EESTIVAL GUIDE

INTERVIEWS KABAKA PYRAMID MISTA SAVONA EARTHKRY CHAINSKA BRASSIKA SAMORY I RORY STONELOVE ZIGGY MARLEY CHRONIXX

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EDITORIAL



Every year, that first day you can leave your house without a jacket on heralds the coming of summer. And every summer, that **Festiville Magazine** heralds the coming of a season filled with music, sun and magic! To make sure you are well equipped for *Survival* on your quest for the *Black Gold*, here are 178 pages of words, images and powers to reverse your *Chronology*, travel from *Havana to Kingston* or let your *Contraband* thrive.

The informed ones among you have of course noticed that we hid some album titles here, and apart from taking a glimpse at the goodness coming your way by the likes of **EarthKry, Samory I, Chronixx, Mista Savona** and **Kabaka Pyramid**, we prised some interesting facts about life, the universe and all the rest out of these and other artists in the interview section.

And yeees, of course we'll have a look at the festivals, too - a comprehensive one! Next to the usual when, where and who of 100+ Reggae Music Celebrations around the globe, we congratulate the **Reggae Sumfest** to its 25th edition with photographic impressions from way back in 2006. Looking back is what **Ziggy Marley** does as well, sharing his thoughts and feelings about the 40th anniversary of his Dad's album **"Exodus"** with us and discussing the release of its **2017** version. We add to that and present you with a chapter of the soon-to-be-released book **"So Much Things To Say: The Oral History of Bob Marley"**.

Make sure you visit **REGGAEVILLE.com** on a regular basis to get the hottest news, updates and even more festivals, as well as reports from the festivals you couldn't visit yourself. That's what we are here for, that's what we love!

Maad Sick Reggaeville









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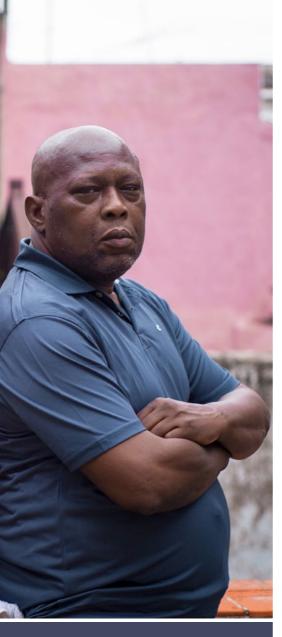
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INTERVIEW

MISTA SAUDNA

MELBOURNE MEETS HAVANA MEETS KINGSTON



FALLING INTO PLACE

BY GARDY STEIN-KANJORA PHOTOS BY LARA MERRINGTON

Listening to the press-pre-release of **Havana Meets Kingston** left me awestruck. What an amazing, unique, breath-taking project! The more I dig into the man behind the scenes, the more impressed I become. It is thus with utmost respect and reverence that I reach out to **Jake "Mista" Savon**a on a mild spring afternoon. In casual caps and sweater, the genius who just returned to Australia from Japan patiently answers *Reggaeville*'s questions about the album and its artists and grants us priceless insights into the making-of-process:

Mista Savona! It's a pleasure to meet you. Please introduce yourself first, to those who might not know you yet.

My name is Jake Savona, I'm a keyboardplayer predominantly. I grew up in Melbourne, Australia, and in my teenage years I played a lot of classical piano, got into jazz and blues, then I discovered hip hop and reggae music, of course. I started making beats and getting into music production in my late teens, dropped a few albums, and in 2004 I went to Jamaica for the first time because I realised I need to go vard to really experience the music and the culture properly and see it first-hand. You see, in Australia we are very far away from the Caribbean and it's a small reggae scene here. That trip was very educational and I just kept going back, and eventually for this project I went to Cuba for the first time and that was where the seed was planted for this album.

Before we turn to the present album, there was another one called Melbourne Meets Kingston. Was the idea for this born from your first trip to Jamaica?



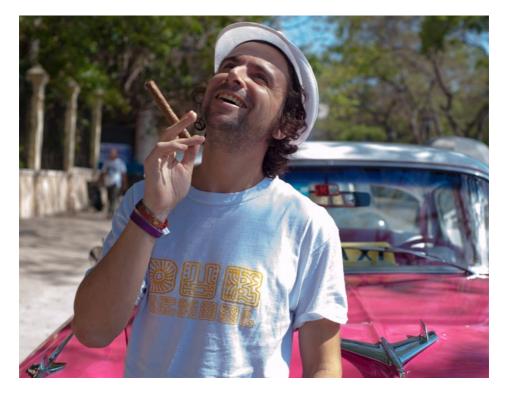
Exactly! In 2004, I went with some beats and without really any idea how it all worked in Jamaica but a good friend of mine, Jesse, he introduced me to a lot of artists and we ended up working in a studio in Negril and recorded maybe 30 tracks or so, and 21 of those made it onto Melbourne meets Kingston. The reason for this name was that a lot of rhythms were made with my Australian band or I made them in a studio in Australia and then I took them to Jamaica to work with the artists and that was the first time that it happened. Melbourne is a great city, so it seemed like a good name for the album.

Turning to Cuba now, what made you go there? Did you have any contacts there?

Well, a good friend of mine went to Cuba in 2011, and when I saw her photos online I just thought "Wow this place looks amazing!" I promised myself, the next time I go to Jamaica, I will check out Cuba, and sure enough I did! I went to Jamaica in 2013 and did a 10 day trip to Cuba. And really, the project was born sitting in a Café in one of my favourite spots in Havana, and they had this CD on, playing Santeria, some traditional Cuban percussion and chanting. I just could hear how well that would potentially mix with Nyabinghi or Jamaican styles, and I started to wonder if someone had ever done that. So when I got back to Australia I did a bit of research and I realised that the kind of music I was hearing in my head actually hadn't been done before, so it just set the wheels in motion.

From that step, how did you get the finances together? I imagine you had to bring a lot of musicians from Jamaica to Cuba because most of the recordings was done there? Yes. We did some online fundraising, we did

a Kickstarter, and I have to also thank the Australian Council which is the arts branch of the Australian Government because I did a grant application explaining that I had this idea and they loved the project and were supportive, and with the help of friends and borrowing some money and my savings, it happened! I made it happen because it needed to happen (laughs). It's been a huge budget enterprise, certainly the biggest I've ever been involved in.



But it's so worth it! Another thing that amazed me is the amount of artists you brought together, not only singers and vocalists, but also musicians. How did you reach out to all of them?

I just have a real love for the music. I love reggae, so I researched the music and I know the artists and whenever I reached vard I would ask "What about this artist, what about that singer? What's he or she doing now?" So eventually I met a lot of the people I really wanted to meet. The Sly and **Robbie** story is really interesting. I have Bongo Herman to thank for that. I think it was that same trip in 2013, I was going to Jamaica without a plan to actually do any recordings, it was more for promotion. But I bumped into **Bongo** and he was like "Let's go to Tuff Gong tonight, I will call Sly and Robbie, let's see if they wanna do a session!" **Robbie** was in America and couldn't come. but I met Sly that night and I am a piano

player, so we ended up doing a session, and when I got the funding for the project, I called **Sly** and he said yes, and **Robbie** called me up from Florida and we had a quick chat and... it just all fell into place!

And with Cuba, I know a very good Chilean percussionist Javier Fredes who he introduced me to his teacher who is a very respected high priest and percussionist. He just opened doors for us, basically, and got so many of these wonderful musicians together. Egrem Studio originally was booked out, there was no chance we could go in, and then through him, the doors opened and we could work there. I had a lot of assistance from great people along the way, so I have to pay my respects, I couldn't have done it all by myself. You know, the stars aligned and everyone was available at the same time and I flew the Jamaicans into Cuba and we did a ten days recording session at Egrem, it was magnificent!



Do you think there were any lasting connections made between the Jamaican and the Cuban musicians?

Well, for sure, because... although there is the language barrier, there was a lot of magic in those initial sessions, and halfway through **Robbie** said *"So, when are we taking this on tour?"* That again was another thing I wasn't expecting. I had in my mind maybe after we recorded the album we could do something, but suddenly it was like *"Wow, infinite potential"*, we were looking at international touring with this whole band taking this show on the road! And trust me, if we can pull this off, it will be one of the best bands in the world for sure! These guys are on another level... In the studio, the Jamaicans played their best to impress the Cubans and the Cubans played their best to impress the Jamaicans, so that's what I can hear on the record because the vibes are just so good. I mean, the vibes were so good.

Yes, I bet! Also, there is a very strong focus on veteran artists. Was it important for you to put a spotlight on them?

SEAN PAUL THE VIERONICS MESAJAH. MANUDIGITAL DEADLY HUNTA SOLO BANTON YAADCORE SOUL STEREO ECHO MINNOT REKALL & BASSRUNNER MIKKIM & DAVE TRUMPETEER MEGA M MC GEY SOLD MOVE FYAH SIS EBM & MANY MORE

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For sure! To have a project that calls itself ,Cuba meets Jamaica', I wanted it to be young and old, to be rootsy but also have a fresh sound. Tracks like *100 Pounds of Collie...* I thought, man this is an anthem, I want to get as many singers on this track as possible! And there are nine or ten singers on this song... It's the joy of collaboration, I wanted to bring in as many sounds and flavours and make it a celebration of the music of both islands. And to do that effectively, I needed to invite as many veterans and young artists as I could, to do the culture, the music and everything, justice.

I realised there are a lot of younger artists from Kingston of the Jah Ova Evil Camp, like Aza Lineage and I-Maali. I saw them perform at the Dub School last year and thought all this talent has to be seen, so I was very happy to find their names on the tracks. How did you link up with them? Again, through knowing **Kabaka** and **Supanova**, he puts on that particular night, the **Dub School**. It was just like you said, seeing them on the mic and liking the vibe. Also, I really wanted this album to also include some new talents as well as showcasing the legends, that's the whole spirit of the project. **France Nooks** is another one I heard at **Dub School** and I love his style, so he is on the track *Dubwise* and also featured on the **Lutan Fyah** tune *Heart Of A Lion*. He is a great talent.

Which younger talents did you discover in Cuba?

Brenda Navarrette, she is on *Heart Of A Lion* as well, but on album two she has a magnificent track, you will have to wait for that one (laughs). She's getting very well known in Cuba now but she is up and coming still. She is an incredible jazz singer, she can do soul and salsa really well and actually this





is the first project she's done that has this hip hop or urban edge, and she is so natural at it, in fact she shines, so I can't wait to work with her some more. **Solis**, he is on *Carnival* and does a wonderful version of *Candela* as well, he's not famous in Havana. He is in his late 40s and he's travelled a bit overseas, but he is certainly not a famous artist. His voice is so unique, so great... hopefully, for some of the Cuban singers this will be a great boost for their profiles.

From laying out the songs in your head, did you have certain artists in mind already who would sing on it or was it a process?

It's a good question! I think often I hear the rhythm or have an idea for the core, and you can hear straight away what artist would sound good on that. There were a few I was really hoping to get but we didn't, so hopefully on the next record I will get them. With **100 Pound Of Collie**, I knew I needed **Leroy Sibbles** on that song. Him and **Prince Alla** singing the chorus together is magic.

Another person I want to highlight is Rick Merecki, the director of the video for Carnival.

That's just another piece of art!

Rick is a really fantastic filmmaker in Melbourne I met through my friend **Lauren Beck**, who is working on the documentary with him. When we did the online fundraising, we included the fact that we want to bring a film crew. **Rick** obviously did an amazing job with the split screens and all. The scenes he captured in Cuba, he went to Jamaica to capture them as well, so he knew from the beginning what he wanted to do.

Did you encounter any difficulties along the way?

Actually, everything went miraculously smoothly, synchronistic. I was very lucky. In hindsight there could have been so many things that could have gone wrong, with the visas or permissions or whatever, a lot of things haven't happened before, it was a kind of experiment. But I had faith, we had faith, and it all fell into place. Probably later, when the introduction video to the project went viral, I started to realise how big this could be and felt responsible for representing Cuba well on the album and Jamaica also. What's been hard was being in the studio mixing the



record. Have I done the best for this song or the track? Am I bringing this project to its full potential? So, I had to do a lot of soulsearching and also take my time mixing. I should have possibly mixed this album in six months, but it took me almost a year and six months to get it right. But I think it's worth it, I took the time to get it right, so it's a special album and I'm hopeful that people will love it for many years to come.

Apart from music, you seem to be active in ecological issues and political stuff, judging from the things you post. Is there any initiative or organisation you're part of?

Yes for sure, there are some environmental groups in Australia that I support as a contributor, like **The Wilderness Society** and the **Australian Conservation Foundation**, but I think it's just common sense! We live on this amazing planet and as humans, we don't really look after each other or the planet. As a musician and someone that loves music and connecting with people, seeing the big picture of the world, it's just a natural thing. Before I was a full time musician, I used to work for a tree planting organisation, so that helped me appreciate nature even more. Yeah, it's something close to my heart, just to be aware of our responsibility on this planet.

A great perspective. And what is on your list next, music-wise?

As I said, I am now working on part two of Havana Meets Kingston. Actually, a lot of the tracks on the album have great versions and remixes coming as well, we will have the Riddim EPs and the Remix EPs and a Dub Album. Vinyl releases are planned as well, so lots for people to look forward to. There is also a documentary film that hopefully will be ready for the release of the second album. Also the live-show, we are looking at an extensive World tour from January to March next year, and then coming into Europe for the summer, hopefully. It's been a huge undertaking to bring this project to life, the costs have been immense, so people get out there, buy the vinyl, buy the CD, support the project and hopefully we'll see you in

MISTA SAVONA

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MISTA SAVONA PRESENTS HAVANA MEETS KINGSTON Baco Records - September 2017

Smiling people on sunlit streets playing football, skating, dancing... ever since I laid eyes and ears on the stunningly marvellous video *Carnival* featuring **Randy Valentine** and **Solis** in the alternating sceneries of Jamaica and Cuba, I was eagerly awaiting the release of the millennial album from which this single was born. Now, the



street date is set, and *Havana Meets Kingston* will be available from September 15th. And avail yourself of this piece of musical history you should!

In a truly global effort, Australian musician, producer and visionary Jake Dominic Savona aka Mista Savona invited Cuban and Jamaican veterans as well as accomplished artists and newcomers from both countries to join forces for an exchange of talent and ideas. The result is as unique as it is exemplary: thirteen tracks and three interludes enable the listener to travel through space and time, encountering legends such as Rolando Luna and Barbarito Torres from the Buena Vista Social Club or Cornel Campbell, Prince Alla and Leroy Sibbles from sweet JA, as well as discovering the awesome interweaving of sound created in the Egrem Studios in Havana with the likes of Sly & Robbie, Bopee Anderson, Ernest Ranglin, Bongo Herman, celebrated Cuban percussionist Changuito, Julito Padron (trumpet), David Suarez (sax) and Yaroldy Abreu (congas). "By bringing such gifted and established musicians into a unique recording situation, we intend to showcase the best of each island's musical heritage as well as encourage completely new fusions of style" says initiator Mista Savona, who successfully launched a similar project 10 years back called Melbourne Meets Kingston.

This time around, he dug deep into Kingston's vibrant treasure chest of promising artists. Next to the already established **Randy Valentine** in above mentioned *Carnival* (a perfect mix between two languages and styles), I was thrilled to read the names of a few talented youths I encountered in Kingston last year, hailing from the ever growing Jah Ova Evil family. I-Maali and France Nooks, for instance, rock *Heart Of A Lion* alongside Lutan Fyah and Cuban percussion-princess Brenda Navarrette. Or the combined female energies of Birdz-I and Aza Lineage, the latter an exceptional vocalist whose powerful delivery of *In The Ghetto* is one of the many highlights of the album. France Nooks is heard once again on *Dubwise*, educating us with Prince Alla on Jamai-

can history and reggae-related sessions of modern Kingston.

Other pieces take us deep into reggae roots: Row Fisherman Row sung by Prince Alla, Vibracion **Positivo**, a Marley-cover with the sweet voices of Mr. Valentine and Anyilena, and a wonderful take on 100 Pounds Of Collie with the original Cornel Campbell, Lerov Sibbles, Prince Alla and The Jewels as well as Exile Di Brave, Cali P and Lutan **Fyah**. Of course, their Cuban counterparts can't be left out. The famous Chan Chan heads the release, given a fresh coat of paint by Maikel Ante, Felix Baloy, Solis & Eugenio Rodriguez, followed by more Buena Vista hits like El Cuarto De Tula (featuring Turbulence and El Medico) and Candela. Another Cuban hymn originating from "la grande dame" Omara Portuondo, La Sitiera is taken up by the angelic voice of **Beatriz Marquez** and the swift fingers of pianist Rolando Luna. And, if you listen closely, you'll find the typical reggae-guitar-skank shimmering through.

Also shining are the instrumentals **410** San Miguel and Carnival Horns, the spirit of their creation almost palpable in the combined splendour of the skilled individual contributions. And this, actually, brings us to the core of Havana Meets Kingston's magic: the creative bond forged between artists of diverse social, cultural and generational backgrounds when they come together and do what they do best: music.

To close with the words of the album's French label **Baco Records**, this right here is *"a historical, intergenerational and intercultural exchange"*. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to them, **Mista Savona** and all the fabulous artists involved for thus enhancing our world! **by Garty Stein-Kanjora**

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INTERVIEW



EARTEKRY

SURVIVAL



GOOD WHOLESOME REGGAE MUSIC

BY GARDY STEIN-KANJORA Photos by Ayaz Ahmad

EarthKry. A name that conjures up images of Greenpeace-activists, eco-warriors and songs of nature in my mind's eye. When I met the band in Kingston though, I learned that I was quite mistaken. As much as they care for Mother Earth, it is more her children that Keiran Cunningham (drums), Kamardo Blake (bass), Phillip McFarlane (keys) and Aldayne Haughton (guitar, vocals) are concerned about. The newcomers answered many an inquisitive Reggaeville question, and the unconventional paths they follow to live their passion are a true inspiration:

Tell us first about your name. How did you come up with EarthKry? Do you have a special connection to ecological issues, organic farming, stuff like that? (laughter)

Kamardo: We all come from communities where people don't have a voice, and face struggles every day. When you listen to our music, you'll realise that we talk from experience about these struggles. Basically, EarthKry stands for the voice of the people, of downtrodden people, you understand, we are there at the grassroots level and hear their cry. We didn't focus on ecology so far, but we realise that's part of it too, so the name worked out for the best.

How did you all meet and come together as a band?

Kamardo: EarthKry was starting about six years ago at *Edna Manley College*. At the time we just started to play music for fun until we realised we could do it seriously and we wanted to also bring out a message, a certain vibration which we didn't see at the time. So, we started and some of the guys who were in the band graded and left, so the final unit we are playing with now has been together three years. The journey has been one ride until this point, so we give thanks.

Phillip: Back then, we saw bands like **Raging Fyah**, **C-Sharp** and a couple of others taking off, and we thought "*Why not us, we can do it too!*" You know, we had the ability and the material and the talent, so we just started.

Who helped you on the journey? I read that Ibo Cooper was your mentor.

Kamardo: He used to teach us in college, yes. But we also have to give thanks to Nambo Robinson, Derrick Stewart and Maurice Gordon. When we left *Edna Manley College*, it was Nambo who took us to "Reggae College" to go back to our roots. You see, in *Edna Manley* you learn a lot about jazz and classical and R'n'B, but there wasn't any in-depth eggae education until we started working with Nambo. That's how we started to focus on the feel and sound of reggae.

And after you formed the band, what were the steps that took you to the point where you are now?

Phillip: We couldn't get too many shows at first. There was Red Bones, we had a number of shows there, or with other bands who put up shows and who invited us to do two or three songs. But during the shows we did, there were a lot of things we realised we have to improve on, harmonies, chemistry... work to do! So we took time off and rehearsed a lot, in a little room down by Crossroads. So we just rehearsed and people asked "Why are you guys always rehearsing and not doing any shows?" But we had a plan, and when we felt we were ready, our manager Tara came up with the idea for us to do a tour, an island tour called Hard Work Tour, based on our EP, on the lead song. So we said alright, knocked heads together, came up with a plan, contacted some venues and advertised a show and asked people to come out. The journey started in Kingston, Mobay ...



Kamardo: Mobay, Meritones, Jamnesia, Nanook... And the Capture Land Tour was a part of it, with Chronixx. He came up to us at a show with Kelissa and said "Hey you guys, do you wanna come on the Capture Land Tour?" And we were like "Really?" So, after the December leg we got on Rebel Salute which was a big exposure for us. And then we've just been keeping up the attention until you guys come and interview us... (laughs)



Phillip: It's funny! When we started the tour, after the first set which was in October, a lot of people heard about **EarthKry**. Then we released the music video right after - more attention. The EP was out same time, and soon after we released the documentary about the **Hard Road Tour**, just to get to know the band and see the fun side of us. Also, the **World Reggae Contest** 2015 helped. It really was an interesting experience because you had bands from all over the world entering,

telling people to go on the website, and each person would see **EarthKry**, especially when we made it to the Top 10. People wanted to know "*Who are these guys?*" It was a great exposure, because out of Jamaica, nobody knew us before that, so it was good.

Aldayne: We then did a tour through the US in 2016, through 12 or 13 states; we covered new ground and made some good impressions there. From this experience, we got



inspirations for some of the songs you hear on our new album. We started to work on that after we got back from the tour.

What is it called?

Aldayne: The title is *Survival*. It's about surviving in the different types of system all over the world. Tracks like *Liberation Time*, *Philosophy*, *New Leaf*... we are immensely proud of this work, considering that this is our original stuff. The work we have done, the tracks are fire, it's such an upgrade from the stuff we have done on the EP! I think that every project you do as a recording artist should be next level, showing how much you've grown from the last. *Survival* is expected to be crazy intense and we are already very much in love with all the tracks on it.

How is the song-writing anyway? I imagine in a band it's different from solo artists. Does everybody contribute or does one do the lyrics, the others the music?

Phillip: Well, I write some of the songs, and

when I have a basic idea, I bring it to rehearsal and the guys say "*Alright, put in this or drop that, try a different feel!*" Mostly the writing is between me and **Aldayne**, but the music itself is basically a collective effort.

Your lyrics and the messages you transport are very people-oriented. Last year. Jamaica voted in a new government - do you expect anything to change, to have a positive outcome for the communities? What do you see as the most pressing issues at the moment? Phillip: I think there is an expectation among the youths of the country, especially since the new prime minister seems to be a people's person. Here are some of the things I imagine are essential: first, you can't grow in an environment where crime is so dominant, so I think we have to topple that. The other thing is, the youths ... so many graduate from college and hold a degree, but there are not enough jobs, no opportunities. And even if they get a job, they are underpaid. So what happens now, these intelligent minds are



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As musicians now... I mean, you see the potential of reggae music, but I think we in Jamaica, the whole professionalism and approach especially from the government side is missing. I mean, it's one thing to blame the artists, but the government has to be willing to make things happen, too. You don't have a venue in Jamaica that is built for live shows, there is no indoor venue built for that. We

FYAH

either use a stadium or an indoor shopping centre and so forth, but the acoustics are not good because it is not built for live shows! We have a lot of things to work on. There is no quick fix to the problems, because we can't give an easy solution, a definitive solution, so there are a lot of things to work on. As I said, our biggest problem, my biggest problem, is crime and lack of opportunities. Transparency too, we need transparency in the government like how other countries are being run, because we hear one thing and we don't see it happen.

What you said about the elders, do you think that artists, musicians like you, are in a position to support projects for the elderly people?

Kamardo: Yeah man, definitely in the communities! For the youth also, the power of the people is really a reflection of the mindset. Someone asked me one time what we can give back to the communities.What

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we can do is go back to the communities and teach an instrument and if a youth can take up an instrument instead of a gun, it's a win-win situation. Same for the elderly. We probably don't have the finances to improve that infrastructure, but we can influence our so-called MPs and the government and also the private sector. We should pay attention to these details. That's why **EarthKry** is very important to reggae music today, to make the people aware of the power they have!

Definitely! To keep doing that, you have chosen a very unusual path. You went to Qatar for a few months to play there, right? How did this project come about?

Aldayne: There is a show coordinator we knew who used to run this programme at the Jon Canoo Lounge at the Hilton Hotel, and he is responsible for the **Reggae on the** Beach scene on the other side of the world, they have shows in Dubai and Qatar. Now, the Qatar branch, which is based on the properties of the St. Regis Hotel, was looking for a new band. They went on the internet, did some research and found us! They listened to our stuff and liked what they saw, and then they contacted us on Facebook and said "We are interested to bring you over here!" We exchanged details and the rest is history. In February 2017 we went over there for three months and played gigs every weekend.

Phillip: Which was a good practise for us as well!

What is the reaction to your music from the people in Jamaica compared to those in Qatar? How is the reggae scene over there? Phillip: Well, it has been great over here. People in Jamaica love our music, especially songs like *Hard Work* and *9 To 5*, because they can relate to it.

Keiran: It's because our songs, even though they are... you could say simple, but in a positive way. They have a strong message and people gravitate towards it. It's catchy, easy to sing along with.



Kamardo: And the sound too, you know. The sound that we have, a lot of people say "*Yeah man, this is the authentic sound feeling!*" I understand what they are saying, and we have to give thanks to everybody who is supporting us, locally and overseas.

Aldayne: As far as Oatar is concerned, I had no idea that there is a fan base for reggae music on that side of the world! I mean, it's the Middle East, a lot of these people don't even know where Jamaica is located on a map. But, surprisingly, they love reggae music, they love our performances. I met people who can sing reggae, and I'm not talking about our tracks. There are people who know old school **Gregory Isaacs**, old school **Bob** Marley, everything you can think of, they know it word for word. I mean, we perform a few cover songs along with our original stuff, and I watched these people sing! I never expected that, the reception was wonderful. For Dancehall as well, they brought Beenie **Man** over there and we opened for him, and he has a huge following. I also realised that it is so big because a lot of people in Qatar are only working there, they come from other countries. A lot are African and you know they love reggae music, and Jamaicans are there as well, and Jamaicans will always come for a taste of home (laughs). So, you have the Jamaicans and the Africans and then you have the Indians which surprised me as well. Since we were in Qatar, I realised that reggae

music is a universal thing because the fan base there is from all over the world. They enjoyed our performances, sometimes we did like 7 hours a day!

What about Europe? Will we be able to enjoy your performances as well?

Phillip: We are playing at **Reggae Jam** in July and at **Reggae Geel** in August, but we are trying to get some more shows too. We will be there!

Aldayne: At the end of the day, we just want to get good wholesome reggae music out to the rest of the world, both in lyrics and in musicality. Watch out for the album, watch out for us!

Thank you – we will!

EARTHKRY



EARTHKRY – SURVIVAL EarthKry Music - June 30th 2017

Their debut album is here! While, a few years ago, hardly anyone knew the new Kingston formation called **EarthKry**, today they have built up a small but stable following which is constantly growing and, especially after playing three months in Qatar, not confined to Jamaica anymore. With **Survival**, they both demonst-

rate their willingness and ability to deliver professionally, and their uncompromising dedication to Roots Reggae Music. As much as the Edna Manley College is their reason for being, having met and studied there, they credit their artistic development to the sadly deceased **Nambo Robinson**, who took them to "Reggae College" and helped the young band to *"focus on the feel and sound of reggae"*, as they themselves put it.

And is there any better way to let his input live on for future generations than in the form of an album? *Survival* is one of these rare releases that take your breath away from the first time you press Play and then grows with every new round of listening, so much so that I can't decide which of the twelve tracks is my personal favourite. At first hearing, I thought *New Leaf* would be it, with a horn section that makes you melt away (played by **Sheldon Palmer, Everton Pessoa, Kenroy Banfield** and **Hopeton Williams**), let alone the lyrics that singer **Aldayne Haughton** skilfully drapes over the melodic instrumental. After hearing the tracks all over again, *Keep Dreaming* has crept up and



taken deep root in my heart as well – oh this soulful piano, oh that sweet vocal to sing along to! Or maybe it is *Liberation Time* with its underlining Nyabinghi beat (*"Like an eagle* on the mountain we will rise..."), or *Live Good*, in which we are reminded to do just that as long as we can. Or else the hopeful *Table Turn*, in

which drummer **Keiron Cunningham** and bassie **Kamardo Blake** not only play their instruments fantastically, but also sing the backing vocals.

The title track is dedicated to everyone struggling for survival, especially in countries where war is still blatantly raging. Sad enough, the list of these enumerated in the song is quite long, but before we can despair, *Philosophy* is there to soothe us. *Move On*, an uplifting piece that tells us to face our obstacles and keep going no matter what, picks up the beautiful chords of **Marley**'s *Sun Is Shining. "The man that moves a mountain starts with the smallest stone.*" Meaningful are these words, reassuring and full of teachings.

The recording studios **Tads**, **Harry J** and **Irie Yute** as well as Keyboarder **Philip McFarlane**, who did the mixing, did a great job of bringing the almost **Wailers**-like feel of the band across.

You will relish this one, promise. *Survival* is an album destined for high rotation and soul healing!

by Gardy Stein-Kanjora

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW

So Much Things to Say The-Oral History of Bob Marley

ROGER STEFFENS

Introduction by LINTON KWESI JOHNSON

SO MUCH THINGS TO SAY! CHAPTER 32: UPRISING

PHOTOS BY ROGER STEFFENS

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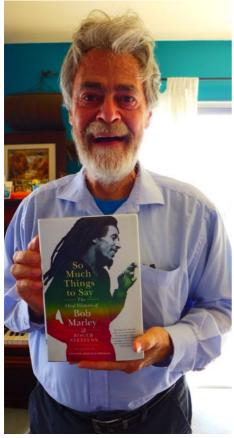
ROGER STEFFENS: Bob's Zimbabwe experience interrupted the work he had been doing since early 1980 for what would be his final album, the melancholy Uprising. It was filled with intimations of mortality, with songs like "Coming In From The Cold," "Real Situation" ("seems like total destruction the only solution"), "We And Dem" ("we no know how we and dem a go work things out." which some heard as a reference to the cancer cells coursing through his body), "Zion Train"-headed his way to take him to Zion, and "Work," in which he counts off his final days. The album's emotional closer remains one of his best-loved songs, the acoustic "*Redemption Song*," in which he insists that "none a them can stop the time." A thirtythree-date European tour with stops in several massive stadiums was booked from May 30 to July 13.

ERROL BROWN: After Survival I started to record Rita Marley's album Who Feels It. I realized now and again Bob would come into the room and listen and said. "How I no hear that sound when I do my stuff?" and smile and walk out back. Shortly after, he went off on the Survival tour. When they came back Junior Marvin said, "Errol, Bob and us had a talk and decided we want you to do the next album," saying they paid Alex Sadkin all this whole heap of money when they could give that to me as one of them, as one of us. So I did the next album, Uprising. You see, on the Uprising album every single vocal is live. He tried to redo the vocals, but they all would be different, so much thoughts and

ideas in his brain, it's unbelievable. So I used all the vocals tracks he did when recording with the band; the band vibes off that vocal, so in reality it's the best vocals. So all of those vocals was with the band. We never redo. Listen to **"Zion Train"** when he said, *"To the bridge.*" It's **Bob** telling the band to go to the bridge. You know something, it was **Chris Blackwell** was the one who told **Bob** the live vocals are the best thing to use.

"There has never been and will never be anything quite like this: Reggae's chief eyewitness, dropping testimony on Reggae's chief prophet with truth, blood, and fire." Marlon James

"Redemption Song"? Bob was burning out trying to get it right with the band, playing over and over, and Chris Blackwell just walk in the studio and listen to the band play it. And he said, "Bob, you see this song, I just see this song with you and your acoustic guitar." And Bob say, "Yeah?" and laugh. Said, "All right guys, I'm going to try it with acoustic." And it's a classic. Although people always cussing out Chris Blackwell, Chris Blackwell did his part too. I was there mixing, he's there in that seat beside me. He will be there touching buttons, mixing, night and day. Chris did his part where the reggae music is concerned.



Roger Steffens

ROGER STEFFENS: Some of the songs on the album were written while **Bob** was living in Miami, where he had ensconced his mother and sister **Pearl** in a big house on Vista Lane. With him was **Dessie Smith**, a friend from Trench Town, who was his personal assistant on the road and often helped **Bob** compose songs.

DESSIE SMITH: On a typical day in Miami for us, **Bob** would get up around ten, eleven. He used to go to bed real late. Then he'd wake up, get some mint tea. He might burn a spliff. He might reason, and within that time now, him read up the Bible, read a psalm out loud and discuss it with us, like a teacher discussing the meaning of the psalm, how it's relevant to everyday life, what it's saying. And after that, he takes the guitar and might come up, depending on the vibes him get, we might or might not get a song. A spliff, the Bible and music, that's the best, that's how the day run! Might just play some ball after that, the guitar, eat, back to the guitar. We played ball outdoors and sometimes play indoors, inside the kitchen area, **Bob** used to play scrimmage in there. **Mrs. Booker** was crying out, "*Why you mosh up the things? Play ball outside!*"

And then we had boxing matches there, 'cause me and him bought two pair of boxing gloves. We always sparred. He tries to hurt me but I always hold back. And he has everybody in his corner, like him say,

"We haffe fight now." I can't even get one of the ten people there. Everybody's his cornermen! We spar all the time, even before his shows, 'cause he likes to warm up before a show. So by the time he goes on the stage, he's wet already. He warms up just like he's gonna play a football game or a track.

We would play football, then we'd play bigger football. We used to play in the backyard, over by the jeep: **Seeco**, **Gilly**, **Neville Garrick** is usually there. We played before dinner, then we'd eat and then go around the back and have music again, guitar vibe. You'd have a lot of people there who would join in the singing, when we were making them songs. And we'd call them to come in and sing the chorus. The back room, it had sliding-glass doors. I used to sleep out there. **Bob** used to sing to us at night, and we would end up sleeping on the couch, cowboy style. Most of the time! Boots, shoes. **Bob** was just like that.

And most of the time there was a tape running, but not all the time. Sometime him haffe just get jamming. You have another time when him jammin' just like that and him say, "*All right, get the tape player.*" Him figure that very effective.



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Many of those are unfinished, like the first three or four lines. We had one called "*Drastic Step*," we just got that line three times and then we left that. Same time we start one small little one, four lines:

Come down, come down from your high riding wall

Can't you see you're riding in the past? False pride cometh before a fall So when you drop don't bother bawl Can't say me never warn you Before we spurn you Some just a show off naturally Fighting battles and personality Then come the bounce-back my friend Some call it reaction again Come down from your high riding walls Can't you see you're riding in the past?

I remember "*We And Dem*" was definitely made around '78. I remember when me and him sit down and I told him that in that

song, we had actually written, "We no have no friend / in the House of Parliament." And even I said, "That too direct." 'Cause we usually try to word it that you can hear something and feel that it deal with you, but you can't be sure, you can only assume. So I figure at that time that was too direct towards the politicians. And he must have been thinking the same thing. He went to Jamaica to record and when he came back he had pulled that out. He must have seen that that was too direct. [It was changed to "we no have no friends inna high society."]

I used to write a lot because my top subject in school was English literature. Used to do a lot of *Shakespeare*, and from we start jamming, sometime he just come and hum, and I get a vibes. Don't get the word but get the melody. Either write the song by getting the lyrics first or the melody. He might play the guitar and find a good melody on it. Like me and him might sit down





Errol Brown

face to face and him [hums] and wait for me to come up with something. But most of the songs him come up with the lyrics. We worked together that way on the **Survival** and **Uprising**, songs like "*Zion Train*," "*Coming In From The Cold*," "*Redemption Song*," "*Real Situation*," "*Pimper's Paradise*." Most of these were Miami songs. "*Coming In From The Cold*" was written about three or four years before it was released. "*Redemption Song*" too, from around early '77.

"*Pimper's Paradise*" was written about some girl in England he had an experience with. I think it was a friend's experience, really. **Bob** writes from other people's experience too—me and him, we could kick like that. He could take one of the lines, like hum for me to come up with the line, look me in the eyes. If I can't come in, he tries. Like that song, "*We Getting The Fight*," it took us about a week. We tried but couldn't come up with one line. He was singing "*we getting the fight from all direction*." I come up with "*complexion*," and he acknowledge this, he smile, shake his head out.

The songs that I collaborate on that I'm proudest of are "*Black Survival*" and "*Real Situation*." But I never think of asking for cowriter's credit; no, we just deal on a different level. We don't deal with that; that never mean anything to us. We just get up and do that stuff. And that's how he is. You don't hear him speak or argue about "*Where's money?*" Never, never.

ROGER STEFFENS: Uprising was released in mid-June, while **Bob**'s record-shattering final tour was in its early stages.

ERROL BROWN: We started the tour in Europe. That was a dream, to see how people went on over reggae music. It's like you are at pop concert, everywhere sold out!



Dessie Smith

ROGER STEFFENS: Two months after his triumphant performance in Zimbabwe, **Bob** played to the largest audience of his career in San Siro, a soccer stadium in Milan, on June 27, 1980. **Pope John Paul II** had appeared there the week before and **Bob** outdrew the **Pope**!

JUDY MOWATT: The most indelible show for me was really the one in Milan. It was about 110,000 people. And when I saw the amount of people my mind reflect on the first time we toured together, in 1975, with the **Natty Dread** album, in a little place called Paul's Mall in Boston—you know, it was very small. And we had to work seven nights a week, it was so hard, and even working for seven nights a week we never accumulated that amount of people! Yeah, for one place now, we see this huge mass of people, it was really impressive. All these Italians singing "*No Woman No Cry*," and they don't speak English. It's the same thing like when we toured Japan, the people don't speak English, but they know every one of **Bob Marley**'s songs, they can sing it for you word for word, but they probably don't know the meaning of it.

ERROL BROWN: Biggest show was in Milan. Oh, God! You can't imagine how big that was. Remember, Italy is all about the Pope and football, and then you see "RASTAMAN BOB MARLEY" on the front page of their biggest newspaper. And it said, "Bob Marley create history in the stadium." Not even football! Football couldn't carry so much people, because we use the field too, obviously. That place was beyond packed. We had a group named Average White Band that was touring with us. Them have to cut their set short when people start throwing eggs onstage and run them offstage, shouting, "Bob Marley! Bob Marley!" It was a joyous experience. To me it's like a concert you see today with the biggest pop artist. Big! To me it was a dream. I didn't want to wake up out of that dream, you know. And right through. That was the biggest one. But I remember Crystal Palace in England, with the big pool in front of the stage full of dirty water. You see, when **Bob** came onstage, everyone went in that dirty water, just to get close to Bob Marley and the Wailers. The place ram, every show sold out. At the end of the tour everybody got bonus, more than their salary for the tour. It was my first big tour like that. At the end of the tour everyone stayed back at **Bob**'s request. I just wanted to go home. I remember Bob saw me down in the lobby and asked me where I'm going, I said home, he said, "Hold on, Errol, we have some bonus money coming in." I said, "Bob, you bring it when you coming, I just want to go home." He said, "All right, little more then." But it happened that, unfor-

SO MUCH THINGS TO SAY: THE ORAL HISTORY OF BOB MARLEY



Judy Mowatt & Marcia Griffiths

tunately, **Bob** never come home. You see, **Bob** was a good person, he get bonus and shared it among us all. Which other artist would do this?

ROGER STEFFENS: By 1980, **Colin Leslie**, **Bob**'s business manager, was setting up **Bob**'s escape mechanism from Island. The release of **Uprising** in 1980 finished the contract, and **Bob** was considering a change of label. A multimillion-dollar contract was being offered by **Polygram**.

COLIN LESLIE: For **Bob** that was a package deal, involving all the **Tuff Gong** artists. He distributed the **Abyssinians**, **Burning Spear**, **Freddie McGregor**, a lot of pro-

ducts for a lot of people. But it wasn't about escaping necessarily. It was about setting up a sort of organization that would offer an alternative for the Jamaican artist. He wouldn't have to go to New York or London or wherever. They could get signed right here in Kingston and still get international exposure. For want of a better example, a *Motown* in Kingston. That's what he was trying to set up.

ROGER STEFFENS: But the dream was never to be. As the American leg of the planned world tour began, tragedy struck.



35

BOB MARLEY





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16. - 18. June

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17. June

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FESTIVALS JUNE 2017



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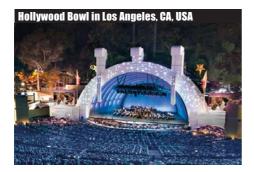


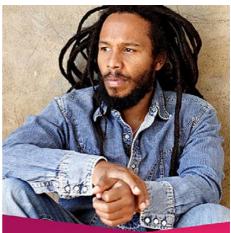
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18. June

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6/18 Reggae Night XVI Ziggy Marley with Orchestra

FESTIVALS JUNE 2017



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INTERVIEW



CONTRABAND

MUSIC IS MY Respirator

BY ANGUS TAYLOR Photos by Fernando F. Hevia

Of all the key members forming the Jamaican musical and cultural movement called "the revival", revolutionary rapid fire lyricist **Kabaka Pyramid** has been slowest to release an actual official album. His closest competition for last place, **Chronixx** and **Jesse Royal**, bring out theirs in June and September 2017 - whereas **Kabaka**'s debut **Contraband** should emerge circa October time.



Contraband is produced by **Damian 'Ju**nior Gong' Marley (who releases his own awaited new set *Stony Hill* in July). *Reggaeville* received a sneak preview sampler of unmixed shortlisted tracks for the project and discovered a variety of other producers also working under '**Baka** and **Gong**'s direction. These include **Protoje**, his fellow **Indigg collective** member **Tracker John MD**, **Anthony Senior** of **AITaFaAn**, **Genis Trani** from **Reggaeland** and even **Kabaka** himself. Guesting vocally will be **Pressure Busspipe** and – according to rumour - a **Damian Marley** combination.

Angus Taylor spoke with Kabaka - as he was gearing up for his European tour - about the songs under consideration. It is one of the most in depth discussions of the record to date (echoing Protoje's *Royalty Free* preview in last year's Festiville). But be warned: Damian, Kabaka, and his Bebblerock production house reserve the right to change the track listing - removing or adding as they see fit when the album drops later this year.

So you're finally releasing an album? How long has it been? Six years?

Finally! Why yes it was 2011 when we did the first EP. We did the compilation **Lead The Way** in 2013 so that helped to bridge the gap a bit. To be honest it was only around last year that I really started to feel like I built myself to the level where an album could be impactful. I never wanted to be one of those artists who rushed to release an album when the fan-base and recognition was not at a certain level and the album could just be swept under the rug. I wanted to reach a level where the album could actually make an impact and be part of reggae's legacy.

You've been highly influenced by Sizzla in your career. In six years Sizzla would've cut at least 12 albums!

(Laughs) Yeah, maybe 13 or 14. As I said **Sizzla** is on a different level. He has a different output rate. The man can record songs every day. But I have never stopped recording, so a lot of songs in heavy consideration for the album - some are from 2012.



A verse on the song with **Pressure** I wrote to **Jah9**'s *Warning* she did with **Don Corleon** back in 2010. So there are things that have been tucked in where we knew "We're going to put this down and wait till the time is right."

Timing is important. When I heard that you were planning to drop your album in October I was glad because Chronixx and Damian are releasing their albums this summer. It looks like Protoje has put his album back. There is a lot of traffic on the road.

(Laughs) I am not a traffic kind of person. I like to avoid the traffic. I am glad as well because I like to have good music that can inspire me in the meantime. We are still in the point where what a **Chronixx** decides to do with his album, what a **Protoje** decides to do, what a **Jah9** does - they influence me because I learn from the people around me. So anything I see that they could do better or they did extremely well - are things we incorporate into what we do. So I think it's a good advantage.

The plan is to really use the tour to make people aware this album is coming. We're just about to drop the first single and hopefully another one before we hit the road in the summer. We want to have at least two songs on the road pushing, saying "Yo the album is coming".

INTERVIEW KABAKA PYRAMID

One of those songs will be Can't Breathe, produced by Genis Trani. What will the second one be?

The first one is definitely *Can't Breathe*. That's a song I'm very excited about. It's paying homage to that **Fatis Burrell Xterminator** sound. That old **Sizzla** vibration. I channelled some of that. I feel it represents me. It represents my sound. I feel it represents the message in a way that is not too heavy and not too deep but still tackling the issues we are dealing with. That's the mission - coming out with that song first.

For the second track, the plan is to release this song called *Natural Woman* that **Damian** is producing. There is still some work to be done on the track so we're still trying to finalise that and confirm but that is the aim at the moment. It is a beautiful, powerful song commending and uplifting women who keep themselves and are happy with themselves in a natural state. A lot of people are doing songs like that now. I love the **Tarrus Riley** song about that but I have my own take on it and it's actually a song I've had for a couple of years now.

This is the second version of it that we're doing that **Damian** is producing. I actually wrote the song on a one drop rhythm that a producer from Trench Town named Triple L sent me. He actually recorded it and I sent him the vocal and I've just been waiting on him to release it for maybe two years now. So we just decided we wanted to take a different approach to the production of the song and use it for the album. We still have his version and we're thinking to possibly do a bonus track thing with the two versions but that's something that we'll decide in the coming months. But we definitely want to roll out with **Damian's** production, highlight that this album is a collaboration with myself and **Damian**, Ghetto Youths and Bebblerock, and cement that.



Tell me about the name of the album project -Contraband.

The concept is that **Contraband** represents me and my music. It is bigger than any collection of songs really - but we think it represents this project in the sense that the system and society, the bigger heads are the ones who decide what is considered contraband and banned substances and things they don't want people to have or use. We feel the messages in my music are treated like that within society. They don't want you to have this message. They don't want you to feed yourself on the consciousness and the revolution mentality that we're presenting the music. We're just playing on that metaphorically as **Contraband**.

So what we are doing is giving the **Contraband** to the people. Each song is like a different item of contraband and each is going to break down some walls within the person, barriers that are blocking themselves from true self-expression and individuality. So each song is actually an individual that can stand up by itself. It is not really like a themed album where each song is telling a particular aspect of one story. It is more like each song can stand on its own and have an impact on people and we're putting this together in this package called **Contraband**.



The previous compilation Lead The Way gathered lots of producers. From what I've heard of this album sample there are multiple producers as well you and Damian. How many tracks is Damian producing and how will you make sure this album is more unified than the compilation?

That's some of what I was getting at before. I think in the end **Damian**'s production in terms of composition, of beat making, would be about one third of the project. That's what we're looking at, at the moment. I'm thinking around five tracks. He is playing more of an executive producer role on this project. His studio is where we're doing the majority of the mixing. Even songs recorded before, we are re-recording in his studio to get a better quality sound. So it's those aspects of production - not necessarily beat making.

And of course there are the songs we've done together in the studio where he has spearheaded the production. He is a man who starts out on the MPC and will knock together a drum pattern and then **Pow**, his keysie will play some piano on it, maybe play a bass-line that we can work with for the time being. There is a track called *Where Is The World I Know*. We don't have a version of it ready but this is one of the first tracks we worked on that really got us excited about the project. I remember we were in studio shortly after we did [2015 hit single] *Well Done*. I had the guitar in my hand playing a two chord progression and then **Pow** started to play some piano and then **Damian** was building a drum pattern around it.

I am not the best guitar player so I kind of let them take over the whole process. **Damian** kept working on the beat, **Pow** kept working on other stuff. Biggz General, a brethren of ours, started playing the guitar, adding some phrases on it and then I came up with this chorus about "Everywhere I go, I see pollution and disillusion ago on, where is the world I know? We are falling like a domino." I started to record the chorus and the verse and I remember looking on **Damian** and saying "Find a harmony for this now". The man just immediately found this nice harmony for the chorus. He recorded harmony and Chris Ellis was there so he did another laver on the track.



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This is the kind of organic vibration where we just work directly from inspiration. It was never "I have this grand scheme of how I want every single track to sound". It is more coming from an organic place creating music with my mind state and my message at the forefront at all times. And also bringing music I've already done because **Damian** was like "I want to hear all the songs that you have because any song, as long as it's good enough, we should consider it for the project". That's the kind of approach and mentality he takes to music.

I have a song - you heard it [on the sampler] **King Rastafari**. That song was probably recorded since 2012 but once we recorded it we knew this was an album track. I had to ask **AlTaFaAn** to just hold off the track for me. He checks me like every three months saying "*Just make me know when you want it!*" (Laughs) I am definitely glad to see in a song like that in the runnings for the album for sure.

Let's talk about some of the tracks we've heard. Make Way featuring Pressure was produced by Protoje. How did he and Pressure come to be involved in this project?

Obviously me and **Diggy** go way back. As he said in the Festiville article before [last year], he executive produced my first EP. Now he is getting more into compositions he has actually had his hands in. He's working a lot with the **Drumkeys**, **Paris** and **Kongz** [from his band] and other producers like **Tracker John MD**.

Diggy called me and said "*I need to have a track on your project. I have some beats to make you hear*". He played like three beats for me. The other beats were sick as well but I was like "*I need to have this track*". Once you hear the horns, the start is that victorious kind of triumphant announcement like "*This is going to be my first track on the project*".



INTERVIEW KABAKA PYRAMID

I got the beat and recorded something on it. I loved the verse but I didn't really like the chorus. So I decided to try and get somebody like **Pressure** on it. I have always had **Pressure** in mind to work with. I got a verse from him on the **Accurate** mixtape. We did a song called **All For One** with him **Protoje**, **Koro Fyah** and **Hempress Sativa** - and **Pressure** killed the track at the end. So we always keep a link. He is a genuine good person.

He came into the studio, I played the track for him, he heard the verse and I just left him for maybe 10 minutes and then he said "Yo, I have something I want you to hear". He just sang "Make way ghetto youths busting through". I was like "That's it. Don't need to hear nothing more". Boom.

So I sent him the track and I think he went back to VI or Atlanta and recorded it. Nothing needed to be changed. It was perfect. So I wrote another verse and added on that verse I told you about that I wrote on the **Jah9** song *Warning*. I felt like the message was consistent and this was how I wanted to announce the album. "*Make way, the Rasta youths busting through the gateway*". The revolution is happening right now - so just get ready for this project.

Can't Breathe and Meaning of Life are produced by Genis Trani from Barcelona who used to be part of a very good label called Reggaeland. It's great to see such a talented producer involved in not one but two tracks on the album.

Genis mixed a lot of tracks for me on the **Accurate** mixtape. He was a go-to person that I could send something to and get back a mix within 24 hours. I just appreciated the work ethic. So we just decided we wanted to work together because I know he is somebody I can depend on. I told him I needed some tracks for the album and everything he sent was brilliant. I still have some tracks I might do other projects with but the ones I felt strongest about were **Can't Breathe** and **Meaning Of Life**.



Can't Breathe is a track where I was listening to Lauryn Hill's Unplugged sessions and I was really impressed by the amount of emotion she put into her music and delivery. I thought to myself "*My music is very strong, it is very deep, but there's not a lot of emotion in it a lot of the time*". I wanted to speak to an emotional state like "I can't breathe, I am feeling suffocation that sufferation is causing. The system is a strain and a mess, I feel it like a pain in my chest". Lauryn Hill really inspired that kind of approach to the writing. You have to see which aspects are missing which you can introduce.

And then you have *Meaning Of Life*, addressing "*What does it mean to say that we live?*" A lot of people say we live only once but through my research and my studies I have come to realise that we don't have one



physical life. We have many different lives. It is really about experience and growth. Each life you come in and you learn something. The things that you've done wrong - you're going to face some karmic result. The good things you do - you're going to face some karmic result.

The first time I got introduced to the concept of reincarnation was in my studies of Kemet from ancient Egypt. Books like the *Egyptian Book Of The Dead. Metu Neter* by **Ra Un Efer Amen**. A series of books dealing with spiritual evolution as a sequence of lives that you live. You die, go into an afterlife process - a Heaven state - re-evaluate the life that you live and go into a further life to where you can learn new things and grow to the next phase of your evolution.

I felt it was time to come out with a message like that. I feel that's something that is missing in the psyche of people these days, especially in the West. So it's a very important song for me. It's one of my personal favourites on the project.

Based on the sample we've heard Well Done is going to be on the album. Will it be a different mix?

No. For a long time we felt that *Well Done* is out and it kind of did its thing but at the same time *Well Done* was the origin of this whole linkage with myself and **Gong**. It was the genesis of our wanting to do a project. And it is probably my biggest most recognisable solo song. So it's something that we recently began to add back to the album projection and we are pretty confident right now that it will be on the album. It definitely fits the whole **Contraband** idea. This is definitely a message they don't necessarily want people to awaken to - what's happening in government - but we see the necessity of it.

Both Well Done and Make Way address the political turmoil in the world right now. I interviewed Chronixx and he said the reason why nationalism is intensifying is because we are actually coming out of the nationalist period. Do you agree?

I completely agree with **Chronixx**. I think when the shift is happening you see the worst of things start to come up before it gets better. And it's resistance to that shift that we're seeing happening. They see they're about to lose power and have to hold onto the power they have. That's why we see the resurgence of certain things we thought we were heading past.

I think humanity in terms of evolution is moving towards individualisation. But not in a selfish way. More in a self-sufficient way. The idea of these groups that we tie ourselves to whether it's races, nations, tribes or families - are slowly being phased out and we are becoming individuals, people who think for ourselves. I think we will become true individuals and see there are no differences between us and that is why I have a song [on the album] about **Borders**. I am saying it's about time we close those borders down because we are all one nation in creation. It's going to happen and it's just going to take time.

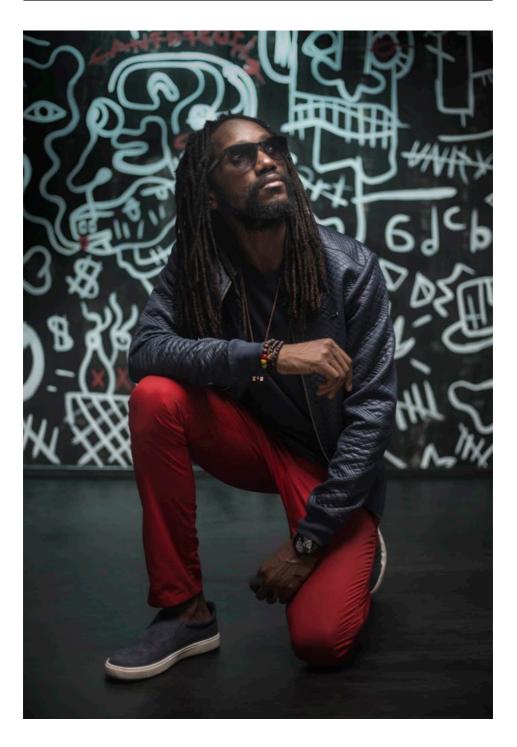
In Can't Breathe you talk about slavery reparations saying "Queen Elizabeth give we what we demand". What form do you think reparations should take?

If the governments were just and dependable then something like removal of a certain amount of the debt - like the IMF debt or the World Bank or our debt to these other countries. They could remove that debt and without having to tax our people so much to repay the debt - could act as a form of reparation. I think any time you try to split it up and deal with it in an individual case it is like that hand-to-mouth-thing with the government and people. Like MPs and people in the ghetto where they just come for a little money here and there. It might give a little temporary relief but it's not going to solve any kind of long-term issue.

But the nations that have been affected by the slave trade need to come together and demand these things. If the nations say collectively "We are not going to buy any of these products from you" and "We're not going to sell you our resources". If African countries, Caribbean countries, even people within the diaspora in the US and UK, came together the demands will be met. But the unity is not there. Obviously we know the reasons why the unity is not there so that's one of the things that will continue to hold us back if we don't come together.

Let's talk about the track I'm Just A Man, produced by Syrix from IrieVibrations in Austria - who you worked with on on Lead The Way. It has the lyric "Music is my respirator" which is kind of a link to the metaphor and the vulnerability in Can't Breathe.

For sure. That's a track I actually wrote when I was doing the mixtape with **Walshy** and it is one of those tracks that almost always gets a reaction from people like "Yo *this is real*". It was the same when **Gong** heard it. It was like "*Alright we can't use this on the mixtape*".



My music is not very personal, typically. I like to speak about things I see outside of myself. And this is a song where I get personal. I talk about a bit of my history especially in the second verse and it's a good insight. It is more inside my mental space and about my experiences and how they make me feel. The frustrations of dealing with certain things in the music but knowing that in time it will work out and we're doing it for the cause - not for the right now.

On that track and on this project in general you seem to be singing a bit more.

Yeah, that's something that I have constantly been working on, trying to improve over the years from **Rebel Music** to now. I think my vocal ability has improved a lot. It is something that **Damian** stresses a lot - that we definitely want to use songs that have different melodic structures. *I'm Just A Man* is one of those songs where it's not the typical kind of melody or style you'd hear from a **Kabaka** song.

Before we finish, let's talk about the remix of Kabaka versus Pyramid - which first appeared on your Accurate mixtape. This new version is remixed by Tracker John MD who you mentioned earlier as part of the Indigg collective.

Yes, he did *Can't Feel No Way* on Diggy's *Side B* project from last year. I have been working with him. He is a brilliant rapper as well. He is conceptualising a project where I deejay, he raps and he's doing the production - but that is in the future. He's another brilliant mind. I gave him the vocals because I was thinking to do some remixes for stuff from the mixtape but again when we played the remix in the studio we were like *"This is too good to not be on the project!"*

I like the continuity coming from the mixtape - which was really a platform for the album - and this track shows my hip-hop side. Anybody who didn't hear the mixtape would be hearing this song for the first time and it would still be hitting them with a bang. It's a kind of trap vibe so maybe people in that world will pick it up and run with it and we'll see how that goes. I don't know if it will be on the track listing or as a bonus track but we'll see.

Both the mixtage version and this remix feature you're rapping with an American accent and deeiaving with a Jamaican accent. There has been quite a debate in the last few vears about non-Americans rapping with an American accent. Coming from a Jamaican tradition you have people like Bounty Killer using entirely different voices on the same track - what's your view on this debate? Exactly. Even the song that *Kabaka versus Pvramid* was based on originally, **Biggie** Smalls' Gimme The Loot, has two different characters with two different voices. So it's a part of music. It shows versatility. My thing is if you're going to use an accent, it has to sound good. If you listen to Collie Buddz or **Pressure** they don't come from Jamaica but it sounds like a Jamaican accent and at the end of the day it sounds good. So as long as you're representing what you want to represent in the way you feel comfortable and it sounds good and it works, then show your versatility. I don't have any problem with that.

I respect the rappers in the UK for keeping their accent and it sounds good but there are times when you use a Jamaican accent in rapping and there is just something going on with Jamaican linguistics and trying to rap with it where it can really come across weird to me. I have known a few people that have done it and it has worked. But that's another art form in itself.

Finally will there be a combination with yourself and Damian on the album?

(Laughs) I won't say anything on that Angus! We'll keep the anticipation for that one and see what happens.



KABAKA PYRAMID



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INTERVIEW



CHAINSKA BRASSIKA

FROM ENGLAND TO POLAND TO JAMAICA

MUSIC FROM THE TREE HOUSE

BY GARDY STEIN-KANJORA

Their story sounds like dream come true: eight friends, having known one another from childhood, start to play music every day when school is over, getting really good at it. Developing material and style, playing some gigs, gathering a local following. First EP **Unwind** in 2013, debut album **Skinna** in 2015. Entering the *World Reggae Contest* that same year, reaching the finals, smashing it in Ostróda, winning everybody's hearts and the trophy. Travelling to Jamaica in early 2016, recording in the prestigious **Harry J Studio**, now about to release a fantastic album called **Harry J Business**. A lot of things done right by



Ashley, Henry, James, Lucas, Rory, Seth, Toby and Tom, I would say! The latter agreed to give *Reggaeville* a short summary of the bands' Jamaican adventures, so let's hear it for Chainska Brassika!

Greetings Tom, how are you?

I'm good, thank you. We are extremely busy right now, but it is very exciting, with the album coming up and all.

Yeah, I bet! Tell us about your trip to Jamaica! What happened after Ostróda?

We won the **World Reggae Contest** in August 2015, then we flew out to Jamaica in January 2016. We spent the whole month in Jamaica, we had a five days recording-session in Kingston, we played some shows on the island and travelled a bit. We spent a whole month out there which was really cool!

Did you meet Sam Clayton again, who was in Ostróda to deliver the prize two years ago?

Sam wasn't there, he couldn't come, but he has been mixing the whole album and we met him in France last year. We did the whole recording session with **Stephen Stewart** at **Harry J**'s.

When you reached the studio, did you already have a set of songs prepared or did it develop during the sessions?

With our first album *Skinna* it was very much recording the songs that we've been playing live. For the recording of the album in Jamaica we took actually a lot of new songs that we had not performed on the road and we developed them quite a lot over in Jamaica. Before the recording session we actually spent some time in the countryside in Jamaica. We set up the band in a tree house for a week and we put together a lot of material up in the hills of Jamaica.

Wow, that sounds amazing. Where was that?

It was this place called the Indigenous Rasta Village which is quite near to Montego Bay. That was great, we spent a week there before we travelled to Kingston and we took some time to acclimatise ourselves and get into the vibe. We put together a lot of the album there, but we also worked on some fresh songs in the studio as well, so this album is a totally different approach than our first one. We've recorded seven tracks and we will also put some dub on the album, so hopefully we'll have a total of ten tracks. They now need a little bit of tweaking and once they are mastered they'll be out there!

Did you play all the instruments yourselves or did any Jamaican musicians join you? We did have some help, yes. Stephen very kindly played all the keyboards on the record which was amazing, given his history of keyboard playing for various great acts, and we also got a percussion player called **Bongo Billy**, he came in and played all the percussion on the album. And then we did a feature track with **Toots** as well called **Don't Try**.

Yes, and what a brilliant track it is! Did Stephen invite Toots over?

Yes, he is very good friends with **Toots**. One day, we talked about features for the album and he said that **Toots** is in the area and that he would give him a call, and then **Toots** came down to the studio. **Stephen**



said the best way for him to hear the track is to set up the whole band in the live room together and play the track live for him. I think we played one verse and then he just grabbed the mic and started jamming to the tune with the band. He went and voiced the track separately, the day after. Because there was so much vocal material that we recorded for the track, we put together a longer version for the album which we are very excited to release.

Why did you decide to call the album Harry J Business?



We've done the last session at **Harry J**'s, as it is being closed. I don't know if it plans to re-open, but we thought that it was a big honour for us to record in such a famous studio. It really was a big centrepiece of our album. Also, one of the lyrics focuses on the closing of **Harry J**'s so we thought it would be very good to put it in the album title so everyone who hears it would know about **Harry J**.

One week in the tree house, one week in the studio... what did you do in the remaining two weeks?

We went to this amazing festival called **Rebel Salute** which was cool. We saw artists like **Beres Hammond** and **The Abyssinians** perform, which was amazing - seeing that in Jamaica. We spent some nice time at Treasure Beach, we also travelled around and did some shows on the island. We did a show with **Andrew Tosh** over in Jamaica which was nice, we performed in Kingston...

Where?

At the Kingston Golf Club which was fun. We also went to the Kingston Dub Club which was an amazing experience, so... We definitely saw and did a lot of music when we were out there, which was great.

What was the reaction of the people to your music?

It was interesting, because I don't think they really knew what to expect when we got up on stage. Some of the shows we did were planned, but some we just did at random local spots, some of them in cities. The reactions were... it was really nice! The Jamaican people really sit down and listen, they listen and then they clap afterwards.

Did you establish any links to Jamaican artists for future collaborations?

We did meet a lot of people out there, lots of people heard that we were in town and came in to visit us in the studio. At one point, **TVJ**, which is the national Jamaican Television, came down and covered us in the

INTERVIEW CHAINSKA BRASSIKA

















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What were your personal highlights of the trip?

For me, I think my favourite place was spending time in Treasure Beach, it was really nice, eating BBO fish and drinking rum at the beach. It was nice to spend some time chilling out, because we've been very busy. Also, we bumped into **Maken**, the organiser of the **Ostróda Reggae Festival**, which was cool! He was running a tourist group, so they came as visitors to **Harry J**'s while we were recording. We also linked up at Treasure Beach and had dinner with them, played a little show... it was nice, good to see them in Jamaica, being there at the same time. And of course having **Toots** in our session in Kingston was amazing. Fantastic!

It was the first time for every one of the band in Jamaica, right?

Yes, it was! For some of us it was the first time in that part of the world even, so it was great experiencing that as well, the culture and all. Some people went on to Cuba afterwards.

Will you go back?

Yes, we hope so! We were in a lot of places that we would like to go again.

What is planned next?

We are hopefully putting together a tour in November. We toured the UK last month to promote everything and we will be playing across the festivals this summer, we will be at **Glastonbury** and **Rototom Sunsplash** and we are doing the Big Lion's Den Stage at **Boomtown Fair** in the UK, so we are very



excited for those. We are hopefully going to be in Europe in November and the UK in December, and if everything goes as planned we are going be in the US next year. We want to take the album worldwide if possible!

On a personal level, everybody is doing various other musical things. Our trombone player **Lucas** has done some touring as trombone player for the **Skatalites** last year, just to fill in for someone. We all do quite a lot, our horn section plays on a lot of tracks recorded in London. We've been involved with some small festivals in the UK. We are actually very busy with music! (laughs)

That's good to know! Well, thanks for taking the time to talk to us. Any shout-outs?

We must say a massive thank you to all of the organisers of the **World Reggae Contest** who made this possible, to **Reggaeville** and the **Ostróda Reggae Festiva**l, to everyone out in Poland. We've been back to Poland once since 2015, the Polish reggae crew is really nice, they are doing really well. It was a great opportunity for us to win and go to Jamaica, we really took advantage of all of it and it really was a great experience for us.

The album will be coming out this summer, you can pre-order already. It will be available on vinyl as well. The single with **Toots** will be out on 7". We are looking forward to hear what people think of our album!

CHAINSKA BRASSIKA



CHAINSKA BRASSIKA – HARRY J BUSINESS July 2017

Fresh, fresher, freshest – the winners of the first ever World Reggae Contest are just about to release the album *Harry J Business*, whose recording was the prize Chainska Brassika won in 2015. Even the unmastered listening-copy that forms the basis of this review is sufficient proof of the fun and inspiration

that must have been prevalent during the recording sessions at the studio that gave the record its name: **Harry J**, the place where **Bob Marley and the Wailers** recorded between 1973 to 1976 and which even appears in the movie *Rockers*.

Their focus on analogue recording is a perfect match for the instrumentalists of **Chainska Brassika: Henry Freestone** (guitar), **James Howell** (trumpet), **Lucas Petter** (trombone), **Rory Pagan** (sax), **Seth Wallis** (drums), **Toby Keel** (bass) and **Tom Keel** (sax) provide a wonderful rhythmic stage on which singer **Ashley Davis** performs his vocal art. Horns are an essential part of every track, and, in alignment with the band's roots, ska is clearly audible as well. Thus, *Mind Soul Body* and *Close Down* both display the pacy, fiery energy for which the UK formation is best experienced



live. Other songs take it a bit more slowly, like *Flickers* or the injustice-lamenting *It's Not Fair*. Even more laid-back, *Sunshine* tells us to try to let as much as possible of it in our lives, while *Trainline*, which is more instrumental than vocal, talks about the problem of land-grabbing by companies greedy for profit, mov-

ing people from their homes.

Definitely the highlight of the album is the rootsy *Don't Try*. None less than the great **Toots Hibbert** himself is featured on this fine piece of music, and his rough baritone is the perfect addition to **Davis**' brighter voice.

The finished album will include three dub versions as well, I'm told, although which tracks will be dubbed and who the dubber will be was not clear at the time this review went into press. Room for surprises! With **Stephen Stewart** as producer and **Sam Clayton** on the mix, the finished product will certainly be a release worthy of the title *Harry J Business*. Once you hold it in your hands, make you sure you turn it up loud and have room enough to skank along to!









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JULY

0

OP

REGULEVILLE

FESTIVALS JULY 2017



Summer Reggaefest



Shabba Ranks_Maxi Priest_ Mr. Vegas_Barrington Levy



Just Music Festival



2. July

Sizzla_Lee Scratch Perry_ Nattali Rize_Promise No Promises

Ex Dogana in Rome, Italy







Vienna Sunsplash



Damian Marley Kabaka Pyramid **Rekall Xavier Rudd**

Ottakringer Arena in Vienna. Austria



Sunrise Reggae & Ska Festival



7. - 9. July

Toots & The Maytals Dub Inc Skarra Mucci Aba Shant-i Locomondo Fitta Warri and many more...

Burtenbach, Germany





FESTIVALS JULY 2017



Afro Latino Festival



Mr. Vegas_Big Mountain_ Jamaram_Pow Pow_and many more...

Festivalpark Berkenbroek in Bree, Belgium



Enter The Dancehall



7. - 8. July

Toots & The Maytals_Queen Ifrica_ Sevana_Runkus & Old Skl Band_ Kabaka Pyramid_ Silly Walks Discotheque_and more...

Rote Fabrik in Zurich, Switzerland



ENTER THE DANCEHALI

Toots & The Maytals Queen Ifrica Sevana Runkus & the Old Skl Bond Kabaka Pyramid & The Bebble Rockers Ras Demo Silly Walks Discotheque Boss Hi-Fi / Real Rock Sound

7. & 8. JULY 2017 - ROTE FABRIK - 18.00H Rote Fabrik, Seestr. 395, Bo38 zürich - WWW.RoteFabrik.CH/Musikburo Vorverkauf: Starticket / Facebook: Rote Fabrik Musikbüro



Pyrène Festival



Israel Vibration_Amadou & Mariam_ ManuDigital feat. Joseph Cotton_ and more...



Gracy's Bash



8. July

Anthony B & House Of Riddim_ Sista Gracy_Marley's Ghost and more...





DAVID LION LION D

MANDALA TOUR 2017

15 Jun	RUHR REGGAE SUMMER Dortmund (Germany) w/Raphael
23 Jun	CULTURALREGGAEVIBEZ Czech Republic
30 Jun	Parco Tittoni Desio (Italy)
11 Jul	GOA BOA FESTIVAL Genova (Italy) w/Raphael, Jah Sun
14 Jun	Italy TBA
15 Jul	FARA ROCK Fara Gera D'Adda (Italy)
22 Jul	GALOTA FESTIVAL Slovakia
29 Jul	Germany w/Raphael, Boomrush Backup
4 Aug	Italy TBA w/ Jah Sun
12 Aug	P-TOWN Open Air Festival Niedersachsen (Germany) w/Raphael, Boomrush Backup
19 Aug	ROTOTOM Lion Stage Benicasim (Spain) w/Raphael, Jah Sun, Piero Dread
1 Sep	HOME FESTIVAL Treviso (Italy) w/Raphael

2 Sep BRAGNO REGGAE | Savona (Italy) w/Raphael

SUGAR CANIS info: sugarcanerec@gmail.com



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JAH SUN

JAH SUN LINES TOUR 2017

- 1 Jul SUMERJAM | Germany w/Jugglerz
- Modena (Italy) TBA 7 Jul
- 8 Jul Mattatoio | Carpi (Italy)

w/ David Lion, Raphael

- 11 Jul GOA BOA FESTIVAL | Genova (Italy)
- 29 Jul REGGAEJAM | Germany

4 Aug Italy TBA w/David Lion 19 Aug **ROTOTOM Lion Stage** | Benicasim (Spain) w/David Lion, Raphael, Piero Dread







www.jahsunmusic.com



Big Reggae Festival



11. July

Patrice_Danakil_Israel Vibration_ Jahneration





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Öland Roots

13. - 15. July

Toots & The Maytals_Protoje_ Sister Nancy_Pressure_Anthony B_ and many more...



Afrika Karibik Fest



13. - 16. July

Mono & Nikitaman_Ohrbooten_ Toke_Kabaka Pyramid_Jahcoustix_ and many more...







Dub Camp Festival



Max Romeo_Xana Romeo_ Sister Carol_Black Omolo_Dubkasm_ and many many more...

Lac De Vioreau in Pays De La Loire, France



Lakesplash



14. - 15. July

Pressure Busspipe_ Meta & The Cornerstones_ Yaniss Odua_Junior Tshaka_ and more...





YANISS ODUA META AND THE CORNERSTONES VIRGIN ISLANDS NICE TOUR FEAT. PRESSURE BUSSPIPE/NIYORAH/ REVALATION DA ROYAL CASA VERDE COLECTIVO, JUNIOR TSHAKA PEDESTRIANS, NAPPY PACO (THE DUBMACHINE ROOT BLOCK, ASHER SELECTA, GANIAFORCE ROOTS ROCKA TRIBE

FESTIVALS JULY 2017



NOWA Reggae

14. - 15. July

Ky-Mani Marley_Kabaka Pyramid_ Sentinel Sound_Big Mama Sound and many more...

Parc De Ribes Roges in Vilanova I La Geltru, Spain







Wilkswood Reggae Festival

14. - 16. July

Tippa Irie_Brinsley Forde_ Mad Professor_Dubheart_ Subajah and more...



Weedbeat Festival



14. - 16. July

Perfect Giddimani_ Silly Walks Discotheque_ Jamaram_and more...







ReggaeYaam B-Day Bash of Ortwin & Sheriff



The Silvertones_Ganjaman_D-Flame_ Beatsafari_Jahcoustix_Ray Darwin_ Soundquake City Lock and more...



Reggae Im Hanf-Feld



15. July

Uwe Banton_Yah Meek feat. Zoe_ Anthony Locks_and more...

Hanf-Feld in Steinheim, Germany







Reggae Session Festival



15. - 16. July

Eek A Mouse_Assassin_Luciano_ Horace Andy_Marcus Gad__Sinsemilia_ Danakil_and more...





FESTIVALS JULY 2017



Reggae Sumfest

16. - 22. July

Alkaline_Bounty Killer_Shenseea_ Tommy Lee Sparta_Dexta Daps_ Ding Dong_Masicka_Beenie Man_ Sean Paul_Warrior Sound_Sizzla and many many more...

Catherine Hall in Montego Bay, Jamaica



Reggae In The Park



16. July

Ziggy Marley_Beres Hammond_Sizzla_ Jahmiel_Capleton_Sensamotion_Culture and many more...







Roots In The Park



Earl 16_Runkus_Royal Blu_Echo Minott_ Ras Jammy_and more...



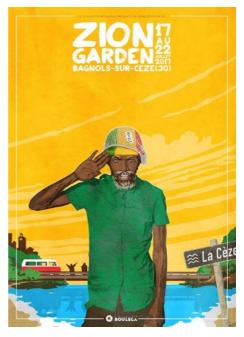
Zion Garden



17. - 22. July

Jamaram_Pablo Moses_ Wailing Trees_Devi Reed_and more...







Bababoom Festival

18. - 23. July

Dub FX_Dub Inc_ King Shiloh Soundsystem feat. Black Omolo_and many many more...



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KABAKA PYRAMID COVER

Photo by Fernando F. Hevia

BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS - EXODUS 1977

Memorabilia from the Reggaeville Archive

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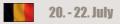
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Irie Vibes Roots Festival



Brinsley Forde_Winston Francis_ Pablo Moses_Brushy One String_ The Dubbeez_and many more...

Kortemark, Belgium

Seasplash



20. - 23. July

Vin Gordon_Mungo's Hi-Fi_Mad Professor_iLLBiLLY HiTEC_and more...





WWW.SEASPLASH-FESTIVAL.COM



One Love World Reggae Fest



Dub Inc_Big Mountain_ Israel Vibration_Luciano_ Forelock_Northern Lights and many more...

Camping Girasole in Latisana, Italy



RAS SLICK NO SHACKLES CHANKS SINGLE



NOW BOOKING



Reeds Festival



21. - 23. July

Luciano Horace Andy Bugle Michael **Prophet Runkus Black Omolo Collie** Herb and many more...

Pfäffiker See in Pfäffikon. Switzerland





Luciano & the Evolution Band **Horace Andy Panteon Rococo Dub Spencer & Trance Hill** feat. Bruno Amstadt

Bugle · Michael Prophet · 30 Years Anniversary Mafia & Fluxy feat. Adele Harley, Matic Horns, Robbie Valentine 11th Dubby Conquerors Birthday Bash feat. Ragabund, Elijah, DeLuca, Trifinga & Joha Runkus and old SKL Bond feat. Royal Blu -I-Fire Jo-Elle and The Mighty Roots - Collie Herb · Black Omolo and Fiyah Nation Band Atomic Spliff · Turbo Audio Soundsystem by Belly Ranking feat. Silokko, Lukee Stepaz & Uncle Peng Peng

> reeds-festival.ch SWISS STAR



Lagata Reggae

21. - 23. July

Inner Circle_Morodo_Inés Pardo meets Lone Ark_Hermano L._Seisco_ Emeterians_and more...



Mammoth Reggae Festival



21. - 22. July

Through The Roots_Mighty Mystic_ Anuhea Johnny Love and more...







Island Vibes Texel

21. - 22. July

Warrior King_Queen Omega_ Xana Romeo_Addis Pablo_ Joggo_Rapha Pico_and more...

Strandpaviljoen Twaalf in Den Hoorn, Netherlands



Bomboclat

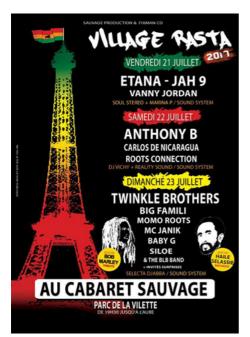


21. - 23. July

Konshens_Charly Black_ Anthony B_Etana_Assassin_ Jugglerz_and many more...







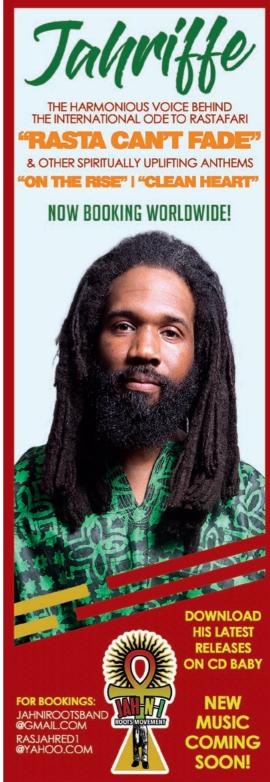
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Village Rasta



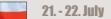
Etana_Jah9_Anthony B_ Carlos De Nicaragua_Twinkle Brothers_ Roots Connection_and more...







Reggae Na Piaskach



Stephen Newland_Jafia_ Eastwest Rockers_Bethel_ and many more...

Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland



Reggae On The Mountain



22. - 23. July

Sly & Robbie with Michael Rose_ Yellowman_Katchafire_Raging Fyah_Eljai_Blaze Mob_and more...







Rastaplas

22. - 23. July

Twinkle Brothers Black Slate Exile Di Brave Joggo King Shiloh Soun System and more...

Nord AA in Zoetermeer, Netherlands



Simmer Down Festival



Freddie McGregor Macka B_Black Voices and more...









LB27 Reggae Camp

25. - 29. July

Inner Circle_Warrior King_ Micah Shemaiah_Shaka Black_ Bad Habit_Goodas Crew_G Ras_ and many more...



Summer Vibration Reggae Festival



27. - 29. July

Tryo_Ky-Mani Marley_Horace Andy_ Dub Inc_King Jammy_Volodia_ Jah9_Marcus Gad_Sara Lugo_ and many more...







new album

Hill Vibes Reggae Festival

🕂 27. - 29. July

Anthony B_Michael Rose_Etana_ Turbulence_Randy Valentine_Rekall_ and more...



Tommy Kaub's SUPERJAM RootMission

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Jah Love Reggae Festival



28. - 30. July

Eek A Mouse_Hempress Sativa_ Kiddus I_Rod Taylor_Cedric Myton_ Jah Defender_and many more...

Domaine De Douzein in Saint_Bris_Le_Vineux, France



FESTIVALS JULY 2017



NW World Reggae Festival

28. - 30. July

Kabaka Pyramid_Pato Banton_ Prezident Brown_Nattali Rize_ and many more...



Reggaebus



28. - 29. July

Horace Andy_ManuDigital_ Iration Steppas_Channel One_ Kanka_OBF Soundsystem_ and many many more...

Rockerill in Charleroi, Belgium





MANUDICITAL - KANNA - OBE SOUND SYSTEM - JAH OBSERVER - ZION TRAIN SOUND SYSTEM - JAH OBSERVER - ZION TRAIN SOUND SYSTEM - YOUNG WARRIOR - LORD AMBASSADOR SOUND SYSTEM -ENTEBBE THE RASTA CHANTERS - WICKED & BONNY -GUSSIE P - RAS KUSH BLACK REDEMITION - MOTALAMITY JUDAH ESKENDER TAFARI - JAH FREE - ROOTS MEDITATION SOUND SYSTEM - ACOBUN SOUND SYSTEM BLACKBIRD SOUND SYSTEM - DON FE - DUBATRIATION DUB UP HIT - HIGHT ITS - MAD CODIOU'E & KIANGANA MEDICAL DUB - METTA FREQUENCIES - MICHAEL EXODUS - MURRAY MAN - PRINCE JAMO - PRINCE LIVIDAH ROOTSMAN SAX - SHALAMANDA - SHANTI D - SONIK SR WILSON - STUDIO HUMBL - THE ROOTS CORNER

infos & tickets: www.reggaebusfestival.com



Reggae In Wulf

28. - 29. July

Mono & Nikitaman_Christopher Martin_ Wailing Trees_Rassi Hardknocks_ Kazam Davis_Exile Di Brave_ and many more...

Wulfertshausen, Germany



Reggae Jam



28. - **30**. July

David Rodigan vs King Jammy_ Ky-Mani Marley_Kiddus I_Aswad_ Michael Rose_Don Carlos_Anthony B_ Eek A Mouse_and many many more...





FESTIVALS JULY 2017



101

Black Forest On Fire



Sebastian Sturm & Exile Airline_ Perfect Giddimani_Marla Brown_ Rootz Radicals Raphael & David Lion

and more...





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Reggae Rotterdam



Gentleman_Alpha Blondy_Eek A Mouse_ Beenie Man_Wayne Wonder_Sister Nancy_Kenny B_and many more...

Euromastpark in Rotterdam, Netherlands



Soundfest Vibez In The Park



30. July

Josey Wales_Brigadier Jerry_Lady Ann_ Mighty Crown_Metro Media_Bodyguard_ Rory StoneLove_and more







OCT 18	Club Academy Manchester, UK
OCT 19	Academy 2 Birmingham, UK
OCT 20	Brixton Electric London, UK
OCT 21	Petit Bain Paris, France
OCT 22	Depot Lueven, Belgium
OCT 24	Dynamo Zurich, Switzerland
OCT 25	Backstage Munich, Germany
OCT 27	YaamBerlin, Germany
OCT 28	Reineke Fuchs Köln, Germany
OCT 29	Annabel Rotterdam, Netherlands
OCT 30	Oosterpoort Groningen, Netherlands
NOV 1	MelkwegAmsterdam, Netherlands
NOV 3	John Dee Oslo, Norway
NOV 4	Rust Copenhagen, Denmark
NOV 6	Voxhall Aarhus, Denmark
NOV 7	Kagelbanan Stockholm, Sweden
NOV 8	Korjaamo Helsinki, Finland

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INTERVIEW

SAMORY I

BLACK GOLD

INTERVIEW SAMORY I

A FAMILY UNIT

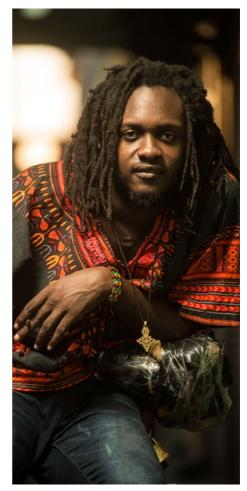
BY ANGUS TAYLOR PHOTOS BY FERNANDO F. HEVIA

"Can I curse?" asks **Samory I** during his interview. He's trying to express that an event in his journey affected him deeply - but he's conscious that a conversation with foreign media might require more caution.

Much of **Samory I**'s life has been at the crossroads - between music and a difficult past, right and wrong, industry politics and his mission to spread the message of Rastafari.

These conflicts are contained within 2017 single *Rasta Nuh Gangster*, produced by **Rory Stonelove**, in whose home studio we are conducting the interview. At the time of writing, his and **Rory**'s album **Black Gold** is about to be released. Based on what we've heard in **Rory**'s car, it is going to be big.

Samory has wide eyes, scars on his arms and chest, and a high, soft voice with the power to startle whether speaking or singing. He paints a picture of a personality that, like his voice, contains multiple possibilities - for happiness or sadness. He has a team of industry heavy-hitters around him – **Rory**, his manager **Bridgett Anderson** and others - who believe in his talent and want him to succeed. By the end of the discussion we are rooting for him to succeed as well.



You are from Kencot, Central Kingston.

I was born November 21st. In a place named Kencot. Close to the central area of Kingston. I went to school at *Norman Manley High School*.

Is the music on either side of your parentage?

No. But my mother can sing though. Like Negro spirituals. She can sing but not to sing professionally.

What was the place where you started singing? Was it in church or school?

I started singing in church. Because my mother, as I told you, was into Negro spirituals. She is a Seventh-Day Adventist. I even had a group called **JDT** when we were about 12-13-14. We won a few competitions including the JCDC Gospel competition.

How did Rasta come to you?

I didn't take well to the teachings of the



church. Due to the fact that when I'd go to church I'd have a quarterly that teaches me to study this part and then this part of the Bible for today. When I know Rastafari teaches us that it is a chapter a day. And from a chapter a day is how are you gain knowledge. My music is very Bible-inspired. The message of the Words. The message of the Bible and reality. Through situations of reality that is how the Bible is written, you know? The Bible is the influence of my music.

Was there any tension moving from gospel music to the kind of music you're doing now?

No, because I stopped going to church when I was about 15. When I Man decided to do something positive I had full support from my family. Because positivity was far from what I was doing.

Tell me about your first ever recording...

My first recording wasn't roots music. It was love songs. And it was at the studio in my community. Down the road from my house. I was just doing something, me and some friends at the time. My first recording was a song called **Text Me**. I was 16 or 17 years old.

Did that get released?

(Laughs) No.

How did you meet your manager Bridgett Anderson?

I met Bridgett Anderson through Chinna Smith's daughters Susu and Jhamelia. Bridgett lives in the community. Bridgett was Garnett Silk's manager. Before he passed. She worked with Judy Mowatt and is currently working with Marcia Griffiths. I didn't know her musically. I was a troubled youth in the community. I was very bright going to school and everyone knew that but at the same time everyone knew I was troubled. So the people genuinely had a love for me because they thought I had a bright future through education. The people respected that.

Bridgett was one who respected that. So when I left school or work or wherever, I used to go and chill because she has a big garden in her yard. She called it Nature's Eye. **Jhamelia** and **Susu** were singing there every day. I was there and they were singing and most of the times I'm listening to them and I'm on my phone. But one night **Susu** turned to me and said "*Every night you come*





and we sing - why you don't sing for us?" (Laughs) You could see the reaction on their faces! Everyone was shocked because no one knew me like that.

So then what happened?

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Then through **Bridgett Anderson** I met **Marcia Simpson** which is **Duckie Simpson**'s ex-wife. From **Ajang Studios** which is across the road. I did **Just Believe** and **With You** for her label. The first officially released song I did was **Just Believe**. That is a song of my life you know? Saying patience humility and a drive can bring you towards success. Then I was working on an album with **Niney the Observer** but he left for America for so long and I got really impatient. So that kind of really... Can I curse?

Yes.

So that kind of really fucked up my mind-set. I was very impatient because I knew within myself I had a message to deliver and I was waiting on one man to deliver that message. It got to a point where I never wanted to do music anymore because I was finding out that people don't care about the artist. They care about the product. **Bridgett** said *"No, you can't do that. You can't give up on music."* She brought me to **Rory**. I did an audition for **Rory**, he gave me the *Zeen* rhythm to audition on and I freestyled *Take Me Oh Jah*. That is how we began working together.

You've also been recording for a few other producers as well as Rory.

Yeah, I did *Sceptre* for **Taitu Records**, *Gad* for **Silly Walks** and *Ride On* for **Frenchie**.

★ TOTAL REGGAE ★



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Two Sevens Clash 40th Anniversary Edition Culture RCD / 3LP / DL



African Dub Chapter Two Joe Gibbs & The Professionals LP / DL



Total Reggae Greensleeves Various Artists &CD / DL



Riddimentary Suns Of Dub CD / LP / DL



Now Romain Virgo DL





Hardcore Jah9 ft. Chronixx DL





Love Like Ours Estelle ft. Tarrus Riley DL



How did you link with European producers?

Frenchie linked up with me through Rory. Him and Rory are friends I guess. Because we were building a sound here I didn't want to go and sing for anyone else until we have accomplished what we wanted here. Silly Walks spoke to Marcia Simpson. Marcia Simpson spoke to me and Bridgett and that's how we are recorded *Gad*. Taitu Records was when I was just starting recording for Rory. I woke up one evening and saw the daughter in the house and Bridgett told me I was going to record a song for her. She gave me the rhythm and we did *Sceptre*.

You've also appeared at select European festivals. Did you enjoy those experiences?

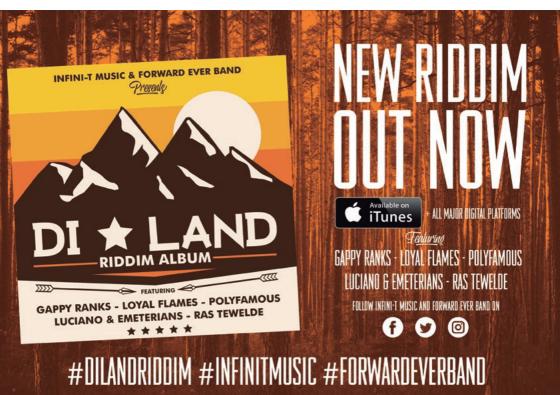
Yes, we played at *Reeds Festival, Reggae Jam* and *Reggae Geel.* Yeah I did. Especially having a different experience working on a different platform spreading the message internationally for more ears to hear. That was very uplifting for me.

Were there any challenges in terms of dietary requirements?

Yeah. Of course! We lost a lot of weight. Being health-conscious is very, very, very difficult in Europe on tour. What did I have on tour? To tell you the truth, no lie, nuts and snacks. I don't eat before I sing. Empty barrel. If I know I'm going to perform at four o'clock I eat like nine. In Europe I wouldn't eat. Nothing at all. You're not even hungry because you're just excited to do a show - you know what I'm saying? It's not even here nor there. I got hungry a couple of times and that is how the snacks and nuts came in. But it was alright. Can't complain. (Laughs)

Tell me about your song for Rory, African Daughter.

African Daughter was inspired by love. *African Daughter* is all women. All people are descendants from Africa. Being that Africa is the first land of civilisation. *African*





Daughter is inspired by love - my love for woman in general. Love inspired **African Daughter** and the mere fact that women nowadays feel like they have to put on or take off for a man to love them rather than being themselves. **African Daughter** is showing you that whoever you are, so long as a man has love for you, being any person that you are - he will love you for you - no take off, no add-ons.

What about about Rasta Nuh Gangster? This tune has got a lot of attention this year.

My sister-in-law had a baby with my older brother. My brother's first child. She left the house to visit her mum. While visiting her mother apparently she got hungry and her cousin had a bike. Her cousin was a bad boy in the community. She got on the bike and went to buy the food and was coming back when some men stepped out on the road and fired a barrage of shots at them, hitting him about eight or nine times. She got one shot in her back and died while the bike was driving. At the time I was very mixed up in certain things. Basically we felt and knew that we could do something about it and word got out to a few people who are very influential in my life including **Black Kush** of **Uprising Roots** band. He spoke to me and **Rory** too and they are the ones who told me "*What you are doing now - you can't mix the two*". So that's how the concept of **Rasta Nuh Gangster** came forward.

You and Rory are working on an album right now. How has that experience been for you? Very spiritual. Working with Rory you find out what we are doing is bigger than both of us. The way he treats me, I'm learning to eliminate self, to put the work forward, knowing the mission is not about me or him but The Most High. I think the best part of our day working together is before we start when I Man pray. Because we all know that through the Almighty we shall find true illumination. Whoever the Almighty is. So I Man feel the bond me and he has spiritually is what makes me and he have a father-son bond. Working

with him is like working with your brother or your father. Someone who has mutual respect and puts your best interest at hand.

Because I'm broke. I have no money. (Laughs) But I can't be broke because of **Rory**! It's the truth. So it's like working with your father. Your father is not going to let you go home without getting paid. So I Man think he looks out for me even when I don't want to or I don't ask. So I Man feel really and truly it's like a family bond here in the studio. His wife, my mother - you know what I'm saying? It's like a family unit here.



SAMORY I – BLACK GOLD

RoryStoneLove / Black Dub Music - July 14th 2017

Samory I - a name to remember. A name filled with historic meaning too, as *Samory Touré* was one of the most successful African opponents to European colonisation in the 19th century. His great-grandson **Ahmed Sékou Touré** was chosen first president of independent Guinea in 1958 and, twelve years later, released the



Sheldon "Atiiba" Bernard (flute), Donald Dennis and Aeion Hoilett (bass), Denver Smith (percussion), Carlton "Bubblers" Ogilvie (keys) and a legendary brass section played by Dean Fraser, Nambo Robinson, Dwight, Everal Gayle and Stingwray. The result is an absolutely stunning sound which is best heard

album *Regard Sur Le Passé* in his ancestor's memory.

In line with this tradition, it would seem, Samory I sets up a monument on his own with his debut Black Gold His rise from a no-name to a seriously to-be-reckoned-with artist has been a swift one. Church choir, a chance encounter on his neighbour's veranda, first steps on dancehall rhythms, then a trailblazing introduction to producer Rory "Stonelove" Gilligan ... asked what made him decide to work with Samory, he says: "He grants us a look through the eyes of a ghetto youth in today's world. Black Dub celebrating the black experience!" And indeed, the experience is vivid, palpable in the way Samory I vocally interacts with the rhythms. Anger, sadness, hope, indignation, love - all the emotions you can think of, resonate in his voice. Listen to the cover version Is It Because I'm Black, for instance, original sung by rhythm & blues veteran Syl Johnson. Feeling!

Apart from *Rastaman*, all other tracks are original material, created and recorded with and at **Rory**'s studio and brought to life by fantastic musicians such as **Kirk Bennett** (drums), **Mitchum Khan Chin** and **Courtland "Gizmo" White** (guitar), on good speakers. Just recently, I had a taste of the single *Rasta Nuh Gangsta* on the big bad double-stacked **I-Livity** soundsystem – this bass blows you away, and the extended version (the song is 9:16 long!) leaves much room for the unfolding instrumental soli.

Thematically, deep faith and devotion to the Father above shine through in tracks like **Son Of David**, **Power, Fear Of Jah, Serve Jah** and **There Is A Spirit**. Other subjects include harsh criticism of evil "servants of the system" in **Suit & Tie** and a denunciation of those who keep playing the role of the slave masters in **Not Because. Weed** has its place as well, as does the motherland: a natural mystic is flowing our way in **Lost Africans**. The title track, finally, speaks of love, sweet love, again in a perfect synergy of the singer's natural timbre and the musicians' exuberant skills.

Black Gold is a reggae album in the genre's most essential form. No easy-peasy beach and sunshine affair, no bling-bling ingratiation to pop markets, but heavy, painfully honest roots that **Samory I** turns into an authentic memorial of the history reggae's been born out of – suffarah's music.

by Gardy Stein-Kanjora





BLACK DUB MUSIC

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WITH ORGANIC ROOTS

BY ANGUS TAYLOR

Rory Gilligan, aka **Rory Stonelove**, built his name as a selector of dancehall. Yet in recent years, with his **Black Dub** label, he has gained a reputation producing the kind of roots rock reggae that made Jamaica famous back in the day. It's a music that has lent itself well to younger - and predominantly female - artists. Perhaps the most notable is **Jah9**, whose debut album *New Name* trumpeted her and **Rory**'s official arrival in 2013.

Rory doesn't work with **Jah9** anymore. She's gone out on her own, helming second LP *9*. But he's been extremely busy voicing a variety of young singers. The one that looks likely to repeat the impact of **Jah9** is a youthful Rastaman from Kencot with a troubled past called **Samory I. Samory's** album *Black Gold* is due for release in July.

PHOTOS BY VERONIQUE SKELSEY

Reggaeville's **Angus Taylor** and **Rory** happened to be on the same flight from London to Kingston. **Rory** - who spent his childhood in London - was over there doing business and visiting his friend **Mad Professor**. He arranged an interview at his smaller Kingston home studio (his main base is out in the country). Inside they discussed **Samory I**, the meaning of **Black Dub**, the struggles faced by female artists and much more besides.

Rory talks in short fragments of sentences. Maybe it's his recent trip or because the interviewer is English but he has a discernible Londoner's accent and expressions ("he goes" instead of "he says" and "what have you" rather than "whatever").

Rory kindly drives the Reggaeville team back afterwards and plays a CD of *Black Gold*. It sounds like one of the releases of the year.

You've just come back from London. What are you working on at the moment?

I've just finished **Samory**'s album. Doing the final mix now. I've got some EP projects. **Tarah Harrison**. She's a background singer for **Lauryn Hill**. That's exciting. Something different. Different wavelengths. **Skygrass** is also exciting. **Raquel Jones** is a lyricist a dub poet type of thing. That is exciting too. They're all like different types of **Black Dub** music. Then I am also doing an album right now called the *Lost Files*. Those are like certain songs that were supposed to be on albums and projects but never got to reach that level. So like two tracks, then two tracks of certain artists. That should be a really good album when it's finished.

You were working on an EP with Jah9 and then she decided to produce her album herself. Are there going to be a couple of her tracks that you can add to one of your Lost Files projects?

Well, the two tracks that I have were recorded for the album. And it didn't work out so she rerecorded them. So I won't release those two. I wouldn't do that.

Your Kristine Alicia album literally came out as we arrived in Jamaica.

The **Kristine Alicia** album was taking gospel to a roots reggae vibe. It was an interesting recording. Beautiful voice. A beautiful earth-tone. Saying that, I also used a lot of real authentic type of reggae. I even

did some covers like *Worries*, *Heavenless*, **Donny Hathaway** *Is It Because I'm Black*.

A producer I admire. It is very black sounding. It's dark black. Very, very black. It's authentic Jamaican.

How did you meet her?

I have a friend called **David Muir**. We used to play sound system together. He is now in Florida and he goes he has this artist – "Give her a try". The first track we did was *Key Lock*. And I thought "*Let me try a gospel roots*". I like a challenge.

The name Black Dub is very direct. It says what it is.

I wanted something that could celebrate the black experience - and what I was aiming for. **Black Dub** not just bringing music - bringing poetry, art, fashion, a lot of black arts into one movement. So that is the plan. And if I live so long I can see it happen. I'd like to have a centre for the kids them, who want to record with the latest equipment and what have you. That's the real goal. So if that goes through it will be wonderful.

Dub music was created by black people in Jamaica. In recent decades there has been a perception that it is no longer black music. Is there a sense of reclaiming dub as Jamaican music? Obviously someone like Mad Professor has been making black dub in England all the while.

Mad Professor is a very good friend of mine. When I come to London we joke around for hours. **Mad Professor** to me represents the black dub of the UK. Even though there are other people doing it still. You have people like **Russ Disciples** that you can tell is a white dub producer. And his stuff sounds wicked also. But you can directly hear the difference between a **Mad Professor** and a **Russ Disciples**. Saying that, when you hear UK dub it has that ching! ching! and it's a bit robotic and head-banging. So with **Black Dub** we try to make things more mystical, more musical. Black like a **Tubbys**.

It's heavy but it soulful.

That's right, it's soulful. That is what we're trying to accomplish. At the same time I'm still here learning.

A lot of the music you've produced reminds me of the underrated female roots artists of the 1970s. Olive Grant aka Ta-Teasha Love aka Senya. Joy White. Dhaima - although she was American. Your Midnight rhythm was based on Children Of The Ghetto by Senya. These female artists of the 70s made roots music that was as good as anything by men but they didn't get to make many tunes or receive the same acclaim.

I find it hard to get airplay. Like you get an airplay now and then upon a good station but we can't get the rotation that we need. The day we get a rotation we should be good. We are hoping in the future we can get in the rotation. They play it one time and say "*Wow – it's wicked*" but then we don't get the rotation so maybe we have to find some money and give some money and all that!

Things have definitely improved since the 70s. It shouldn't even be a thing but there definitely is a movement of female artists now.

When I did the *New Name* album with Jah9 I took it to a radio station in New York and said "Hear this". He took it and two days later called me and said "*That album Rory - it bad bad bad. If only it was a man!*" (Laughs) I mean, what's the difference? I think we've reached an age right now where to me it doesn't matter if it's a male or female. That's where I am right now. Females are just as good as the boys. So I don't really see a difference but I guess still you have certain men who still feel like a woman is beneath. I don't really believe that. I believe it's an equal balance.

Do you like to give people their break? Find somebody who's not been heard so much?

I enjoy that. I enjoy that challenge. It's cost me a lot of money too! But I could have ea-



sily went **Sizzla** and all of that. I could have gone the easy route but then it wouldn't be a challenge for me so as a producer so I thought *"Let me do the unknown and let my stuff be unknown too*". That's the plan.

You've said you're not a technical person in previous interviews yet here you are surrounded by all this technical equipment. What is your production process?

Sound. Like, to record it. The most important thing to me right now is the way it is recorded. The mic-ing and what have you. I like to collect microphones and study mic-ing. I like to be on YouTube studying different guys' techniques of mic-ing. I also believe in circuitry too. Equipment circuitry and micing that's where I'm at right now. But it's very expensive to do and so like every year I try to obtain the cheapest equipment to up the circuitry.

Are you, like Mad Professor, more of an electronics person or are you happy with the computer suite thing?

I have a 24 track machine but I live in the country, on the mountain so that's where I do most of my recording. But I'm hoping to get a bigger space and be able to use the tape machine but I'll just use the amp-age - the amp of the tape machine. I don't use an actual tape.

One well known person who stepped away from music and is back recording with both you and Mad Professor is Nadine Sutherland. Nadine is like back from back in the day man. From dancehall days you know? And from my school days when she won the Tastee talent contest and had her first tune for Bob Marley. It was like a big thing for us. I watched Nadine grow and myself grow at the same time.

That's another wicked tune out of the same school of foundation female roots - Starvation.

Yeah, yeah. **Nadine** is like family here. She can just come. I just gave six tracks of **Nadine** to **Mad Professor** for his album and I am also still recording. Beautiful person.



As a young selector do you remember playing those female roots tunes?

I grew up in London from house party. So from my mother from boogie-woogie to ska to rocksteady, from my sister to roots and dub, and my brother from **Joe Gibbs** and lovers rock I have grown up listening to all sorts of music. And also I used to admire the recording and the space of even the **Wailers**. Like the **Burnin**[•] album. The bass-lines, the space, empty space, that type of recording where every 4 to 8 bars you'd hear one instrument play for about 10 seconds. I used to love stuff like that. I try to do that on my recording too.

When people heard the Jah9 song New Name people said there was a UK feel to it.

Yeah, yeah. It has a kind of UK feel. That's just me still. Any of my albums will have a UK feel to it.

Do you think you'll do anymore work with Jah9 now she's gone out on her own? (Laughs) Maybe, maybe. Possible.

Ok! Tell me about working with Samory I then. **Samory** has been a challenge. That has been my biggest challenge doing Samory's album. It is spiritual. It's like I'll play it one day and say it's wicked. And then I'll play it the next day and I'll be second-guessing. What I do is, when I finish recording the tracks I play them while I'm driving. Coming from the country is a three hour drive and I'll see how long it takes before I get bored of the song. If I get bored easily then it's not that good. **Samory**'s album is on a very spiritual journey and I'm giving it an organic roots... what's the word I'll use? It is hot, like a musty heat, sweaty type of feel I put to it. That's probably been my biggest challenge doing Samory's album.

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KULCHA SHOK



How did you link with him?

Bridgett his manager said "I want you to do a song for me to play at Dub Club". I was here voicing Raging Fyah at the time and he came with **Bridgett** and **Kumar** was right out there in the front room. Samory came in and I said to him "Let me hear your voice" and I was like "Damn!" So I said "Okav", we did Take Me Oh Jah for Dub Club. Take Me Oh Jah was like the anthem for Dub Club for about a year. Then we did Fear Of Jah, then we did African Daughter and we just recorded, recorded, recorded. And even though I've done the album I am also doing the mixtape. The mixtape is basically a tribute to the elders - those oldtime, old school rhythms with certain oldtime artists on it to give it the old Stur Gav sound system type of feel. That will release after the album. Probably by the summer hopefully.

You probably hear these types of questions all the time - but what do you think of the current state of music in Jamaica?

Anything evolves. For one to say bad things about one form I think is wrong. I think all music is art. A four year old can do things I could never do now, so the kids are more smart. I love dancehall. Dancehall is my bread-and-butter.

You couldn't have done what you've done without it.

(Gestures around room) Dancehall paid for all of this. So I love dancehall. There is some dancehall where I'll be like "*Maybe it's pushing the line*". But then I feel like in my time I pushed the line. From rubadub sound system. So I can understand the youth. Some of the stuff the guys are doing is incredible. The energy. The only thing I have with it is the attention span is very short. It's like 45 seconds. It needs to run at least two minu-



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tes. Attention-wise. That's the only problem I have. It only lasts for so long. But I really love what they're doing right now.

Another clichéd question, but what do you think about the current state of Jamaican society right now? There are a lot of concerns in the media about violence.

I think there's always been violence. The country is smaller and the world is smaller – with social media and what have you - so we get to hear more things. At the same time, the world is more graphic now than it was probably in the 70s. But again they were still having wars when murder was being committed. In a society like Jamaica now it is scary for me to know the kids can be on a bus and be stabbed to death on Hope Road. That scares me. The value of one's life growing up. I used to think there is no price for a life but now you start to wonder how much is life worth? That's the scary thing.

If you look back on your life is there anything you would go back and change? If you could meet your young self just starting as a selector would you have any advice for him?

I believe we're supposed to be where we are in life. I don't think if I went back and redid something, much would've changed. That's just life. You just live it. For the moment. If I could live my life over I don't think I'd change it because I had a great time. There've been bad times and good times but it could've been worse! (Big laugh)



RORY STONELOVE



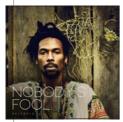
REGEAE SUMFEST 2006

PHOTOS BY JULIAN SCHMIDT



ALBUM REVIEWS 2017

BUZZROCK – NOBODY'S FOOL Ministry of Dub - June 9th 2017



"Sadiki's plans are to perform his current works for as many new audiences as possible in an effort to promote his music and continue the mission of spreading the words and teachings of His Imperial Majesty."

Smiting with a compelling gaze, **Sadiki Niamke Phillips** turns towards us on the cover of his debut album *Nobody's Fool*, instantly spurring my curiosity. Where does this artist called **Buzzrock** come from?

Born in Belmont, Trinidad, **Sadiki** moved to Miami at age six where he learned to play drums. Eleven years later, he returned to Trinidad and formed the **Jah Band**, which regrouped and emerged as **Buzzrock** in 2005. *Nobody's Fool* is actually the fourth release under its wings, but this time around, **Sadiki** is the lone creator of the album's content, doing everything from songwriting, over playing most of the instruments, to singing, as well as mixing and mastering. He even released the album on his own studio label called, tellingly, **Ministry Of Dub**.

And a dubbing minister he is! Upon pressing Play, a certain resemblance to the enchanting music of **Vaughn Benjamin** aka **Akae Beka** becomes obvious. **Sadiki**'s voice might not be as commanding, the lyrics not as elaborate, nor the instrumentals as immaculate as his kindred spirit from St. Croix, but the same passion for life and spiritual matters shines through the notes heard on the eleven tracks.

While the first three tracks are quite straight dub reggae, jazz influences are audible on *Dub It Before, Musical Physicians* and *Gifts From The Sun* (my favourite, including a beautiful instrumental part), making for an interesting listening experience in which **Sadiki**'s unconventional style of singing plays a part as well. On the whole, *Nobody's Fool* is a deeply meditative, relaxing album that brings a fraction of Trinidad's creative potential to our attention.

by Gardy Stein-Kanjora

CLAYE - PERCEPTION Countrybus Music - June 2nd 2017



Explicit lyrics! With *Perception*, UK-based singer **Claye** shows us a different side of his multi-faceted artistry. Direct and confident he takes a bold step out of the crooning comfort zone audible on his fine debut *Art & Soul*. Now,

just a year later, 14 brand new songs, a remake (*Can I Have My Heart Back 2.0*) and a dub complete the picture of a conscious, outspoken artist.

All tracks were written and produced by **Claye** himself, with occasional instrumental help by other musicians on bass, guitar and drums. As a result, the powerful tracks pump a considerable amount of bass through your speakers, some of them revealing their charm with little extras such as the synths in *Fuck You* or the R'n'B-esque piano in *Prophecy*.

However, it's the lyrics that impress most this time. Every song has at least one line you can either 100% agree with or opening a new perspective. "Gotta be the change you wanna see, cause we need a change now honestly!" is one such in Black **Sheep**, the whose video is an exemplar of the new Clave (shot in black and white with a focus on his face only). The message in Go is "I would rather you hate me for my honesty than love me for a lie", while in the innovative *Speak My Mind*, he does just that: "I love this place but I hate those faces that purport to make everything right ... ". Free*dom* is a different kind of Babylon-song, correctly putting ourselves in the centre of responsibility: "Freedom is not a place, is not a time, it's a state of mind!" - what a message to choose to use the bassline of Marley's Zion Train!

His love for the ladies has its place as well, as songs like **So Beautiful**, **I'm Not Sorry**, **From Me To You** or **Murderer** testify, and his appreciation of **Gentleman** can be seen in choosing him as the only feature on **Backup** (more would have made for a bigger vocal diversity, though).

Claye once more delivers a wonderful package that shows his skills both as singer and producer, so make sure you get this *Perception*!

by Gardy Stein-Kanjora

COLLIE BUDDZ - GOOD LIFE Harper Digital Entertainment - May 19th 2017



No Caribbean artist. with exception the of established icons Rihanna and Sean Paul, has been able to ride the current pop-dancehall wave to the top of the American charts. Like Sean Paul. Collie Buddz

has a highly recognisable brand with influence across many global markets, and this notability could help propel the right tune to epic, Come Around proportions. If there were a tune on Good Life ripe for Sean Paul-level success, it is most likely either I Got You or Used To featuring Kreesha Turner. Both of these tracks have the same approachable, vaguely Caribbean feel that Justin Beiber, Drake, and Ed Sheeran have successfully marketed to pop audiences. Of the two, **Used To**, with its strong female presence and EDM-influenced style, is probably best suited for mainstream markets, though I Got You has a bright, cheerful feel perfect for setting the vibe at any summer barbeque. Besides the possible pop hits and high profile features from hip hop artists Riff Raff (aka Jody Highroller) and Snoop Dogg, there's also quite a bit of American urban influence imbedded in Good Life, even in many of the more straightforward reggae tracks. Control, Part of My Life, and Save Me are true hip hop-reggae hybrids with varying potencies of each element, but all of these riddims are built from choppy drum samples, the foundation of hip hop production. Listeners will recognise similar production techniques in Level, an innovative beat with mellow organs, aboriginal percussion samples, a screaming synth lead, and a trap tempo. Collie Buddz completely murders the track, setting the stage for P-Lo of the Bay Area's The Heartbreak Gang, who outperforms all of Good Life's other cameos. Level indeed takes Good Life to the next level and, although the song doesn't fit within the parameters of what Caribbean-infused pop sounds like right now, it still has plenty of pop and urban appeal. by Dan Dabber

INDUBIOUS - FROM ZERO Righteous Sound Productions - June 30th 2017



Borders, whether national borders or cultural ones, have the function of building a coherent inner system within the border lines by excluding the outside from the inside. But overcoming cultural boarders may evolve in great transculturation

projects. In the case of the band **Indubious**, the musicians bypass musical genre borders, going beyond reggae traditions, combining roots, dub, electronic, and psychedelia to give rise to a new genre: rootstronica.

The North American West Coast band **Indubious**, comprising the brothers **Spencer** and **Evan Burton**, release their brand new full-length album *From Zero* which will be moving and inspiring for everyone who is into the combination of roots and electronic music.

From Zero is a collection of 14 songs and the first album that is completely self-produced by **Spencer** and **Evan**. They have released it through their own label **Righteous Sound Productions**. The mastering credits go to **Michael Denton**, who has recently been working with **Stick Figure** and **Collie Buddz**.

Indubious show a great sense for collaborations on this album. In the combination *Golden Ones* with dancehall icon **Sizzla**, the musicians have been wise to follow their own vision in rising up to the highest in these lyrics.

Don't Lose Sleep is enriched by a contribution from **Vaughn Benjamin**, the voice of **Akae Beka**. The song is stunning, thanks to the heavy pounding of the bass. You can nearly see the huge speakers vibrating from the power of the bass waves in your mind's eye. As the counterpart to the instrumental mash-up, **Benjamin** enters with his soothing beautiful voice, and brings with him harmony and inner strength.

From Zero is not just about great collaborations. **Indubious** creates music that could carry you away from mainstream life and take you to a world where the real values still mean something. Their songs offer serious reflections on life. The lyrics are uplifting and positive all the way.

Not every song on *From Zero* is a highlight, but each one was selected carefully and created with a great love for melody and for the love of poetry in music. **by Lena Pietzinger**

MEMORIA - STARTLINE Cesaraugusto Music - May 19th 2017

The next generation of reggae musicians are on their way straight to your stereo system and your heart. The boys and girls, aged between 15 and 20, form the band Memoria and have already made a mark for themselves through many regular live performances over the past years.



Startline is Memoria's debut EP. It was mixed and mastered by Guido Craveiro, who is wellknown for his work with Dellé, and released on Cesaraugusto. Startline comes with seven songs; each of them in a totally different style. There is the roots aspect in Royal Soldiers, the dub in Babylon, Latin sounds in Lucha Conmigo, and Just Wine is a combination of two distinct, but actually very similar genres: dancehall and reggaeton. Artistic diversity also enters the level of content in Startline. The lyrics vary from idealistic ideas of fighting for a better world (Babylon, Lucha Conmigo) and ganja praises (Legalize My Mary) to fun-orientated party talk (Just Wine, Celebration).

As the EP presents all these different styles and the concept of the release is not directly obvious, you have to pay more attention to the opening and the title track, *Startline*, to understand the key philosophy of this band. Here, an elderly woman speaks to the listeners and reminds them to not give up being happy although this world of hate, discrimination and suffering gives many reasons to be all upset. Representing a conscious and responsive lifestyle, without taking everything too seriously, that is **Memoria**, and that is the concept of this EP. As the intro speech fades out, a cheery party tune starts, an introduction to **Memoria**, an anthem of themselves.

by Lena Pletzinger

The second song on *Startline* is *Royal Soldiers*, a one drop tune with wonderful horn sections and very emotional vocals by the singer, who praises everyone living and acting in the name of love. It addresses the youth and encourages them to define, in their own independent terms, what they want to be in life. *Babylon* is more spiritual. On a dubby melody, the singer express-

es his anger on the subject of building walls all over the world as this will only lead to separation and injustice. The oft repeated line "Burn down the Babylon walls", indicates the urgency of this message. The echo-effect of the backing vocals support and meld with the singer's preaching. The next song takes up the subject of "longingfor-a-better-world" from the previous song. Lu**cha Conmigo** is a song in Spanish and shows vet another face of the band's great potential. It takes the listener on a journey to a land where the vicious circle of poverty, crime, and corruption dominates the landscape. Lucha Conmigo is followed by Just Wine, a song that challenges the listener to perform a quick switchover in their musical temper. What we find in Just Wine is a modern, RDX Kotch-inspired-kindof-dancehall song, auto-tuned and made for the dancefloor. Unexpected, but interesting is the changeover to a reggaeton beat à la Daddy Yan**kee** after the first minute, and the combination of English and Spanish lyrics, fused into one big international party tune. *Celebration* is the last song in *Startline*. It catches the party vibe of Just Wine and keeps on driving down the dancehall road.

With this debut release, **Memoria** is taking a big step away from being the youth band next door towards becoming a well-respected band of serious musicians. Most definitely, we will be hearing a lot more from this young band in our future. As the EP's title indicates, this is just the beginning.

ALBUM REVIEWS 2017

MORGAN HERITAGE - AVRAKEDABRA CTBC Music Group - May 19th 2017



Avrakedabra is infused with many shades of reggae fusion and because of Morgan Heritage's skills as musicians, all of these blends are, at minimum, well executed. The group's biggest offence are those

songs on the album that seem created for immediate export - like the **Jimmy Buffet**-esque Pineapple Wine or Dancing in the Moonlight, which appears to have been plucked directly from one of the many cruise ships in the Caribbean Sea. Beyond this momentary pandering to the tourist market, the Morgans are talented facilitators, and some of their most radical experiments produce results. We Are has a bouncy, futuristic feel, reminiscent of Dave Kelly's classic Jov Ride Riddim ... if Skrillex relicked it. The tune features two artists: Dre Island and Kabaka Pyramid, who represent the future of reggae music, and the repetitive hook aptly declares, We are the future! This combination of artists is magnificent and evervbody delivers in top form, bringing organic authenticity to the proposed future format. It's apparent that the *Grammy* win has opened a new chapter in Morgan Heritage's career, and the new focus seems to be on maintaining longevity as opposed to the old focus of making their mark. They've now certainly made an undeniable impact on both the reggae scene and the broader global music market. They continue to branch out to new fans by hitting the festival circuit hard every summer and Avrakedabra feels like an attempt to reach out to those who may be new to Morgan Heritage's music. There's a few morsels tucked in there for the true fans, but the presence of influences as far ranging as country to EDM seems purposed with reeling in both festival bros and Grammy geeks. It's a solid strategy. In the age of digital media, live performances are where musicians make their money, and those bros and geeks will be lining up to see Morgan Heritage play by Dan Dabber for decades to come.

PABLO MOSES - THE ITINUATION Grounded Music - June 16th 2017



Just as quickly as the jangly, clean Memphis guitar and boiling organ open *You An Me*, does the groove settle into a one-drop bed, and **Pab-**lo Moses arrives. It's a musical statement as bright and shiny as the lyrics are probing and

thoughtful, asking questions of racial disharmony and borders between us. Then, **Moses**' latest, *The Intinuation*, turns darker on the second cut, **Attitude**, that calls for love against a foreboding backdrop. This is a pattern that plays out over the course of the album, with the singer volleying between major and minor-key settings, touching down in familiar spiritual and social territory.

He looks to Jah to light the way on the title track featuring **Harrison 'Groundation' Stafford**, and hypnotically warns against Armagideon and the encroachments of Babylon's spell with *Living in Babylon*. These archetypal reggae themes are in the hands of one who knows and cares, as **Moses**, having debuted over 40 years ago, continues to be a conscious caretaker of the classic approach.

His arrangements are crisp and polished, yet grounded in traditional instrumentation, accented by a terrific horn section. There are dips into soul, Latin, and even West African rhythms, but all circle back to reggae. He slyly incorporates rather than approximates, to great enjoyment. The word has likely never been sung so sweetly as by his female harmony singers during *Murder*.

There are warnings to Rastas, as well, to the world, but there is love here, too, as **Moses** recalls a hint of **Sinatra** as he "scooby-doos" in the early bars of the seducing *I Love You*. Still, he rails against hunger and poverty on *In This Jungle*, then with a symbolic return to Africa, closes with the percussive *Open Your Minds* that best represents the entirety of **Moses**' message.

The Intinuation, as a follow-up to 2010's *The Rebirth*, is a very successful one, showing **Pab-lo Moses**' ongoing determination to an intinual movement forward as he is in guarding the rhythms and spirits of the past.

by Larson Sutton

FESTIVALS

AUGUST + SEPTEMBER

REGGAEVILLE.com

PHOTO BY BRAD METZGER

FESTIVALS AUGUST 2017



Reggae On The River

3. - 6. August

Kabaka Pyramid_Perfect Giddimani_ Slightly Stoopid_Stick Figure_ Nattali Rize_Assassin_ and many many more...

French's Camp in Humboldt County, CA, USA



Sardinia Reggae Festival



3. - 6. August

Sud Sound System_Eek A Mouse_ Xana Romeo_Addis Pablo_ Paolo Baldini Dubfiles feat. Mellow Mood_and many more...

Berchidda Sardinia, Italy







Ruhr Reggae Summer

4. - 6. August

Alborosie_Steel Pulse_Ky-Mani Marley_ Chronixx_Protoje_Raging Fyah_ Macka B_Luciano_Jesse Royal_ Nosliw_and many many more...

Ruhrstadion in Mülheim a.d. Ruhr, Germany



Reggae Sun Ska



4. - 6. August

Chronixx_Protoje_UB40_Steel Pulse_ Danakil_Delphine_David Rodigan_ Train To Roots_Mike Love_Marcus Gad_ and many many more...







African Music Festival

4. - 6. August

Dellé_Meta & The Cornerstones_ Soul Family_and many more...

Schlossplatz in Emmendingen, Germany



Nomade Regage Festival



4. - 6. August

Alpha Blondy_Raging Fyah_ Yaniss Odua_Mellow Mood_ Black Roots_and many more...

Frangy, France





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Reggae Geel

4.

4. - 5. August

Black Uhuru_Capleton_Queen Omega_ Tessanne Chin_Raging Fyah_Jah Cure_ Chronixx_Christopher Martin_Kelissa_ Jesse Royal_ and many many more...



High & Mighty



5. - 6. August

Sublime with Rome_SOJA_ Stick Figure_Dirty Heads_lya Terra_ Murs and many more...







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SOLJUNI - Z.AULI 2017 - NGLA - FÜHLINGER SEE

KÖLN/COLOGNE (DE) 30.06 / 02.07 30.06 / Jah9

30.06 / Jany 30.06 / Meta & the Cornerstones 01.07 / Systema Solar



MONTRICOUX (FR)

15.07 / Marcus Gad 15.07 / Horace Andy 16.07 / Papet J 16.07 / Meta & the Cornerstones 16.07 / Luciano



BANDOL (FR)

04.08 / Meta & the Cornerstones 04.08 / Horace Andy 04.08 / Soom T 07.07 / Ky-Mani Marley 09.07 / Marcus Gad



LATISANA (IT)

27.07 / Ky-Mani Marley 27.07 / Meta & the Cornerstones 29.07 / Jah9



MULHEIM (DE) -

04.08 / Alborosie 04.08 / Ky-Mani Marley 05.08 / Luciano 05.08 / Raging Fyah



FRAISANS (FR) 11.08 / 13.08 11.08 / 13.08 11.08 / Horace Andy 11.08 / Ky-Mani Marley 11.08 / Soom T

12.08 / Meta & The Cornerstones



NYON (CH) 17.07 / 23.07

19.07 / Systema Solar 20.07 / Jah9 23.07 / Keny Arkana



SELESTAT (FR)

27.07 / King Jammy 27.07 / Anthony B 27.07 / Marcus Gad 28.07 / Keny Arkana 28.07 / Ky-Mani Marley 29.07 / Horace Andy



BORDEAUX (FR)

04.08 / Keny Arkana 04.08 / Devi Reed 05.08 / Marcus Gad 06.08 / Ky-Mani Marley

12.08 / L'Entourloop 13.08 / Raging fyah 13.08 / Twinkle Brothers



JOUE SUR ERDRE (FR)

13.07 / King Jammy 13.07 / Channel One 15.07 / Weeding Dub 15.07 / Kanka 16.07 / Horace Andy 16.07 / Soom T



BERSENBRÜCK (DE)

28.07 / Twinkle Brothers 29.07 / King Jammy 30.07 / Ky-Mani Marley 30.07 / Horace Andy



FRANGY (FR)

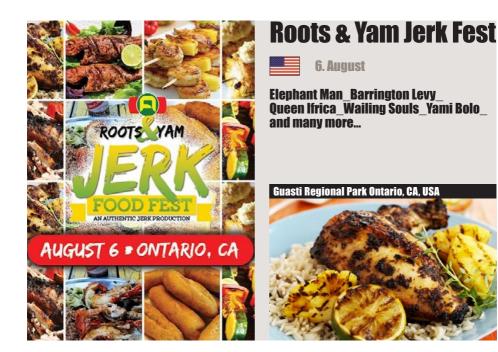
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12.08 / Twinkle Brothers 15.08 / Gentleman & Ky-Mani 15.08 / Devi Reed 17.08 / Black Roots 18.08 / Marcus Gad

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Jambana One World Festival



6. - 7. August

Wayne Wonder_Assassin_Culture_ Leroy Sibbles_and many many more...

Markham, Canada







Afrika Karibik Festival



10. - 13. August

Gentleman & Ky-Mani Marley_ Rea Garvey_Bonez MC & RAF Camora_ Nosliw_and more...

Festplatz in Aschaffenburg, Germany



Boomtown



10. - 13. August

Ziggy Marley_Toots & The Maytals_ Protoje_Lutan Fyah_Assassin_ Raging Fyah_Jah9_Richie Spice_ and many many more...







No Logo Festival

11. - 13. August

Toots & The Mavtals Chronixx Ky-Mani Marley Steel Pulse Danakil Soom T Twinkle Brothers and many more...

Forges De Fraisans, France



Ostroda Reggae Festival



11. - 13. August

Steel Pulse Shaqqy The Skints New Kingston Talisman Big Youth and many many more...

Ostroda, Poland







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Keep It Real Jam

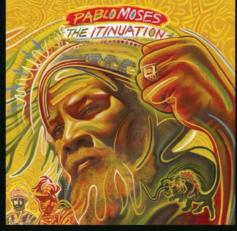
📁 11. - 12. August

Capleton_Dexta Daps_Randy Valentine_ Aidonia_Cham_Cali P_Tony Matterhorn_ and many more...



PABLO MOSES THE ITINUATION





NEW ALBUM

Produced by: Harrison "Groundation" Stafford included the single: Living in Babylon

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11. - 12. August

David Lion_Joggo_Turbulence_ Raphael_Flo Mega_and more...



Afro C Festival



11. - 12. August

Don Carlos_Black Roots_ Terrakota_and many more...







Uppsala Reggae Festival



Chronixx_Duane Stephenson_Raging Fyah_Don Carlos_Jesse Royal_Xana Romeo_and many many more...

Uppsala, Sweden

Waterfront Reggae Festival



12. August

Freddie McGregor_Anthony B_ Junior Kelly_Taj Weekes & Adowa_ Kabaka Pyramid_and more...

Bold Point in East Providence, RI, USA







Rototom Sunsplash

12. - 19. A

12. - 19. August

Shaggy_The Wailers_Chronixx_ Gentleman_Inna De Yard_ Mellow Mood_Bugle_Raging Fyah_ Stick Figure_and many many more...

Benicassim, Spain



Overjam Reggae Festival



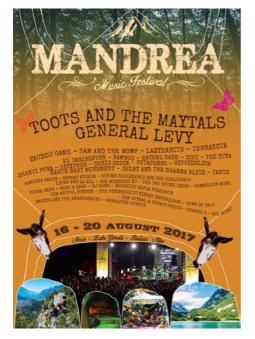
16. - 19. August

Alborosie_Ky-Mani Marley_Dub FX_ Skarra Mucci_Freddie McGregor_ Jamaram_Sista Awa_and many many more...





FESTIVALS AUGUST 2017



Mandrea Music Festival



Toots & The Maytals_ General Levy_Earth Beat Movement_ Shanti Powa and more...



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MIT THOMAS D, JAMARAM, UWE BANTON U.A. RELEASE: 07.07.2017 VINYL: 21.07.2017 HIER BESTELLEN: WWW.MELLOMARK.DE/SHOP



Calgary Reggaefest

17. - 19. August

Etana_Louie Culture_Pressure_ Kirk Diamond_and many more...

<image>

Afrika Tage Wien

1. 194

18. August - 5. September

Anthony B_Black Slate_Dawn Penn_ Jahcoustix_and many more...







Regalowisko **Bielawa Reggae Festival**



Anthony B Mike Love Naaman Nattali Rize Kamil Bednarek Lutan Fvah Jugglerz and more...

OWW Sudety in Bielawa, Poland



Montreal Reggae Festival



🔶 18. - 20. August

Charly Black Konshens Sanchez Etana Tanya Stephens Pressure and many more...







Reggae Rise Up Utah



19. - 20. August

Slightly Stoopid_Stick Figure_ J Boog_The Movement_ Jungle Man Sam_and more...







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Rastafest



19. - 20. August

Kabaka Pyramid_Bushman_ Nana McLean_and more...

Downsview Park in Toronto, Canada



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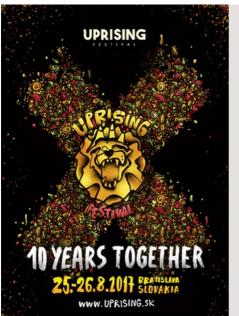
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Uprising Festival



25. - 26. August

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Reggae On The Rocks



26. August

Sublime with Rome_Inner Circle_ Fishbone_The Mighty Mighty Bosstones_and more...





FESTIVALS SEPTEMBER 2017



One Love Festival

1. - 3. September

Derrick Morgan_Black Slate_ U Roy_Capital Letters_Earl Gateshead_ and many many more...

Colebrock Lakes in Tunbridge Wells, UK



Unity Festival

+

1. - 3. September

General Levy_Lyricson_ Turbulence_Rebellion The Recaller_ Cali P_and many more...







Dry Diggings

2. - 3. September

Matisyahu_Common Kings_Barrington Levy_Long Beach Dub All Stars_Orgone_and more...



One Love One Heart Reggae Festival



2. - 3. September

Anthony B_Steel Pulse_Sizzla_Akae Beka_Prezident Brown_Sister Carol_ and more...





FESTIVALS SEPTEMBER 2017



Island Roots & Culture Festival



29. - 30. September

Easy Star All-Stars_Jo Mersa Marley_ Anuhea_Samm J_and many more...

Roszell Gardens in San Antonio, TX, USA





INTERVIEW

ZICCY MARLEY THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES...

INTERVIEW ZIGGY MARLEY

EXODUS 40

BY LARSON SUTTON Photos by Adrian Boot, Zach Weinberg & Gregory Bojorquez

In June, **Bob Marley and the Wailers**' landmark record *Exodus* celebrate its 40th anniversary with expanded editions on both CD and vinyl, including a 4-LP Super Deluxe set, featuring the original album, live recordings from a 1977 concert, singles from that era, and most anticipated of all, a 'restatement' of the album, as curated by **Ziggy Marley**. The restatement is **Ziggy**'s updating of the classic, with new mixes that employ some previously unreleased, alternate vocal tracks and instrumentation, all drawn from the master tapes, plus a version of "**Turn Your Lights Down Low**," featuring contemporary



musicians. *Reggaeville* spoke to **Ziggy** about the origins of the restatement, the driving philosophy behind it, and where the music goes from here.

I have to ask about "Natural Mystic." I don't think I can recall ever hearing Bob harmonising with himself on a song. It's amazing, almost chilling. First, is that Bob singing harmony?

That is Bob. It was in the session. It was a part of the things they didn't use on the original. **"Natural Mystic**", for me, is one of my favourite songs. It's iconic, the way it starts. The parts I found on the tapes - including some keyboard parts and the vocal, were special and unique, and different from the original. So, I had to use them.

Can you think of any reason why he didn't use it on the original?

(Laughs) I don't know. I don't know if it was him [that made the decision] or the guy who's mixing. Someone had a different idea. Maybe it was so that it could be used now. Things happen for a reason. Everything happens for a purpose, and that might be the ultimate purpose.

I found myself listening to the restatement, then going back to the original, like a companion piece.

I think that was the idea for the restatement. I'm not trying to make it better than the original because the original was the best. I'm just trying to re-envision it, reinterpret it, and listen to it from a different perspective. People like you, and fans in general, can hear it in a different way. I just wanted to try and approach it today without thinking about the past, as though it's happening now. As though it's recorded now, and not 1977 or whatever. That was the mental approach.

Where did the idea to do this come from, and where was all the material you used?

When the 40th anniversary of the album came up, on Universal here in America, I was like "*Alright, instead of just a re-release* of the album- a repackage with new pictures or whatever- why don't you give me the



tracks and let me re-mix? Not a re-mix like a dance mix or anything like that. Just mix it with the same songs, same instrumentation. Maybe I'll do some tweaks. Maybe I'll do some changes. Let me take a listen and mix it again in this current time". They said "Al*right*". Some tapes were from England. Some tracks, we didn't even get the originals. One was actually another take, which was a little shaky. We did what we could with it. My initial philosophy behind it was to put Bob's vocals more out front than the original; make the lead vocal more dominant, more focused. That was kind of like the concept of the album; that, and to try and find things not in the original.

Did you go song-by-song in your approach, or was there an overarching philosophy you attached to each one?

It was each song, really. It was interesting because some of the stuff goes beyond

what I think they would've played. They experimented with some stuff, used rather sparingly. I was happy to hear them going beyond what people, or some reggae purists, typically think would be in an album by **Bob Marley and the Wailers** as the reggae icons of our time. Even in those days, when critics were criticising it, they were actually criticising the fact that it wasn't reggae enough, in their minds, The Wailers were always pushing the envelope, which is what great artists do. This is what we do. We push. We don't stay. We don't follow. We push and we lead. We go forward. So I was happy, for my personal thing, to hear one of my favourite artists - my father and the band - doing these things that I did myself. And sometimes I am criticised. I was like "Okay. I'm good". I was validating my own experiences. My own way of doing my music was validated by going back into these sessions and listening to what they did.

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In a way, the restatement validates the incredible scope of the original.

Yeah. There were a lot of elements involved in creating that great album, of course. I don't know particularly who made the decisions, but that album is there; one of the best ever recorded. And now we have a different perspective on that record.

Did you sequence it differently intentionally to contrast with the original? Or did you just like the flow of your sequence better?

I did want to sequence it differently to make a point that this is a different version. The flow, too. For me, to open the album with *"Exodus, that's what I would do if I did [the original]"*. This is how I would've done it. I'm listening to it and I'm going to do it truthfully. I'm not saying it was done wrong [originally], but this is how I feel about it today; in this time, with my equipment, and my speakers.

What surprised you, if anything, about the original sessions for the album?

What surprised me is some of the instrumentation, mainly [keyboardist] Tyrone [Downie], really. Just the idea that they would think about playing stuff in such a way that is outside what you think they would play. When you think about reggae, you think about certain things, and you don't think about other certain things. It's those other things that you don't think about that surprised me. And, encourages me, also. When you think about what makes my father's music, the Wailers music, so timeless, it's these little elements in it, that don't fit in any box. Elements that sometimes you don't even know if you are hearing, a little subconscious thing going on within the foundation of reggae. Things vou don't recognise until vou look deep in it. Another thing I found was, in today's music everything has to be on-time, on the beat.



INTERVIEW ZIGGY MARLEY





In those days the tempo moved. It's moving and flowing. It's not perfect according to the definition of technical perfection. But, that is what gives it that magic, that spirituality. It's not a technical feat. It's a human, spiritual thing; not perfect technically, but perfect spiritually.

Like a heartbeat.

Right.

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Parts of the deluxe editions are excerpts from a 1977 concert at the Rainbow. Did you consult that, or any other material, to see how Bob was working on the songs in that contemporaneous context?

No. I made sure I didn't do that. I didn't want to do that.

Why?

I didn't want to be influenced by that. I wanted this to be a fresh perspective. I don't want to try and take from what has been done.

You have a show in June with an orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl. Will you now add a third interpretation of these songs, arranged for an orchestra?

This is going to be another type of musical adventure, using the orchestra with some of these songs; to give an audience a different experience, and to give myself a different experience. We'll do it the way we do it. The additional parts in the restatement, I might involve them in the versions I do this summer. During my tour this summer, I'm going to be highlighting the 40th anniversary of *Exodus* during my show. I'm figuring it out as I go.

A song included on the deluxe edition, but not on the original or the restatement, is a version of "Keep On Moving," that has Bob, in exile in London singing a little message to you and your sister, Cedella. Do you remember what you were thinking when you heard that?

That song wasn't released when it was [recorded]. After my father passed is when I heard that version of it. When I heard it, it was very interesting. My father expects a lot from me as his first son, which is our traditional way of thinking about things in our culture.

Would you do this again?

Yeah, man. Somebody said maybe we should do it with **Kaya**. I would love to. It's so interesting to reinterpret today, without the influence of the past.



BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS - EXODUS 40 Island Records - June 3rd 2017

There are few, if any, uniquely qualified individuals on the planet that could, or more brazenly, would take on the task of reimagining **Bob Marley and the Wailers'** album *Exodus*. It first arrived in 1977, and would go on to be declared by Time magazine as the album of the century. To



understand fully its impact, think of its predecessors, *Rastaman Vibration* and Marley's *Live* record, that powered his leap to global superstardom. And think of Marley as a result: Third World hero and target. So much so, the singer, his wife, and members of his crew found themselves on the wrong end of a wouldbe assassin's spray of bullets.

Marley performed in Jamaica, his wounds still fresh, then split for London. His self-exile resulted in a collection of songs that varied from peaceful to provocative, finally summarized with a call for **One Love**. There were classics that emerged immediately, including the perennial party anthems **Jamming**, **One Love/ People Get Ready**, and **Three Little Birds**. There was also, in the title track, a call for a movement of people to the Fatherland, spiritual and terrestrial.

40 years later, the movement continues, literally. With several iterations to choose from, the original album is reissued as part of a multi-disc collection, *Exodus: The Movement Continues*. Along with singles of that era, and a disc of live cuts from June '77 concerts at London's Rainbow Theatre, there is the set's companion centerpiece, the *Exodus* restatement.

As one of those very few uniquely qualified individuals, **Marley**'s eldest son **Ziggy** has taken the original sessions and, with alternate vocals and instrumentation, remixed the album, giving it a 2017 make-over. It's bold, and potentially subject to criticism for even the thought of dabbling with such a masterpiece, but, thankfully, it is brilliant. **Ziggy** re-sequences the song order, leading with the title track. Immediately, a piano and a guitar come into focus, with **Bob**'s voice, more prominent and a step above the musical foundation. It's a pattern that follows across the album, with many of the keyboard

parts, buried or budding in the original, now blooming.

The gemstone among jewels is the second track. *Natural Mystic*, utilizing a harmony vocal from **Bob** on both verse and chorus is mesmerizing, sending chills down the spine. This is the pinnacle of what's possible when a second look at an album is done with care and respect. As impactful as *Natural Mystic* from '77 is, this version is, perhaps, now definitive. There is a looseness in **Bob**'s voice, a kind of relaxed determination that finds more spotlight on the restatement. Only Waiting in *Vain*, using a completely alternate take, feels like an unchosen version rather than a modern companion to the original. And therein is the true beauty of the restatement; that it inspires the listener to return to the first, and appreciate it all over again.

Seven of the eight live selections are previously unreleased, joining some of the excerpts included on an earlier *Exodus* deluxe edition to make up the bulk of a Rainbow show. That, too, provides additional compare and contrast opportunities, to hear how **Bob** was interpreting the material in a performance. Sonically, it's very strong, benefiting from a clean mix and a typically engaged London audience.

For those that already possess *Exodus*, these are the two prevailing reasons to acquire this edition: a fresh and inspired restatement from the lion's scion and the in-concert roar of the lion, himself.

by Larson Sutton





Marley moves l people

BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS: Rainbow Theatre, London, 2.6.77. THE GREATEST Reggae show on Earth. There was plenty of movement of Jah people at the Rainbow, they whooped, rocked and swaye as Marley and his beautiful band produced a masterful example of dynamic, intense Reggaerhythms

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UK Reggae 30

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6 AFTER TONIGHT/MAN IN ME, Matumbi, 5 A SO WE STAY, Jah Woosh, Creat 15 JAH COME HERE, I. Roy, Thi 7 I ADMIRE YOU, Roland & Carolyn, Loy

TAKE A TRIP TO ZION/ZION TRIP

WOLF AND LEOPARD/MAGGIE BREAS

HELLO STRANGER, Brown Sugar Low UP PARK CAMP, Johnny Clarke

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23

9 21

UK Reggae LPs

2 EXODUS, Bob Marley & Wailers...... 1 KING TUBBY MEETS ROCKERS UPTOWN, Augustus Pablo.... 3 GIRL I LOVE YOU, Johnny Clarke 7 DRY AND HEAVY, Burning Spear..... 5 SARGE, Delroy Wilson 5 WOLF AND LEOPARDS, Dannis Brown

& THE

MARLEY: double R

This Last

7

8

Dennis Bro

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CHRONOLOGY

BIG BAD SOUND

BY ANGUS TAYLOR Photos by Joachim Maquet & Che Kothari

Chronixx releases his long-awaited first album **Chronology** on June 30th. (This may confuse fans of 2014's 10 track *Dread and Terrible* project, which was an "extended EP".) **Chronology** features contributors including **Winta James, Bost and Bim, Natural High** and the **Picard Brothers** – but much of the production, arranging and building of the record is by **Chronixx** alone.

Chronology's 16 songs are arranged to take the listener on a lyrical and sonic journey. He begins by introducing himself, his family and the island he is from, over reggae one drop rhythms. Gradually the topics expand to Rastafari, Black Pride and life's fundamental meaning as the music morphs into global fusions to carry these more challenging messages further.

Reggaeville met **Chronixx** on a grey drizzly day in London as he was preparing for his six date UK tour. A last minute change of



plan meant the interview was conducted in his van, driving around visiting relatives and meeting friends in Camden and the East End. Outside the rain was beating down. Several times the police drove by, sirens blazing. Yet inside all was spacious and tranquil as Reggaeville and **Chronixx** sat at a table talking at length and depth about **Chronology** and the ideas that inspired it. When the journey was done we exited the van on Holloway Road to find our wet way home.

You've just completed a massive 45 date US tour with revolving support acts but with you as the constant. Do you get tired working that hard, and how do you deal with it? 45 in 60 days. I had to perform every night. Jah9 was there was there for three or four weeks, then Jesse Royal came for two weeks and Kelissa was there throughout the tour.

You get very tired. But it helps you to realise your different sources of strength. We all have different sources of strength. Your strength can come from anywhere. Some people get strength from food, some get strength from exercise, some get strength from breath. Sometimes what brings me through the shows is the music itself. I did most of the tour with my voice gone. And that taught me that there is a deeper voice and a deeper strength that you can't lose.

When I've seen you perform at Brixton Electric and Somerset House it seemed like your shows were assembled into sections. Would you say your new album is assembled into sections?

(Laughs) There are many different stages and types of music on the album. I don't really try to put it in sections, more moods. Different moods and levels - different realms. Music does different things to people.



I am one of the people who are affected by music in that way. Different sounds in different kinds of music have a certain impact on me so I like to perform songs according to that truth. These songs can bring people to a certain point and then from there I need to take them to the next place.

Dread and Terrible project was very much about Rastafari and Babylon. In the early part of the new album you talk a lot about yourself. Who you are, where you're from, your family and so on.

The whole album is very personal but also very universal music. I see myself as a microversion of the universe. Which means every single person that exists on earth, a little piece of them is in me. I try to bring that out in my music. I have a little bit of Haile Selassie I but a little bit of Osama bin Laden. A little bit of Barack Obama and a little bit of Michelle Obama and a little bit of Marcus Garvey. We have a little bit of everyone from everywhere in the world. We are all connected and I am trying at this stage of my life to become more aware of that.



You spoke on social media about your admiration for Bonzai Caruso, the main engineer on the album. You've been working on your engineering lately. You did some mixing and played guitar on this album and the Kelissa Spellbound EP. You did *Likes* pretty much all yourself - but could you build an entire reggae track with live instruments yourself if you wanted to? Do you try to learn all aspects of music?

Yeah, *Likes* is programing. I play the keyboards and the synths. The bass is a synth bass and I programed the drums, recorded it,

recorded the harmonies, the lead vocals and mixed it, along with **Bonzai**. I did a little bit of everything on the album. I wrote all the songs and produced most of them. Mixed and played instruments on a few of them. I am not an instrumentalist like a virtuoso but I can touch an instrument to make music. I definitely can produce from instruments. Bass, guitar, piano and drums. I like instruments and appreciate music to the point where I try to understand each and every instrument I come into contact with. That is how we are able to make music so freely.

The second track Big Bad Sound features your father Chronicle. One of my favourite records of his was a 2004 UK dub 12" produced by Russ Disciples, Row Fisherman Row. His voice is out of that Barrington Levy, Half Pint school but it's got its own richness. Yeah! He's definitely highly influenced by Barrington Levy and many other singers. My father is a huge fan of Half Pint, Cocoa Tea, Horace Andy and all of these people. Likewise myself. I had to listen to whatever my father liked so I ended up liking most of what he likes!

Talking about fishing makes me think of something you sang on Eternal Fire from Dread and Terrible project. There's a lyric about ackee and saltfish and its claim to be the Jamaican national dish.

Well it's not just a claim. (Laughs) It is the national dish of Jamaica. But we have to understand we are coming very close to the end of the nationalist era where people won't see themselves in terms of which country they were born in anymore. I am one of those people. I'm one of the forerunners of that movement - which was foretold by His Majesty Haile Selassie I. Emperor of Ethiopia, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Light of the World. I don't really see saltfish as a part of my diet in any way. I don't see any great sense in it being the national dish since it is not one of the foods that you can find nationally.



The fish is imported.

It is imported, so in my opinion it says a lot about the foundation upon which the nation of Jamaica was built on. Imported food.

Foreign telephone company. Clarks shoes.

Yes! I have no problem with people [eating it]. I grew up eating saltfish and ackee. I personally prefer just ackee. But when my grandmother make saltfish it tastes good it is really nice. You have saltfish and red herring. Jamaican food that is very tasty and very delicious. But as far as the national dish is concerned that's a whole different thing. Lasagne tastes good but you can't make lasagne your national dish simply because it tastes good. There are a lot of things in Jamaica that I feel could be. Ackee by itself is good enough.

Big Bad Sound also features the late Nambo Robinson on trombone. He is a foundation musician whose music touched the new generation whereas you are an artist from today who has intergenerational appeal. Nambo Robinson and Dean Fraser helped me to arrange the horn section. I did the arrangements and Dean Fraser came in, added his touch to it and so did Nambo. I worked with Nambo Robinson on many different occasions - both live and in studio. His son plays with guitar with me.

Nnamdi plays guitar on almost every track on the album.

That is how close we were. **Nnamdi** is a brother to me. So his father automatically becomes like a father to us and treats us like that. He's a great inspiration to our generation in terms of how he helps us to understand the depth and truth in Jamaican music. Not just in the lyrics but the actual musical build. I think that kind of knowledge can only be passed on in the way **Nambo Robinson** teaches it. It is not something you can go in a formal classroom setting such as a music school to practise. It is something that you have to feel and experience. He is a person who understands the musical environment a Jamaican musician

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needs to experience in order to be a good musician. He brings us into that environment all the time to create that environment for us. So much that we were very blessed to be in his presence so many times. **Nambo Robinson** is a great part of the reason why I sound the way how I sound. And he is a great part of the reason why I appreciate the music as much as I appreciate it right now.

On Skanking Sweet the harmonies are very ethereal and soothing. How much time do you spend perfecting vocals and harmonies?

For me the part of recording takes most of my time is the lead vocal. I started out my performing life as a background vocalist. I used to sing harmonies for different gospel artists and in studio with people like Lutan Fvah. I remember doing background vocals for Echo Minott and Lerov Gibbons and different singers. That's a lot of my studio and live performance experience. I am more experienced as somebody who arranges and records harmonies than I am somebody who performs and records as the lead singer. So they're fairly quick for me. It can take days, it can take hours, it can take minutes. Literal minutes to do a full song. 12, 13, 18 tracks of harmonies.

When you were a child in De La Vega you used to direct your church choir.

Yeah. I was brought into the church choirs at a very young age. When I started I was maybe nine years old on the children's choir. I started out leading the songs in the children's choir and I used to go with my mother to the youth choir practice and the women's choir practice. Until eventually at that young age of 10 or 11, I started singing with the youth choir as well. The youth choir would be like from age 18 to 30 years old so I started singing with the choir even though I was just 11. I became a lead singer in the choir. Then I started directing the children's choir. I helped to rehearse the choir until I was maybe 13 or 14 and then I started to direct the youth choir as well.

Which denomination of church was that?

They call it Church of God but it is not really any denomination. It's just church. Sunday church. You have Catholic and I don't know if they would call that Protestants? It is not Seventh Day Adventist, not Catholic, not Methodist and not Anglican. It's street church you know? (Laughs) We used to do a lot of street church where they would call it "Crusade". I am sure they don't understand what the word "Crusade" actually means but we used to do things called "Crusades" where were they would go and baptise people by the hundreds! Christianise the garrison, you know?

So was there a point where you had to leave the church?

Yeah, I mean, I didn't really have to leave the church because I wasn't really in the church like that. I went to the church to study the Bible and to learn music and to sing. I never, ever left that. I still do that every day. So what church really meant to me is spiritual growth and nurturing your spiritual self through music and through meditation. I still love meditating and praying. I used to love to pray and meditate as a little youth. And that's mostly what I went to church to do - pray, meditate read the Bible and to sing! I am still doing all of the above right now every single day so it's a great thing and I never really had to leave the church.

Most of the songs on your album are new or have recently been released as singles but Smile Jamaica, produced by Silly Walks, is an older song. Why did you choose to include that song?

It is a nice song. I think it helps to tell the story that I am trying to tell with the project. It is somewhere I wanted people to go along the journey.

After Smile Jamaica, the album moves away from one drop rhythms and from lyrics specific to you as a Jamaican. As you start to talk about bigger topics the rhythms become more global.

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Yeah. Because music is just mystic. Because you have to talk to people in their language. If I have to talk to you - you can understand me. Music is a universal language and that's one thing I love about music. I can speak to the whole world just by putting it on the right beat. I speak mostly with the music. The words are for those who can't really see beyond the words. But the real message is in the music itself. The oohs, the aahs, the hmms, and the actual drumbeat in the basslines. That is where the message really is.

The song I Can has a very contemporary pop chorus. Did you arrange those backing vocals?

Yes. I arranged it along with **Lisa Davies** and **Latoya [Hall-Downer]** who are very talented singers and musicians. **Latoya** is one of the greatest keyboard players in Jamaica. She is very awesome. They are gospel musicians and I know them from church time. Those were people who are used to look up to as a kid in the church. I went to gospel concerts and watched them play and sing. It was fun. **Lisa Davies** is a background vocalist for **Toots** who plays multiple instruments. Really talented.

You sang a Toots song, Pomps and Pride for BBC 1Xtra that was released this week. Yeah! We are quietly the biggest fans of

Toots in the world.

Where does the Peter Tosh sample at the beginning and end of I Can come from?

I don't know where exactly where it came from but that song was produced by the **Picard Brothers** in France. Actually I got that rhythm from **Diplo**. **Diplo** sent that beat to me along with some other music when I was working on the **Roots & Chalice** mixtape. **Diplo** sent some music to contribute to the mixtape and that was one of them. When I

MORGAN·HERITAGE

Containing the smash-hit-single "Reggae Night feat. DreZion" as well as "Selah", "Ready for Love feat. R. City", "We Are feat. Kabaka Pyramid & Dre Island" and "One Family feat. Ziggy Marley & Stephen Marley".



INTERVIEW CHRONIXX

recorded it I decided that it was too nice for the mixtape and I was going to put it on the album.

After I Can, the songs Selassie Children and Black Is Beautiful use crossover rhythms to convey very powerful messages.

Black Is Beautiful. That is a beautiful track. It is produced by **Natural High**. Jordan and **Blaze**.

Who also worked on the Kelissa EP.

Yeah, they did the **Kelissa** project as well. So me and them have a good production chemistry. But it's reggae music you know? I just want you to know that. It is fully reggae music. If you listen to it and all the elements you'll know that it's reggae music.

One lyric from Black Is Beautiful says "I see a lot of faces long but this is not a racist song, this is a song for the children who were never told where their race is from". This lyric strikes to the heart of modern debates about racism and reminds of the uniqueness of the black experience.

Yeah and I chose to put it there. I was writing the song and I caught myself. I was like *"Yo but you sound a little racist?"* Because I argue with myself. And I allowed myself to argue back with me and say *"You know but this is not a racist song. As much as you might feel a hint of racism I am addressing race so you're going to end up talking about race"*. But the song was meant directly for people who don't have a sense of where they are really coming from. You're born in a black body and that is as much as you know. But it's for a reason. And the reason lies in you – you'll find the reason more when you dig deep.

When you ask a white person, he can tell you about his great-great-great-grandmother and hundreds of years of so he has a sense of where he's going. Because he knows exactly where he's coming from to 500 years ago. For us it's different. I can't. Someone can tell you "*I am Irish*". I can't



even tell you where in Africa I'm from. So I start looking at African history and African history brought me to world history which is studying about the Moors, it's studying about **Amílcar Cabral**.

So it's not just about Jamaica and slavery. Slavery is just a wink. Slavery is nothing. Slavery is not the reason why everything in the world is happening the way it is happening. I don't blame slavery for everything. I don't blame slavery at all. Because how did such a powerful people end up in slavery? That's a big question we need to ask. How the greatest kings of the world ended up in chains? Filling in the middle pieces. First we hear about **Cleopatra** and **Queen Asheba** and **King Solomon** and all these great people and then we fast forward to the middle passage. So that song is leading people towards the Dogons, Kemet and Kush. Towards Haile Selassie, Rastafari. And through Haile Selassie you have to go thousands of years back to King David. Along that journey, you're going to have to walk past Jesus, past John the Baptist and all these other people and go to King David. And when you reach King David you're going to have to walk past Moses and everybody and go back to Melchezidek. And when you walk and you walk and you walk you realise the way how we look is a big coincidence. Just like how black people and white people marry and have interracial youth. That has been happening from the beginning of time. And that is how we look the way we look.

So everybody is everybody. Everybody is everybody. But we have to address it first. And allow the youth them to start the journey without criticism. Don't criticise the youth who is on his journey. Wherever on that journey he is. He might be on his phase of the journey where black people are the supreme race of them all. Some people are at a point in the journey where they don't even understand anything about black consciousness and they don't care. Some people are at the point where they can literally see within themselves the whole universe and everything it that is in it. Not just the other races but all the other species. Because when I look at myself I see a little reptile, I see a little bird, I see water, I see fire, I see all the elements, oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon, silicon. Every single thing. But that's just where I am. I have to respect where other people are. So that song was specifically purposed towards helping youths to start their journey.

In the final section of the album you talk about some real basic truths of humanity. Loneliness, humility, mortality.

Yeah because something very important happened in my musical journey. I started to travel a lot and I'd meet people and make a conscious effort to connect with people. Look in their eyes and feel their emotions and talk to people and learn different cultures and read. Don't just go into a country and have a blissful experience where is just all about me. I try to connect with the struggles of humanity. And this album was a way for me to share some of that experience. On *I Know Love* and songs like that. A lot of people don't get to travel so they don't get to see the world as one world. So they are in Jamaica seeing the world as a Jamaican but when when you are forced to be more than just a Jamaican you get to see where the world is going and where it is coming from.

I can tell you that humanity is coming out of the religious era. That is why you see the religions are intensifying their force upon humanity because they are in panic to see that very soon people won't feel like they have to go to church anymore. And it's not a bad thing. Like all of these great prophets and people that you see - you will have greater prophets than them. Even in this modern era with Instagram and Facebook you're going to have some greater prophets and greater people than everyone who is in the Bible.

Because these people, they didn't just die. They were elevated so their consciousness will live forever. So you will have Elijah, you will see Mohammed again, you will see Jesus Christ over and over and over and over in different ways, even in this time to remind us that your body is a temple. And you will have Haile Selassie I who will come over and over and over again to remind people that until the colour of a man's skin is no more significant than the colour of his eves there shall be war. And if you notice how drastic the Earth changed after the World War. Like literally the way how people eat changed, people's religion changed, a lot of things changed. And right now we are living in a very silent war and when the war is over things will be different.



Earlier you said we are coming out of the nationalist period. Nationalism likewise is intensifying right now.

Yeah but we are coming out. What they're doing is using public relations to keep people in that mind-set. They use public relations and all of these black life this and white life that and blue life and purple life and straight people and gay people and whatever. But really and truly people are just people trying to find their way. We are just people trying to piece the puzzle of life together. That's our only task as human beings. We were not indebted with any other responsibility more than how did we get here and how do we find our way? So everything in between is just helping us to accomplish that. More and more people are seeing that.

During this interview I've asked you about a lot of specifics but your answers take things to the bigger picture. Would it be fair to say you are a philosophical person?

Well, I am still trying to figure out what philosophy really is. I am really, I would say more of a spiritual person, or rather I aspire to be spiritual. Because you can't talk about spirituality in a very superficial way. You can't meditate if you're not meditating. You can't do yoga if you're not doing yoga. And you cannot be spiritual if you're not communicating and manipulating the spirit. I am not manipulating in the sense of controlling but you should be conscious of the spirit. You should be able to talk to spirits, sit with spirits and learn from spirits.

So yeah I more like a spiritual. I am not sure what philosophy really is. I am very interested in philosophy and I feel like a lot of people who have been labelled as philosophical are really spiritual people who aspired to be more than just successful humans. People who have stretched far enough to change the consciousness of humanity itself. People who after being dead for years are still a part of the whole culture of human life, simply because they aspired to be much more than just somebody who is good at what they do.

Einstein is different from **Newton**. For many reasons. And even a lot the great musicians, the Jimi Hendrixes, the John Lennons, the Bob Marley, the Peter Tosh. When you look at all of these great people, it wasn't just that they were good musicians because for every Bob Marley there is a **Toots**. There are so many great scientists and so many great musicians and great athletes. For every Muhammad Ali there is a Joe Frazier. And for every Muhammad Ali there is a **Mike Tyson**. And also for every Muhammad Ali there is a Floyd Mayweather, who is very successful. But some people go further than just their careers and seep down into the consciousness of every single person who has heard their names.

I'm glad you mentioned boxing because some of your songs, Here Comes Trouble and Warrior, are very good themes for boxers to use as their ring-walk music.

(Laughs) I actually saw a boxer walk into *Here Comes Trouble* once. I was like "*Yo that's sick! Mad*". Yeah man, because I man is a fighter you know? I is a fighter man. Because what is life without a good fight? You have to find a fight and participate in it. But I is a spiritual fighter or a musical fighter you know?

You've released a few features with rappers recently. With Joey Bada\$\$, Allan Kingdom and Little Simz. On your song with Little Simz you say "I'm not half the man Marley was". Can you elaborate on that?

That was basically a poetic kind of way to look at our generation, in terms of I feel like we need to be more active with our spirituality. Less Facebook spiritual. Less Instagram spiritual. Less Twitter conscious. Not just superficially awakened. Not because you have tattoo of Nefertiti on your chest - that doesn't mean shit. Bob Marley never had an Ankh tattooed on his face. But I feel like he was actively spiritual in terms of how much he chose to give of himself and when vou can reach that level of selflessness then you're ready. I was just using it to compare our generation to that time. For instance nobody really wants to get shot like Malcolm X and Bob Marley. And nobody really wants to be an enemy of the FBI and the CIA like Marcus Mosiah Garvey. So we end up being very comfortable with our spirituality where "It's just me in my spiritual corner".

So yeah, I'm not half the man Marley was because I am just 24 years old and Bob Marley is a great individual and sometimes people compare us a lot to musicians and people of that time - not allowing us to discover our own greatness and purpose. I feel like that is that is what our generation is charged with right now. Finding our own purpose. And in the song I went further to say "We still don't hear the voice of Garvey calling us, and Luther King's soul is still patiently waiting for our dreams to come true because it feels like the same thing again. Still a fight fire with fire" which means we're still attacking racists with racism, still trying to fight terrorism with terror when it's really spirituality we should look towards.



CHRONIXX

CHRONIXX – CHRONOLOGY Soul Circle Music - June <u>30th 2017</u>

When I saw **Chronixx** perform live in Kingston, back in 2015, I had no clue that the recordings for **Chronology** had already been in full swing, right in that very location, at **Skyline Levels Studios**, where at least six songs on the long expected debut album were recorded.



He has always emphasised his origin from Spanish Town, and I remember

him singing "Spanish Town me born, dat a weh me come from" on this very concert. **Spanish Town Rocking** is the opener of the album and a mission statement. The simultaneously old school and modern flow constitutes the singers main musical facet and embeds lyrics about his upbringing in De La Vega City, which is just a stone's throw away from the famous Prison Oval Football Stadium in Spanish Town, also commonly known from **Barrington Levy**'s **Prison Oval Rock**.

For **Big Bad Sound**, **Chronixx** teams up with his father **Chronicle** and leads us on a riddim journey extraordinaire. The song launches in a one drop, swells to dancehall and eventually concludes in a refined percussion session. A very innovative *family ting*.

Wait until *Skankin' Sweet* gets stuck in your head! It may take a very long time to get it back out, which is not desirable even for this delicate tune.

Contrasting this sweetness, a rougher side is revealed on *Ghetto Paradise*. However, the roughness is rather subliminal and disillusioning, depicting the dark side of a paradise-like Jamaica.

Country Boy deals with another common Jamaican narrative, Kingston's rudeboy mentality. The song has a hip hop feel to it which is supported by a characteristic midi Hi-Hat.

Smile Jamaica surely is one of the biggest tunes on this album and the spherical, EDM-inspired, motivational, forward-looking or even euphoric *I Can* brightens your mood every time you hear it. In the intro and outro, no other but **Peter Tosh** recites Psalm 121 "*The sun shall not smite I by day, nor the moon by night*" crashing all fearfulness.

In **Black Is Beautiful**, **Chronixx** sings about the concept of black beauty in all possible aspects of

human live, whereby he is deconstructs racist prejudice and paves the way for the the self-produced **Selassie Children**, definitely one of the most experimental Rastafari credos in contemporary reggae. Celestial sounds indicate a divine matter and make the song a celebration of the newly popular embrace of Rastafari.

The video single *Majesty*, a modern

Roots interpretation of **Otis Gayle**'s 1971 Studio One classic *I'll Be Around* adds on to this conscious spirit. **Chronixx** said in the press release that this song is about "*The divinity within the woman and the balance that can be found within I&I*". What goes up, must come down. The higher we climb in *Majesty*, enchanted by thoughts of royal togetherness, the farther we fall in *Loneliness*. However, it is characteristic for reggae to combine sad and desperate lyrics with a positive mood. Even though *Loneliness* is a pop dancehall tune, viewed from this angle, it somehow turns reggae.

The dancehall tune *Likes* that has been online since February, wears a modern sound garment and heavily criticises the social media hype of our era. "*Substance over hype!*"

Another hip hop-inspired tune on this album is *Tell Me Now*, which is home to beautifully lamenting string arrangements and a lovesick **Chronixx** who forms his pain into bittersweet melodies. A manifestation of Jamaican optimism and pride, and a paradox allusion to anything between humility and arrogance is the pop song *Legend* with its 70s acoustic guitar sounds and campfire harmonies.

The love song *Christina* fuses gospel, soul and blues into a funky crossover mix. After 15 songs, the album closes with a bonus track entitled *I Know Love*. But I don't want to give away too much for now. Let's keep this one a surprise.

With **Chronology**, **Chronixx** dropped a really innovative and unexpected album; in musical and ideological terms, a border-crossing and transgressive debut, which deals with controversies and truths through upright effort and emotion on a musical platform that sometimes refuses to be reggae, but never to be Jamaican. **by Christian Moli**

DR. ALIMANTADO

BEST DRESSED CHICKEN IN TO GREENSLEEVES 40

1977 - 2017



Photo by Vernon St Hilaire. Capital Letters signing contracts at the Shepherds Bush Greensleeves shop 1978. Chris Cracknell & Chris Sedgwick (right)

London based reggae label **Greensleeves** reaches the big 4-0 this year. The world famous imprint, now owned by **VP Records**, has a host of celebrations taking place throughout 2017.

The **Greensleeves** label had its roots in a record shop in Ealing, West London, founded by **Chris Cracknell** and **Chris Sedgewick**. In 1977 they shifted east to Shepherd's Bush and started releasing reggae music.

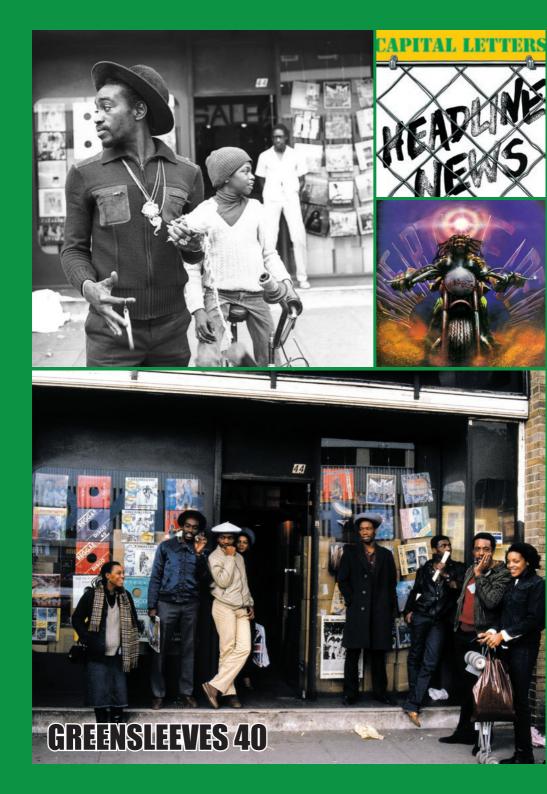
Their initial 7" was *Where Is Jah* by London group **Reggae Regulars**. The following year they issued their debut 12" – a soon-to-be crucial format – of the **Wailing Souls' Channel One** classic *War*. The first **Greensleeves** album was Jamaican deejay **Dr Alimantado**'s self-produced LP *Best Dressed Chicken In Town*.

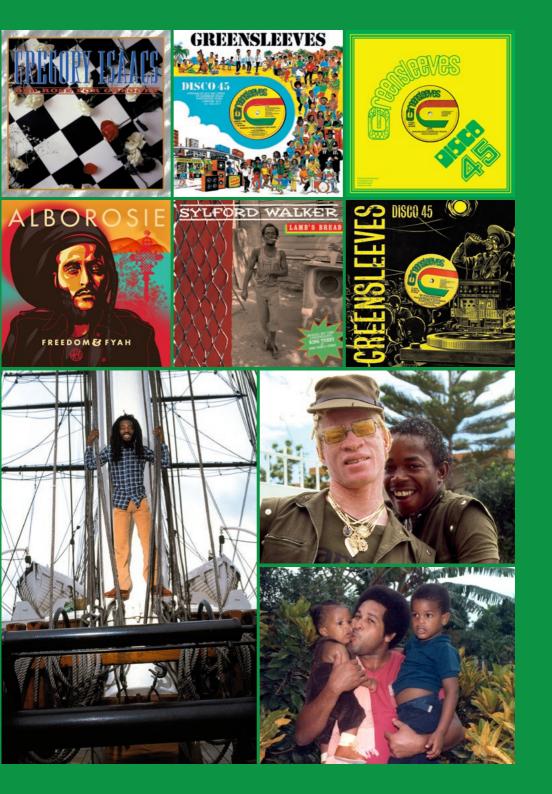
As roots reggae gave way to foundation dancehall in the early 80s, **Greensleeves** became a leading player, working with Jamaica's preeminent producers including **King Jammy**, **Linval Thompson**, **Jah Thomas** and **Henry Junjo Lawes**. Like **Trojan Records** in the previous decade, Jamaican rhythm-builders saw a **Greensleeves** distribution deal as a conduit to the English market. But **Cracknell** and **Segde**wick also had an ear for homegrown talent: issuing the early work of talented London sound system mcs - most notably **Saxon's Tippa Irie** - via their UK **Bubblers** subsidiary. **Greensleeves'** striking cover art by **Tony McDermott** was as distinctive as the music.

When the digital dancehall era took hold, Greensleeves continued to issue top product from Jamaica – Wayne Smith's Under Mi Sleng Teng, Shabba Ranks' material for Gussie Clarke, Shaggy's cover of the Folkes Brothers' Oh Carolina, and Mr Vegas' 1997 smash Heads High.

In 2008 **Greensleeves** was bought by **VP Records**. It became the home of Italian artist/ producer **Alborosie** – delivering his albums *Escape From Babylon, Sound The System* and *Freedom and Fyah*. To celebrate their anniversary **Greensleeves** will be releasing a special forty-track *Total Reggae* compilation containing many of their greatest hits. They will be spinning their catalogue at their regular club nights at The Social in Central London, and more events are in the works...

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