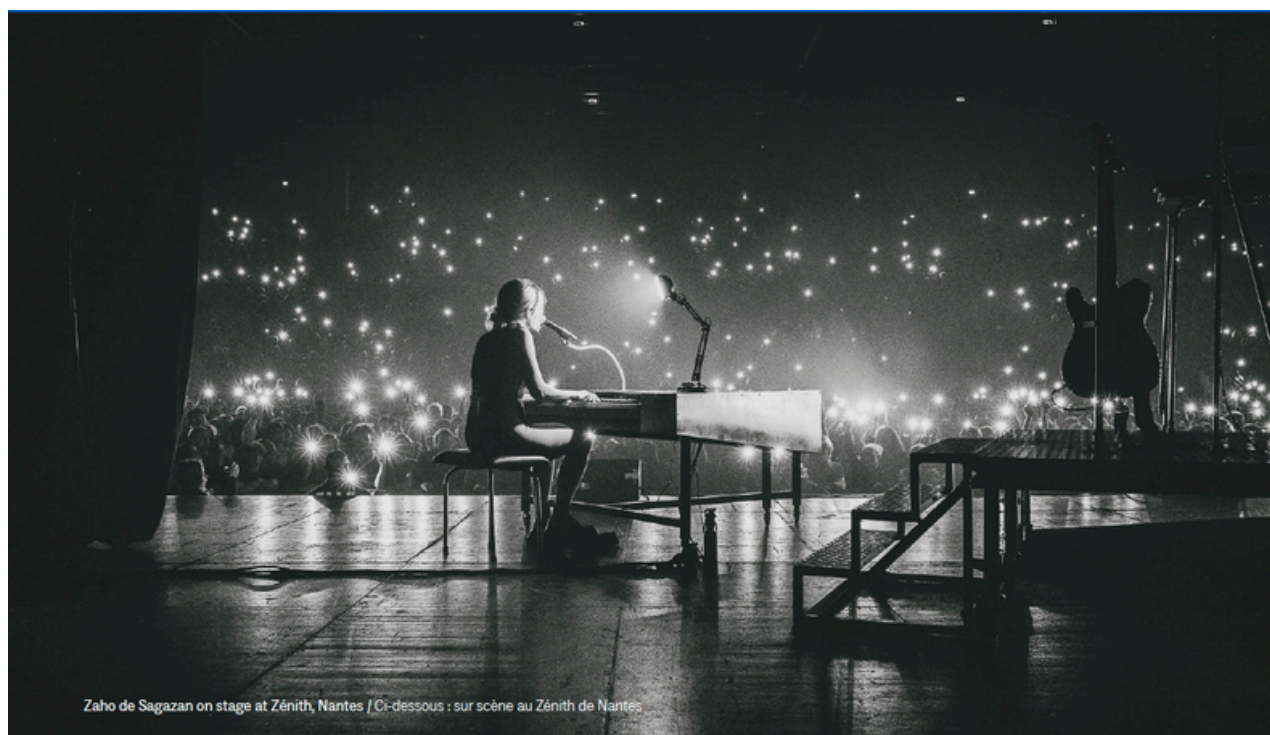
La moitié de mes chansons parlent de l'amour, et je n'ai toujours pas vécu l'amour. C'est une histoire de compassion, d'être capable de se mettre à la place de l'autre, et de s'informer. Charles Aznavour et Jacques Brel l'ont fait bien avant moi. S'autoriser seulement à parler de ce qu'on a vraiment vécu, ce serait terriblement triste.

**Tu voyages sans cesse depuis un an. Est-ce que tu écris en tournée ?**

J'ai une vie qui m'amène à rencontrer un tas de gens et de croiser pleins de regards. C'est l'inverse de l'égoïsme. Il y a différentes phases à la création : pour l'instant, c'est la phase d'inspiration, où j'aspire ce qu'on me donne, et après ça va être l'inverse, la phase d'expiration.

**Te sens-tu libre ?**

Oui, parce que j'ai la chance de l'être. J'ai monté ma boîte avec ma meilleure copine qui est ma manager, et mine de rien, on contrôle tout. On est complètement indépendantes et complètement libres. Je fais les chansons que je veux à la longueur que je veux.



Zaho de Sagazan on stage at Zénith, Nantes / Ci-dessous : sur scène au Zénith de Nantes

**What's the most important part of your work?**

Making people and my team happy. But there's still something I need to work on: myself and my relationship with myself. How busy everything is doesn't really help in that sense. I still have a few things to sort out.

**What does this tour mean to you?**

Earlier we mentioned freedom: I feel most free when I'm on stage. It brings out a side to me that I don't let through in everyday life: someone who's completely free and dances like a loon, like nobody's watching.

**What do you always take on the road with you?**

I'm not all that attached to things, truth be told. But I do wear perfume. It sounds a bit bourgeois maybe, but smelling a familiar scent right before I go to sleep makes me feel like I'm home.

**Which gig are you most looking forward to this autumn?**

Berlin! I can't wait. But, ultimately, I'm looking forward to it all. We're touring 15 Zénith venues back to back.

**Are you taking any holiday in between?**

Three weeks in September. I'm going hiking, and I'd love to do some WWOOFing [work experience on farms] with my best mate. Zaho de Sagazan will be in Cologne (17/10), Marseille (15/11 and 16/11), and Lille (23/11)

**« Je mixe la chanson française et l'électro. Danser et pleurer en même temps ça fait du bien ! »**



**Qu'est ce qui est important pour toi dans ton travail ?**

Rendre heureux les gens et mon équipe... Mais j'ai encore un sujet à traiter, et c'est moi : mon rapport à moi. Tout ce qui se passe ne m'aide pas tant à régler ça. J'ai encore quelques trucs à gérer...

**Que représente cette tournée pour toi ?**

On parlait de liberté ? Là où je me sens le plus libre c'est sur scène. Ça réveille en moi une Zaho à qui je ne permets pas d'exister dans la vie en général. Cette Zaho-là est complètement libre et danse de manière un peu chelou !

**Qu'emmènes-tu toujours avec toi ?**

Je ne suis pas très matérialiste en vrai, mais je mets du parfum. Ça fait un peu bourgeois, mais retrouver une odeur que je connais, avant de me coucher, ça me fait sentir un peu chez moi.

**Quel concert attends-tu avec le plus d'impatience ?**

Berlin j'ai trop hâte ! Mais en fait, j'ai hâte de tout. C'est la tournée des Zéniths et on va en faire quinze d'affilée !

**Des projets de vacances ?**

Oui, trois semaines en septembre ! Je vais aller faire de la rando, et j'aimerais faire du WWOOFing avec ma meilleure copine. Cet automne, retrouvez Zaho de Sagazan à Cologne (17/10), Marseille (15/11 et 16/11), et Lille (23/11)

WORDS: CAROLINE CEAUX. PHOTOGRAPHY: ARINO LAM, DAVID BOSCHET



# CLASH

"The world, it seems, it hers."

(september 30th, 2024)





# Zaho De Sagazan Announces New Album 'La symphonie des éclairs (Le dernier des voyages)'

French breakout star...

ROBIN MURRAY / NEWS / 30 · 09 · 2024

French star **Zaho de Sagazan** has confirmed plans for new album 'La symphonie des éclairs (Le dernier des voyages)'.

The singer is already a vital cultural icon in France – she sold out 116 shows globally last year, closed the Olympics, and opened the the Cannes Film Festival with a special rendition of David Bowie's '**Modern Love**', bringing jury president Greta Gerwig to tears.

The world, it seems, it hers.

New album 'La symphonie des éclairs (Le dernier des voyages)' **is aptly timed**, a 20-track epic that will be released on October 25th.

Bold new song 'Ô travers' is out now, and you can check it out below.

# WHYNOW

**"It's this very voice that sets her apart,  
cutting through with raw emotion."**

---

(september 30th, 2024)



## NEWS

# Zaho de Sagazan adds seven new tracks to her breakthrough album 'La symphonie des éclairs' and releases hypnotic single 'Ô Travers'.

French singer-songwriter Zaho de Sagazan is back with *La symphonie des éclairs (Le dernier des voyages)*, the expanded edition of her debut album, including seven new tracks. Listen to 'Ô Travers' today.

French singer-songwriter Zaho de Sagazan continues her rapid ascent with the announcement of *La symphonie des éclairs (Le dernier des voyages)*, an expanded edition of her critically acclaimed debut album *La symphonie des éclairs*.

Zaho's rise has been nothing short of spectacular. Her voice, which she once felt self-conscious about, has now become her defining feature. "It made me self-conscious because many things about me were the opposite of the feminine and I couldn't hide my voice," she admits. But it's this very voice that sets her apart, cutting through with raw emotion.



**RADIO**

(Start at 2 hours 03)



Cerys Matthews

A Joyous Exploration with Zaho de Sagazan and Céline Dessberg

6

2:02:43

2:59:50

1x

Cerys curates an eclectic Sunday morning playlist filled with her new discoveries and unearthed classics from around the globe. Cerys chats to French singer-songwriter Zaho de Sagazan and about her musical influences. Zaho released her debut album *La Symphonie des éclairs* in 2023, she performed at the opening of the Cannes Film Festival 2024 and at the 2024 Olympics closing ceremony in Paris with a rendition of an Edith Piaf song. She also catches up with singer, songwriter, and harpist of mixed French and Mongolian heritage, Céline Dessberg about her latest music.

Tracklist

21

Ags Connolly

Men Like Me Can Fly

...

22

Wildforms

Nightingale

23

Josephine Illingworth

Dawn, Aurora

24

The Delines

Maureen's Gone Missing

...

25

Orlando Weeks

Dig (feat. Rhian Teasdale)

...

26

Γιώργος Κατσαρός

To Kaimeno to Gaidouraki

...

27

Zaho de Sagazan

La symphonie des éclairs

...

28

Michel Legrand & Jacques Demy

Amour, amour

...

29

Jacques Brel

Au suivant


...

30

Stromae

Te Quiero

...



Zaho de Sagazan

Ô travers

...

32

Ezra Collective

Body Language (feat. Sasha Keable)

...

Previous

Next



# BBC 2 - JO WHILEY

"She is so special"

(Feb 24th, 2025)

(Start at 42min20)



Jo catches up with Zaho de Sagazan ahead of her live dates in the UK, with Zaho curating some of her favourite music and chatting about her award-winning debut album *La Symphonie des éclairs*. Since releasing *La Symphonie des éclairs*, Zaho de Sagazan has become one of the hottest new artists in France, performing at Cannes film festival and at the Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony. As she embarks on a UK tour, Jo catches up with her in the studio."

Tracklist			◀ Previous   Next ▶	
1	Sam Fender	Remember My Name	...	
2	Goldfrapp	Strict Machine	...	
3	Bon Iver	Everything Is Peaceful Love	...	
4	Ezra Collective	Body Language (feat. Sasha Keable)	...	
5	The Streets	Has It Come To This?	...	
6	Fontaines D.C.	It's Amazing To Be Young	...	
7	Nina Nesbitt	Crooked Teeth	...	
8	Roberta Flack	The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face	...	
9	Jordan Rakei	Talk Talk Talk	...	
10	Zaho de Sagazan & Tom Odell	Old Friend	...	
11	Marie Davidson	Work It (Soulwax Remix) (Cleaner Edit)	...	
12	Zaho de Sagazan	La symphonie des éclairs	...	

(Nov 4tht, 2024)

(Start at 36min58)



**Jo Whiley** : "Those voices together are just perfection. Tom Odell and Zaho de Sagazan. The song is called *Old Friend*. So the story is, well, Tom joined her on stage. She did one show last month, which was a huge phenomenon. Lots of people talked about it. But they met in 2023. Tom messaged her on Instagram after seeing her show. So became a really big fan of hers, but she was also a really big fan of his. And this song is the result. She described it as my dream song and collaboration. I wrote on Instagram about it. This is a declaration of friendship for those companions in life, friends, singers, writers, philosophers, the ones we turn to when we're alone, the ones who share our lives, sometimes without even knowing it. Thank you, old friend Tom, for everything you've brought into my life for the past 10 years. Never could little Zaho have imagined having a song this beautiful, written and sung with her idol on her first album. I am filled with love and happiness. What a love affair that is. Zaho de Sagazan featuring Tom Odell and the song is called *Old Friend*."

Tracklist

◀ Previous | Next ▶

1	The Wombats Sorry Im Late, I Didnt Want To Come	...	5	Pharrell Williams Frontin' (feat. JAY-Z)	...	9	Blur Barbaric	...
2	Tori Amos Cornflake Girl	...	6	The Cure A Fragile Thing (Radio 2 In Concert, 31 Oc...	...	10	Cleo Sol Fear When You Fly	...
3	Paul Weller That's What She Said	...	7	Primal Scream Higher Than The Sun	...	11	Cymande Bra	...
4	Sharon Van Etten & The Attachmen... Afterlife	...	8	Zaho de Sagazan & Tom Odell Old Friend	...	12	The Dare All Night	...



# BBC 2 - JO WHILEY

"Gorgeous"

(Nov 4tht, 2024)

(Start at 9min20)

3 Zaho de Sagazan  
La symphonie des éclairs

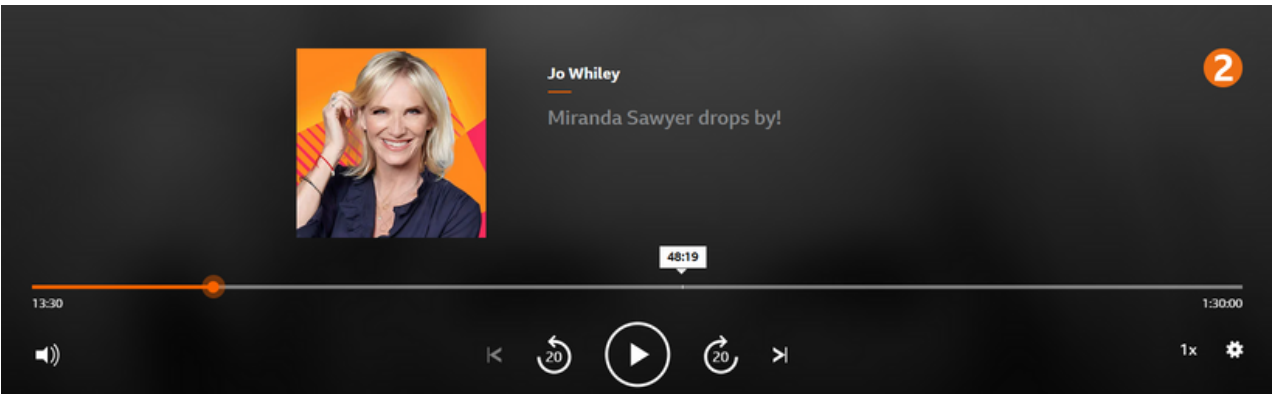


# BBC 2 - JO WHILEY

"We're obsessed"

(october 30th, 2024)

(Start at 13min35)



**Jo Whiley** : "She's the infatuation for this week. We played it last night unveiled the artist more than anything because we're completely obsessed. It is a fair word I think. She's called Zaho de Sagazin and this song is called Dis-moi que tu m'aimes. Tell me you love me.  
(song is played)

We're so taken. Phenomenal. That is Zaho de Sagazam, and the song is called De Moi a Que Tu Meme, and that is from an album which is out now. It's called La Symphonie des Eclairs. I hope you're impressed by my polite language skills. Not! There is an extended edition out now with a few new tracks, and that came out last Friday, so you can get a hold of it

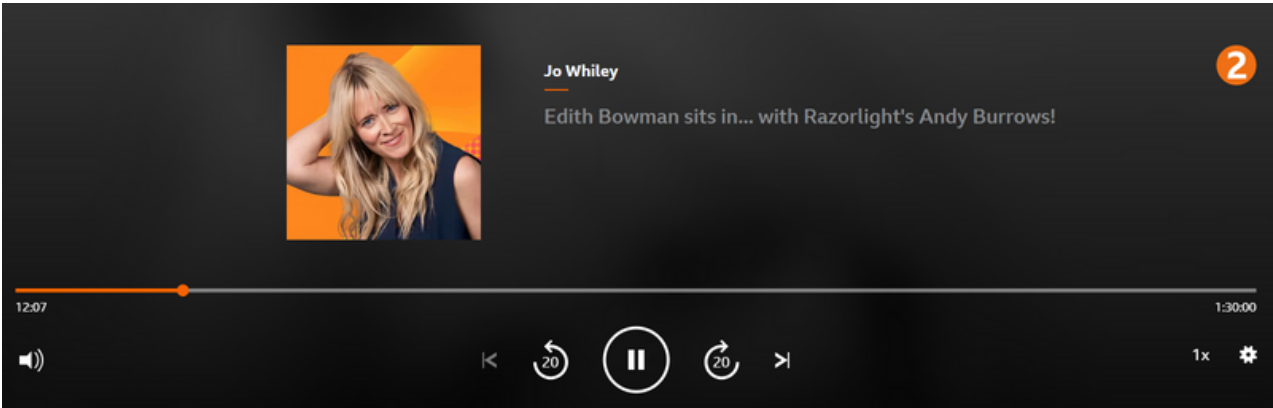
Tracklist

◀ Previous

Next ▶

1	Gracie Abrams us. (feat. Taylor Swift)	...	5	The Lathums Struggle	...	9	Saint Etienne Only Love Can Break Your Heart	...
2	Young Fathers Rice	...	6	FKA twigs Perfect Stranger	...	10	Elastica Connection	...
3	Laura Mvula I Know What I Know	...	7	Primal Scream Movin' On Up	...	11	Garbage Only Happy When It Rains	...
4	Zaho de Sagazan Dis-moi que tu m'aimes	...	8	Pulp Common People	...	12	Underworld Born Slippy	...

(Start at 12min55)



**Jo Whiley** : "This week's Infatuation, I'm so excited about this because I have been obsessed with this lady for a while. Zaho de Sagazan. If you heard me on Jool's show, maybe the last two times you'll have heard me wanging on about her like so much. **She's this brilliant French artist.** In fact, I was going to go and see her tonight. She's playing. She's on a little UK tour, but I'm here with you guys instead and I get to play it on the radio, which is almost as good. I did get to see her in the summer at a festival, so I've had my life fixed. She's this brilliant French singer-songwriter and I came across her because I was at the Cannes Film Festival and saw her do this brilliant thing where she came into the Palais, which is this beautiful, lush theatre where all the premieres happen. She did a version of *Modern Love* by Bowie to the Jury, which also included Greta Gerwig. It's a song that's very close to Greta's heart because it featured quite heavily in one of her films, *Frances Ha*. And I was just, **who is this girl? She's phenomenal.** And then she popped up at the closing ceremony of the Olympics. And then **I got into the album, *La symphonie des éclairs*, which is just brilliant.** I can't stop listening to it. And then when they asked me to come and cover Jo tonight, they're like, oh, by the way, Zaho's infatuation this week. I was like, yes! Living my best life. So from the album, which is, there's a deluxe edition, which has just come out now and it's got some new tracks on it as well. But I'm going to play you this because I just think she's an artist who can kind of really throw her weight behind so many different types of songs, be they kind of ballads. And this is a kind of almost like a rave track that's on the album as well. If you haven't heard it before, she's called Zaho de Sagazan. The album is called *La symphonie des éclairs*. And from it, this is *Tristesse*. And thank you for letting me play this again.

Tracklist

1	Confidence Man SO TRU	...	5	Bruce Springsteen Ghosts	...	9	HotWax She's Got A Problem	...
2	Razorlight America	...	6	Charli xcx Mean girls (feat. Julian Casablancas)	...	10	The Maccabees Love You Better	...
3	Nia Smith Little Red Car	...	7	Declan McKenna That's Life	...	11	Razorlight Dirty Luck	...
4	Zaho de Sagazan Tristesse	...	8	Kate Bush Running Up That Hill (A Deal With God)	...	12	KT Tunstall Black Horse and the Cherry Tree	...

(Start at 5min21)



**Jo Whiley :** “We have a brand new infatuation to unveil and it's from an artist **I've been raving about quite a lot on the show** I think, played it last night. Zaho de Sagazan is the artist I'm talking about and Zaho has left me a lovely message.

**Zaho :** Hi Jo, here is Zaho de Sagazan, thank you so much for making my album your infatuation this week. I'm very glad you like it. I look forward to meeting you one day soon but for now I will answer your question far away from you. My favorite dessert is lemon tart and three things of my bucket list are falling in love, flying as a bird, and having a remix of my track by soul wax because I love soul wax and I love remix. Thank you very much, and see you soon I hope.

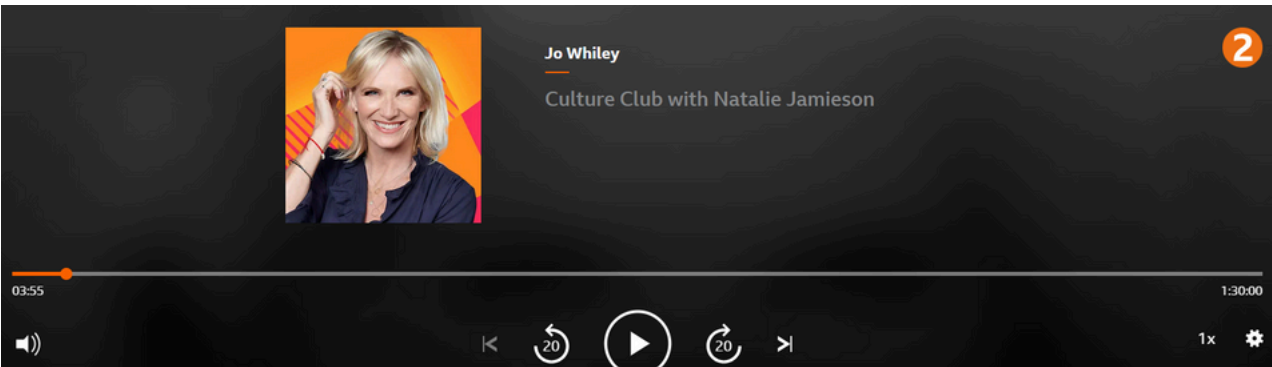
**Jo Whiley :** I'm gonna play that again because a she has the most incredible voice just to listen to and I want to hear the pronunciation of her name and also because I was bombarding it with music so you might not be able to hear very clearly and I think it's worth revisiting all over again so here we go one more time so this is the infatuation this week and this is the artist behind it

# BBC 2 - JO WHILEY

"We definitely have a crush on Zaho"

(october 21st, 2024)

(Start at 0'40)




**Jo Whiley :** “Sometimes you get crushes on particular artists. We definitely have one on Zaho, who I just played you now. *Ô travers* is the title of that song. The enunciation, I just love the way she sings. Really big deal in France, coming this way to doing one day, I think, which is this evening in London. So hopefully there'll be more coming. I would be more than happy to have her in session. But yeah, just sometimes artists come along and you just get completely and utterly obsessed.”

Tracklist				◀ Previous   Next ▶	
1	Zaho de Sagazan Ô travers	...	5	N'E'R'D Rock Star	...
			9	Dea Matrona Every Night I Want You	...




(Start at 22min57)



Jo Whiley

Movie critic James King reviews the latest releases

2



Released On: 15 Oct 2024 Available for 28 days

Jo chats to movie critic James King about the films that you won't want to miss. [Read more](#)

### Tracklist

1

Jack White

Archbishop Harold Holmes

...

5

Corinne Bailey Rae

Teardrop (Sofa Session, 17 Jan 2024)

...

9

Gigi Perez

Sailor Song

...

2

The Cure

Just Like Heaven

...

6

Zaho de Sagazan

Ô travers

...

10

The Psychedelic Furs

Love My Way

...

Previous

Next

**Jo Whiley** : "We're in love, we're smitten, we're listening to Zaho de Sagazan the song is called *Ô travers*. She's a new artist from France, as we say new, new to us. She has just become the first artist to win four French Music Awards, which are the French equivalent to the Brits. So she got "Album of the Year", "Best Original Song", "Best Female Newcomer", "Best Newcomer Live Act", really big deal over there. Performed at the Olympics closing ceremony as well. Just doing one date in the UK at the moment and that is at the Kentish Town Forum on Monday, the 21st of October, which is very, very soon. So we'll play that lots because it's great. Zaho de Sagazan and the song is called *Ô travers*."

**TV**

**WEB**



(at 18min55)

[ABOUT US](#)
[LISTEN LIVE](#)

MONOCLE

[ACCOUNT](#)
[GBP](#)

[Subscribe](#)
[Shop](#)
[Radio](#)
[Film](#)
[Magazine](#)
[Travel](#)
[Events](#)
[More](#)

[Schedule](#)
[Shows](#)
[Topics](#)
[About](#)

Your host  
Robert Bound

Monocle on Culture  
A global digest of music, art, film and media.

Next premiere  
Monday 4 November at 20:00 UK time

**MONOCLE ON CULTURE**  
**d French pop star Zaho de Sagazan**

**28 October 2024**  
Episode 681  
27 minutes

We head to Rome to find out about a new film dedicated to the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s before visiting one of the world's largest contemporary art foundries in Walla Walla. Plus: an interview with French pop star Zaho de Sagazan.

Photo: Ben Lindbloom

[Share episode](#)

[Download](#)

[All episodes](#)

[View schedule](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Subscribe to the show](#)