WEARBOOK 2021 BEST OF REGGAEVILLE COM

LEE SCRATCH PERRY BUNNY WAILER U-ROY ROBBIE SHAKESPEARE



LIVE Buthanlast

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SEAN PAUL - SHAGGY - GENTLEMAN ZIGGY MARLEY ALIVE TRIBUTE - TRETTMANN PATRICE - TARRUS RILEY - SDP STEFFLON DON - MILKY CHANCE - SPICE KY-MANI MARLEY - CHRISTOPHER MARTIN JUJU - MAX ROMEC - SAMPA THE GREAT STYLC G - KELVYN COLT - LILA IKÉ - SERANI THIRD WORLD - HOLLIE COOK - MEGALOH MAJAN - MIWATA - KATCHAFIRE - MEMORIA GENTLEMAN'S DUB CLUB - JAHNERATION - SARA LUGO NKULEE DUBE - ROTE MÜTZE RAPHI - MARCUS GAD BRUSHY ONE STRING - HORST WEGENER

FEEL THE BEAT

35TH FESTIVAL

DANCEHALL AREA WITH JUGGLERZ & POWPOW MOVEMENT - BAY-C - JUNIOR CARL VIBEZ VILLAGE WITH

MIKE LOVE - MARTIN JONDO - I-FIRE - GUACAYO - TOKE - JAHFRO AND MORE





Die Beauftragte der Bundesregi für Kultur und Medien



COSMO

YEARBOOK 2021 EDITORIAL



LEGEND: FROM LATIN 'LEGENDA' (THINGS TO BE READ)

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that everything will pass. This is true for time and for people, but for situations and difficulties as well. Indeed, 2021 was not an easy year for reasons we are all too aware of, and many people, including the entertainment industry, suffered both professional and personal losses - but now, it has passed. Time to look ahead with hope, and time to look back with love. In "the same procedure as every year" (quote from the legendary Dinner For One), Reggaeville devotes the following pages to the big bad 2021, tracing its highs and lows and, of course, its music in our annual Yearbook.

LEGENDS PASSING

The occasion for the beautiful cover artwork by Angelina Mühlberg is a sad one, as the artists so vividly depicted in watercolor are not with us anymore. Bunny Wailer, Lee Scratch Perry, U-Roy and Robbie Shakespeare are among the many souls we've lost in 2021 and are remembered in a special tribute feature. Rest in eternal powers, legends! We all are now guardians of your legacy.

LEGENDS AWARDING

Our own legacy has received an utterly unexpected boost when the Jamaican Reggae Industry Association aka JaRIA reached out to us to ask for our participation in their conferment ceremony on July 4th. On that day, Reggaeville received the prestigious award in the category Extraordinary Impact On The Music Industry: New Media. You can imagine how proud this makes the whole Team Reggaeville!

LEGENDS MANIFESTING

JaRIA

2021

MIEJDIA

Honour Awa

With artists spending more time in studio than on tour, a lot of spectacular releases have seen the light of day, easing our minds, giving us hope and making us smile. Much appreciloved, dear singers, artists and players of instruments! Their creations are presented to you in chronological order from January to December, as always complemented with (links to) album reviews, photos, news and interviews, allowing you to look back on 2021 music-wise.

3

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Julian Schmin

Reggaeville

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202

Another way of looking back on last year's music is our ALBUM OF THE YEAR poll. 47 releases were up for voting, and guess who won the Top Prize? Alkaline! He is followed by Danakil (Rien Ne Se Tait) and Bob Marley & The Wailers (The Capitol Session '73) - you'll find all the results on pages 114/115.

LEGENDS UNFOLDING

Team Reggaeville is extremely grateful for the growth in reach, for new music and for everyone contributing to another Reggae circle around the sun - meticulously documented in this Yearbook. And for YOU of course, dear readers, as we exist because of your interest. Here we are, Year of the Tiger, so hear us ROARRRR!



NEW ALBUM "GOOD"

ON TOUR IN 2022 MORE INFO & GIGS ON WWW.TALOWA.COM



YEARBOOK 2021 CONTENT

CONTENT 2021







3 EDITORIAL 109 IMPRINT



HIGHLIGHTS





WHA' **GWAAN MUNCHYPIP**



REAMS VAILTII RF













HIGHLIGHTS 2021



BURNING SPEAR

First, I-man **Winston Rodney**, also known as **Burning Spear**, would like to thank all my fans world-wide who continued to express their love and support in 2021. My fans help to keep the **Spear** burning, and I-man is ever grateful to each and every one.

In November 2021 I released the song *Mommy*, my first single in almost ten years. The reception from press, radio, fans, friends and all forms of media has been so positive and so rewarding. My thanks to all who supported and continue to support *Mommy*.

This song was written long before the COVID pandemic, yet the lyrics are so relevant to today's problems and struggles. *"In a time like now, everything is hard."*

In 2021 I was able to provide some support to the people of the Train Line community in Port-

PHOTO BY JULIAN SCHMIDT

more, as well as gifts to the children's hospital in my home parish of St. Ann's, and homecooked meals for those in the local infirmary. Through the good works of the man called **Zazan**, and his charity in Jamaica, **Spread the Love a Move**, I've been able to give back to my roots. Helping people who need, not who wants.

I spent a good part of 2021 contemplating the release of the album **No Destroyer**, as well as doing 10 live shows for my fans around the world. In terms of I-man going on the road, there is much to consider. As the new year of 2022 is just beginning, we will see what makes sense, and what we can actually manifest.

Just knowing that my fans check for **Burning Spear** with the love and enthusiasm that they do, remains an inspiration to me for which I'm ever grateful.

NEW SINGLE & VIDEO OUT NOW



R D I A PREE RICHE Ŵ









MAGAZINE

JANUARY



BOB MARLEY'S VIRTUAL 76TH EARTHSTRONG

After a hugely successful year, Bob Marley 75 continues into 2021 with several birthday celebrations leading up to Marley's 76th Birthday, including a global virtual birthday celebration hosted by the Bob Marley Museum.



Reggae Wednesdays opens on February 3 with a special tribute to the over thirty members of the music and entertainment fraternity who transitioned over the last year.



The Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA) joins the Ministries of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and the Ministry of Tourism in presenting Reggae Month 2021.



STONEBWOY VOTED ALBUM OF THE YEAR 2020

Anloga Junction was released on April 24, 2020. The album was one of 56 releases, which got nominated via an internal pre-selection. The voting panel included 22 people from TeamReggaeville plus a few guest...



The pandemic keeps us in captivity, but can't restrain our creativity. That's why BuffBaff Records out of Berlin came up with something brand new in 2021: BuffBaff TV.



"Come Ketch di Riddim" on Sunday, January 10, at the virtual Launch of Reggae Month 2021, which will be broadcast across local television stations and livestreamed on various social media pages,...

YEARBOOK 2021 JANUARY

MAGAZINE



9

INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE NOOKS

Like the Triune God of his Christian faith, George Nooks has been not one but three distinct entities. First, he was known as a deejay, Prince Mohammed, who rose to fame in the late 70s at Joe Gibbs' studio.



REVIEW: FIKIR AMLAK & BRIZION - HIGHER LEVEL

It might not be the first release of this young year, but it certainly is one of the most interesting so far: Higher Level. Before turning to the artists involved, allow me to drop a line about the label, Akashic Records.



REVIEW: ZULU BOB - ROAD TO REGGAEVILLE

Founder Hugo Poncet changed the name from DB Bros to ChinaMan Yard recently; it is the first Reggae-devoted label and soundsystem in the people's republic of China, and as such signs responsible for the executive...

THE NEW SENSATION FROM JAMAICA! VANZO VanzoJA © vanzo_page





VIDEO PREMIERES

DEADLY HUNTA - PLEASE



SHAV A FEAT. DEAN FRASER



JAH MYHRAKLE & JAH ROE



RAS TAVARIS - WHO JAH BLESS





MEAN DAWG, PIONEAR & ROBIN HYPE

ANTHONY B



BLACK AND PROUD







HAIL HIM

YEARBOOK 2021 JANUARY

RELEASES











NATIRUTS, ZIGGY MARLEY.







ZION I KINGS





TWINKLE BROTHERS





DACTAH CHANDO



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No.

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YEARBOOK 2021 FEBRUARY

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY



TEACHA DEE MEETS JAMES BOND

The new James Bond movie No Time To Die will not only present hot visuals shot in Jamaica, but will also feature a Jamaican artist. As was revealed this week by The Jamaica Gleaner, the song Rastafari Way...



ALBOROSIE PRESENTS DUB STATION

Ireland based audio software company AudioThing and Alborosie have teamed up to present the official Alborosie Dub Station plugin.



Dub, Reggae and Dancehall wouldn't exist as we know it without the tremendous contribution of this man: Ewart Beckford OD aka The Originator aka The Father of Deejaying, better known as U-Roy.



A new book is in the making and author Martijn Huisman has launched a Kickstarter campaign to get the support to finish the project.



A treasure trove of rescued tapes revives the golden age of reggae music and reveals the fascinating story behind one of Jamaica's most legendary recording studios, Randy's Studio 17.



REVIEW: KRANIUM - TOXIC EP

After the success of 2019's Midnight Sparks, Kranium is back with a new EP – and those sparks of creativity have been smouldering again.

YEARBOOK 2021 FEBRUARY

15

MAGAZINE



Live N Livin is one of two albums from the multi-awardwinning dancehall star, Sean Paul, offering a collaboration over confrontation undertone, that showcases unity in Dancehall. The album was inspired by the perception...



JARIA HONOUR AWARDS 2021

The Jamaica Reggae Industry Association has announced the winners for the JaRIA Honor Awards 2021...



REVIEW: AKAE BEKA - RIGHTEOUS SYNERGY

The prophet is gone but his words remain. This simple statement is as true for the 72+ albums Vaughn Benjamin released as Midnite and Akae Beka before his ascension as it is for releases that see the light of day posthumously. UGANDA, KENIA, NIGERIA, TANSANIA, JAMAIKA

RAZOOF



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wordandsound

VIDEO PREMIERES



VERSE ITAL - MASTER KEY



ADDIS PABLO - RASTAFARI CALLING

BLVK H3RO - REGGAE MUSIC

LUTAN FYAH - MR. TWO FACE

REGGAEVI

NATURE ELLIS FEAT. LUCIANO





PIECES OF MY MIND





PERFECT GIDDIMANI - GOODBYE





RELEASES









MASICKA & TARRUS RILEY







LADY ANN Feat SISTER CHARMAINE









PHOTOS



AJ BROWN - THIRD WORLD IN MIRAMAR, FL @ ICON AWARDS



Photos by Steve James

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HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Compiled by Munchy



My personal highlight for me for 2021 was definitely the release of my album 10. As you know it was 10 years in the making.

Now that it is finally here, it has accomplished so much. It was featured on mainstream media and it earned a Grammy nomination for Best Reggae Album.

Delayed and not denied - from homeless to greatness!



2021 was an amazing year for Publik Report... Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, where a lot of countries around the world suffered from lockdowns or having ridiculous curfew hours that interfered with normality, I still managed to achieve one of my biggest accomplishment which was releasing my first official album My Reality on April 16, 2021.

PHOTO BY STERLING PHOTOGRAPHY

The album is produced by Stingray Records from the UK and I am very pleased to see the responses from the world to my first release.

The album My Reality was also listed by the Grammy Awards in the first preliminary round, which was a very big highlight in my life as well as my career. Another great highlight was playing a major role in a Jamaican film along with Reggae singer Turbulence called Jamaica Holiday produced by Reggae Vibes Radio and Richard Brown Films ... it was certainly a great experience that has opened the doors to a new world.

Publik Report has been through a lot of ups and downs, lost a few friends, but through it all I can say I am still here spreading the good vibes.

I must take this time to thank all The DJs that have supported my music throughout the year Mixmaster J, Ronnie Phillips, Sarah C, Charles Bronson, just to name a few big respect always... Big thanks to Reggaaeville for premiering a few of my music videos in 2021. It's my pleasure to be a part of the Reggaeville family... and a special special thanks to all the fans that have supported my music thus far, whether by means of a download or just by a like or sending a friend request on social media thank you very much ...



MAGAZINE

MARCH

BUNNY WAILER Arats 10, 1947 - MARCH 2, 2021

RIP BUNNY WAILER - RASTAMAN FLY AWAY HOME

In shock and dismay, the world has to face the passing of Neville O'Riley Livingston, OM, better known as Bunny Wailer. The last member of the original Wailers has died this morning in the Medical Associates Hospital...



INTERVIEW WITH MR. RAY BASS

Next to providing you with the full coverage of what's going on in the established world of Reggae, we always strive to bring to your attention upcoming artists that have that special something and a promising future.



REVIEW: JAZ ELISE - THE GOLDEN HOUR

This debut is greatness, hands down. Next to the producers already mentioned, J.L.L., iotosh and Ziah made sure the EP hums with a dynamic diversity that seems to become the brand identity of the In.Digg.Nation...



THE GRAMMY GOES TO ... TOOTS & THE MAYTALS

The Grammy Award winner in the category BEST REG-GAE ALBUM is TOOTS & THE MAYTALS with GOT TO BE TOUGH, released by Trojan Jamaica in August 2020.



Humans are an adaptable species. Put them in the cold, they'll wear animal furs to keep warm; put them in the desert, they'll dig wells and invent irrigation; put them in social distancing, they'll come up with online streams...



REVIEW: SEAN PAUL - LIVE N LIVIN

Sean Paul has returned with his first full studio album since 2013's Full Frequency. But is the legendary artist back with a finely-tuned, radio-friendly ,bidda bang', or is it a case of ,RRR'?

MAGAZINE



MARCIA GRIFFITHS & FRIENDS - CELEBRATING BOB ANDY

Reggae Icon Bob Andy's passing on March 27, 2020 was an incalculable loss for his family, his friends, his fans, and the Jamaican music industry.



OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE CHILDREN..

Neville O'Riley Livingston, OM, better known as Bunny Wailer, passed away on March 2, 2021 in the Medical Associates Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica.



Bristol-based roots imprint 2 Kings are proud to release Rastafari Way" by Blue Red featuring Mikey Dread. The

Rastatari Way" by Blue Red featuring Mikey Dread. The track's stunning vocal was recorded by the late, great Mikey Dread in Kingston Jamaica...



NEW SINGLE: APPLE GABRIEL - NO EQUALITY

In tribute to his passing, JahSolidRock Music released today a new version of Apple Gabriel's song No Equality and an accompanying video...



REVIEW: GENTLEMAN'S DUB CLUB - DOWN TO EARTH

From heaven to earth, through sunshine and moonlight: Gentleman's Dub Club invite us to an imaginative journey to the roots of things, butterflies and mushrooms included..



Just like an echo, sometimes you have to go back to where you started in order to unfold your full potential. For his new release Echoes, that's exactly what German-Indonesian artist Sebastian Sturm did...

VIDEO PREMIERES



JAH-LIL - HUMAN RACE



RICK HAZE & GARY DREAD

TRUDII HARRISON



ROOTZ UNDERGROUND FEAT. JUNIOR REID

ONE THING (BORROWED MONEY)



DAVE SOLUTION, RAS MUHAMAD, NOIZEKILLA & YEDIJAH



NETO YUTH - LATEST THINGS

MOJO HERB - UP & RUNNING ...



UWE BANTON - WHAT KIND OF WORLD



YEARBOOK 2021 MARCH

RELEASES



CORNELL CAMPBELL







VOLODIA









KXNG IZEM





CLATTA BUMBOO





ANSWELE

APRIL

MAGAZINE



EASY NOW, KID! INTERVIEW WITH KAIRO MCLEAN

How do you prepare for an interview with a 12-year-old? While established and even upcoming artists can be asked about their childhood, upbringing, education and their first recordings, that's not so straightforward with...



JANEEL MILLS , IN THE GHETTO' ANTHEM

Crafting her name for the past 3 years by singing background and performing on worldwide stages for such esteemed artists as Grammy nominated Julian Marley, Nadine Sutherland, Junior Kelly, George Nooks among...



I GRADE RELEASES NEW AKAE BEKA ALBUM

Vaughn Benjamin, the singer of Midnite and Akae Beka bands who passed away in November 2019, released 72 albums in his lifetime and several more posthumously. One of the most anticipated new releases from his...



MILLION STYLEZ VOICES HIS FRUSTRATION

Too much negativity in the dancehall right now. Million Stylez speaks out on his new single Inna Di Dancehall. This song is already being labelled as controversial because some who have heard it believes...



UB40 ANNOUNCE NEW ALBUM

Following 2019's critically acclaimed original album For The Many, on June 25, 2021 UB40 release Bigga Baggariddim, an incredible celebration of the genre they love and a seminal reggae collaborations album.



REVIEW: JAH LIGHT - ALMIGHTY ZION KEEPERS

Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - terms that evoke the special flavour of African Reggae, made popular on a global scale by the likes of Alpha Blondy and Tiken Jah Fakoly. A new name now enqueues with these, a promising artist...

YEARBOOK 2021 APRIL

MAGAZINE



NO SUMMERJAM 2021

Even if we all hope for a great festival summer, the chances are very low that big festivals will happen at all during this ongoing pandemic as the usual traveling and touring will not be possible anytime soon.



MORGAN HERITAGE TO DEBUT MUSIC ON NFTS

Grammy award-winning group and Reggae Royalty Morgan Heritage will drop three songs as NFTs, powered by Bondly Finance. A new song and two digitally remastered titles from their vast catalog.



EEK-A-MOUSE IN SWEDEN - ONE MAN SURVIVAL

The tracks "Lips" and Professors on Drugs in Nightclubs are the result of the unlikely but somewhat natural collaboration between Swedish beat producer Joxaren and the legendary Jamaican dancehall singjay star Eek-A-Mouse.



Since Neville O'Riley Livingston aka Bunny Wailer passed away on March 2, 2021 there has been a tremendous amount of condolences and tributes to pay respect to the founding member of the Wailers...



ALBOROSIE ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM

The double A side feature, Never Let Me Down is Alborosie's latest nod to "420" and the global celebrations (each April 20th) around the legalization and use of marijuana.



JESSE ROYAL ANNOUNCES SOPHOMORE ALBUM

Jesse Royal unveils his latest single Rich Forever featuring dancehall's self-proclaimed "World Boss" Vybz Kartel. The song is from his anticipated sophomore album Royal,...

VIDEO PREMIERES





NATURE ELLIS - FREEDOM



MIGHTY EMMANUEL & LION SHILOH



PERFECT GIDDIMANI & YUNGG TRIP







M.PRES - PRAYER



ABIYAH YISRAEL - PROTECT ME





WHO CAN SAVE?

YEARBOOK 2021 APRIL

RELEASES









NATURE ELLIS





VICTORY ROCK RIDDIM











GHETTO PRIEST



HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Compiled by Munchy



BLVK H3R0

PHOTO BY TWO FOLD CREATIVE STUDIOS

2021 was a year of revelations for me. It was the year I pushed myself beyond my limits and released projects that reflected the next level of my evolution as an artist. I was blessed to travel overseas with my band and represent not only the brand we created but also our country at the World Music Expo (WOMEX) in Portugal.

It was a great feeling to see **Bivk H3ro** as an ambassador for Jamaican culture on the world stage and also the fact that we were able to bring Nyabhinghi drums with us from our homeland all the way to a global music showcase was a great thing to witness for Rastafari culture. Watching a room of music lovers jamming to our music and singing my lyrics was amazing to experience, especially at a time like this where human connection and communities are so badly affected all over the world.

The power of music to transform hearts and minds and uplift culture was something I definitely experienced for myself throughout 2021. *It Nuh Easy* is a song I still find myself singing every day with my supporters because it's so real! It's not always easy to keep the fire blazing but after my experiences in 2021 I can definitely see that it is worth it.



2021 was a challenging year for me but a fruitful one. My father had a stroke and it was difficult for my family. My brother and I managed to build a house for him while trying to balance the economic fall out due to COVID-19. The downtime allowed me to spend more time in the studio perfecting my craft while using music as a coping mechanism. Music is more

powerful when struggle influences it.

In music, I released my single *Trench Town* which peaked at number 2 on iTunes Reggae Song Chart in Norway in the 1st week. I was so excited because this was my first single to chart anywhere, then when it was included in the Reggae Vaccine Compilation Album headed by Julian Marley, I peaked at number 15 on Amazon Music New Releases in the UK. For the first time in pursuing music, I could see my hard work paying off and it meant everything to me. During 2021 I also released my single Not Right Now with Real People Music, I got engaged and signed a new management contract. I realized that life is unpredictable and even though all my plans were not fulfilled, my dreams were being realized. In the latter part of the year. I partnered with the Purple Slush Foundation and planned a children's treat in my community of Trench Town. It was a rewarding experience and it made me want to do more for my community.

YEARBOOK 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



SHANIQUE MARIE

PHOTO BY THE DIAHANN PROJECT

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I am beyond grateful for 2021 and what I was able to birth against the odds of Covid. June 2021 saw the release of my debut album Gigi's House and the feedback and good vibes that this album was able to garner are immeasurable.

My song **Grow** from the album was organically selected to be on the official Chanel Runway playlist as well as the growth of *Government Name* blazing from the airwaves on local and international radio. This has been a blessing to me and I am over the moon that I was finally able to make this happen with the help of Gavsborg, Balraj and all the other amazing people who contributed to the project.

My message to everyone is that we should make the most of the cards that we have been dealt. Covid has definitely taught us that there is a silver lining in every dark cloud. With that said I can't wait to bring to you some new fresh music coming soon in 2022 so stay tuned and listen out :) Shout out to my team - Equiknoxx music - and nuff love to Munchy and the Reggaeville team for all the good works over the years!

OUT NOW!





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YEARBOOK 2021 MAY

MAGAZINE

MAY



IN THE PRESS 1981... RIP BOB MARLEY

May 11, 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of Bob Marley's death. Marley died on Monday May 11, 1981 in Miami, FL. We have compiled press coverage to take you back to 1981.



REVIEW: CULTURE - CHILDREN OF ZION

Throwback to August 2006: Having just checked our luggage into the plane's hold at Dublin Airport, en route to yet another double dose of Culture 'live' in concert, my phone rang to say that their main man Joe Hill had dropped...



REVIEW: AKAE BEKA - POLARITIES

Welcome to the Akae Beka School of Higher Education! Principal Vaughn Benjamin invites a select number of students to the Polarities program, a scholarship for all those who seek word, sound and power.



JO MERSA MARLEY - THE ETERNAL INTERVIEW

From the adorable 6-year-old who sings in studio and on stage with his dad via the wiry twen who opens for Stephen Marley on tour and records his first solo singles, Joseph "Jo Mersa" Marley has grown into a man.



REVIEW: ALKALINE - TOP PRIZE

It's been a fairly long five years since Alkaline's last full album, New Level Unlocked. But he's returned with a record that's paradoxically concise and expansive.



TROJAN JAMAICA RELEASE FINAL U-ROY ALBUM

Trojan Jamaica/BMG is proud to announce the release of U-Roy's final full-length album, Solid Gold. The album was originally set to come out in 2020 with plans for a worldwide tour in support, but unfortunately, the pandemic...

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VIDEO PREMIERES



JAH TURBAN - BLAZE FIRE



VYZADON - NOT RIGHT NOW





EMPRESS AKUA & FRED LOCKS



JAH BOUKS - YOU LOVE ME



ZAMUNDA FEAT. ANTHONY B







CANNABIS FOR FUTURE

YEARBOOK 2021 MAY

RELEASES



BUSY SIGNAL





















NATIRUTS



YEARBOOK 2021 JUNE

MAGAZINE

JUNE



MEET THE ,MARLEYS & CO'...

There's a new wave of Marleys emerging on the music scene. But don't get too excited, because none of them have anything to do with the legendary family. They're all just using the name to try and get clicks, but the surge...



REVIEW: ALBOROSIE - FOR THE CULTURE

It's been a difficult year-and-a-bit for most of us. So, enter Alborosie with a brand-new album that not only reminds us of the importance of culture, but also offers some poignant yet inspiring insights into the state of the world...



REVIEW: JESSE ROYAL - ROYAL

With Royal, Jesse Royal releases a sophomore album that is incredibly versatile, multi-layered, rich in sound and message, and... extremely personal.



JARIA HONOUR AWARDS 2021

The Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA) will stage their much-anticipated annual awards ceremony, the JaRIA Honour Awards, on July 4, with 18 distinct award categories recognizing the Exceptional Contributions...



It only seems five minutes since Etana's 2020 album Gemini. But she's back, showing time has no meaning when it comes to searingly good projects.



WARDS HONOUR BUJU BANTON

Residents at Mount Olivet Boys' Home, Manchester and Sunbeam Children's Home, St. Catherine, two childcare facilities sponsored by iconic musician, Buju Banton, on Wednesday, June 16, lauded him for his investments...
MAGAZINE



This is more than just a showcase of talent, it is a highquality production that tells our story our way," said Lloyd Stanbury, vice president of the board of directors of Island SPACE..."



REVIEW: REBELUTION - IN THE MOMENT

When was the last time you really, truly lived in the here and now? Relishing the present moment, without hectically thinking about what you still have to do later on, about tomorrow's chores or yesterday's nuisances?



The return of Germany's Uwe Banton, nine years since his last album Mental War, is a highly anticipated moment. And with his new project, he certainly doesn't disappoint.



DUNCAN CAMPBELL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

UB40 today announced the retirement of lead singer Duncan Campell. For the upcoming summer shows and the extensive UK tour in November/December a new frontman will be announced soon.



JESSE ROYAL - THE ROYAL INTERVIEW

Jesse David Leroi Grey, better known as Jesse Royal, has established himself firmly as one of the big names among the young Reggae Revival. His 2017 album Lily Of Da Valley heralded an impressive development...



REVIEW: BLESSED - NEW TO YOU

When was something completely new to you for the last time? A new sight, a new taste, a new person, a new place, new... music? Peter John Skinner aka Blessed will grant you that latter experience, introducing his aptly...

VIDEO PREMIERES





JAH THUNDER - FOOTBALL



JON MOON & CROSBY BOLANI



LINVAL THOMPSON, JAH MIKEY





PERFECT GIDDIMANI - TERRITORY



TURBULENCE - HERE WE GO



FREE UP





ARK OF THE COVENANT

RELEASES



BUJU BANTON









EEK-A-MOUSE









CHAKA DEMUS, FREDDIE MCGREGOR









SISTA JAHAN



INTERVIEWS ETANA CONKARAH REBELUTION ZAK & SSHH JESSE ROYAL UWE BANTON DAVID CAIROL DAN SHEEHAN MARIUS BROZ



YEARBOOK 2021 FESTIVILLE

FESTIVILLE MAGAZINE







BY GARDY STEIN

"Life will never be the same again" writes Gerry McMahon about the passing of Lee Scratch Perry in his farewell - a statement that can be extended to the other musical masterminds we've lost in 2021: U-Roy, Robbie Shakespeare and Bunny Wailer. While every dead leaves a hole in the lives of his loved ones, the impact of these four artists went far beyond a limited circle of family and friends. They were global players who influenced, no, molded a whole genre, leaving indelible traces on the music we know as Reggae today. On the following pages, you'll find our humble homage to these masters of their craft.

Starting with Neville O'Reilly Livingston, OM aka Bunny Wailer, we'll present rare passages from several interviews that Roger Steffens (author, lecturer, editor and reggae archivist, who treasures the world's biggest Reggae and Wailers collection in his Los Angeles archives) and Leroy Jodie Pierson conducted with the artist also known as Jah B. You'll find out about the Wailers' early promotional activities in Kingston and what Bob Marley's favourite donkey was called, for instance!

PHOTOS BY JULIAN SCHMIDT / REGGAEVILLE ARCHIVE

ford, OD aka U-Roy looks back on his colorful life filled with tremendous musical achievements, the following excerpt of Copeland Forbes' upcoming book Reggae My Life Is sounds like a thriller. Or did you know that, back in 1988, Robbie Shakespeare had an almost-encounter with death during his Taxi Connection tour?

Turning to **Lee Scratch Perry** in the final section, the personal appreciation of **Gerry McMahon** looks back on his memorable encounters with **The Upsetter**, sharing many behind-the-scenes anecdotes and impressions. Of course, this short article is in now way exhaustive to describe a man of such magnitude, but it paints a warm and vivid picture of the kind and roguish person behind the performer.

As you can see, many stories remain to be told about these great souls. We'll honor their legacy with the information collected in this feature and continue to blast their songs through our speakers, because, as **Lee Scratch Perry** once said:

"Without music, you are all dead; with music, you are alive. There is nothing music can't do."

BUNNY WAILER - NEVILLE O'REILLY LIVINGSTON, OM

April 10, 1947 - March 2, 2021

PHOTOS & SINGLES BY ROGER STEFFENS / LEROY JODIE PIERSON

Over the 1980s and 1990s Roger Steffens, sometimes with his writing partner Leroy Jodie Pierson, did dozens of interviews with Bunny Wailer, both in America and in Jamaica.

Herein are some of the highlights:

WAIL 'N SOUL 'M 1966-67

While **Bob** was away he wrote a letter to me from Delaware, asking me to come up there, but to leave **Peter** behind. I never answered him, because to me this made no sense. So then **Bob** wrote to **Tartar** complaining that we never answered his letter. **Tartar** was the only other person outside the **Wailers** that **Bob** ever wrote to, and he has that letter till today.

Bob told me that I must come there, but I didn't know how to answer him, what to tell him. He said, "Just come, and leave Peter and make him come after." I thought, "What? Them thing sound way out. Can't leave Peter. Me a tell vou. the Wailers would just fade out." That forced him to come back instead of me coming there. If we did follow him and go to America, I felt that the group would have phased out. Maybe we could have phased back in after that stage. We might have phased in the States, but we hadn't yet reached those standards to get in the United States market and introduce reggae and do the work. If we had gone to America we could not have coped with the American type of music and style of life without mashing up the group. [...]

Now that we had our own label, we began to call ourselves the **Wailing Wailers**. We understood the meaning of the word **Wailers** some more. We had carried that name as a group of youth who were just searching. But now we found what we were searching for, so we were now the **Wailing Wailers**, that you could understand what the **Wailers** were about. It's the people who wail, the wailing ones. For we a wail for the people. We a wail for the oppressed. We a wail for all the people who wail.

Bah

WE A WAIL FOR THE OPPRESSED

We designed a label with our three hands holding one another and called it **Wail 'n Soul'm**. The name came about because **Bob** married a **Soulettes** - so the **Wailers** and the **Soulettes** were now intertwined, mixed, gone in a blood. And we decided to call the label **Wail and Soul Them**, but we just shortened it and said **Wail 'n Soul 'm**, like *Wail dem Soul dem*. Every man work that out and agree, and I sit down and abbreviate it.

So we go in, record the tracks, leave with the tapes, went away and built the stamper, and pressed about 1,000 copies of blank white-label seven-inch singles. *Freedom Time* was our cry of liberation from **Coxson**: "Got the news from the whispering tree, this is the time when man must be free, no more burden and pain, all we lose, we'll have to gain, get ready, children get ready. Didn't I build the cabin, didn't I plant the corn, didn't my people before me slave for this country? Get ready, children get ready. My sermonette was built for freedom, the good Lord said man, you're a free man, I'm gonna talk that freedom talk, now let me see you walk that freedom walk."

YEARBOOK 2021 BUNNY WAILER TRIBUTE

OUL

BEND DOWN LOW Bob Marley & The Wailers With the Soul Brothers



'FREEDOM TIME' WAS OUR CRY OF LIBERATION

The other side became the hit, *Bend Down Low*. "Row fisherman row, you reap what you sow," so now we could be reaping the rewards for our own work. And even then, **Coxson** thieved us, took a cut of *Bend Down Low*, and released it himself, tough he didn't have the rights to it. We spent our own money and paid **Coxson** studio time and whatever it took to record that tune on our own label, and he put it out as his own. So it's a whole heap of tricks **Coxson** go on with. [...]

Bend Down Low sold something like 50,000 copies. It was number one in about two, three weeks. It was we who spread it through our own promotion. Promotions spread most of the records in certain comers where it was supposed to ignite the fuse from there, and move it on. We would get feedback from record shops and the radio stations. In those days, the stations would play blanks, just write the title of the song on it, and the radio loved it. **Wailers** come again. **Bob** come home, so everybody jumped on that.

Initially, the blanks would sell for 21 shillings, then we would drop it down to 12/6 and eventually to 7/6. When we recorded for **Coxson**, all we got was nine pounds a record, no matter what it sold. Now we were getting 100%. **Coxson** charged 21/ for a pre-release 12", and the musicians were being paid 10/ a side total Imagine how the musicians felt when they got 10/ a side, and a single copy of that tune would sell for 21/ to the public. It fucked them up, like it fucked up **Don Drummond**. He used to sit down and think his head couldn't take that kind of treatment, it just spin.

IN THOSE DAYS, RECORDS SOLD LIKE RICE

WAL

We got our money directly from the record stores. We packed up boxes of records on our bicycles, piled them so high you couldn't see our faces. You'd have to look around the boxes to see where we were going because the boxes blocked our view. **Bob** went east **Peter** went west, I went north, and **Dream** went south. In those days, records sold like rice.

First we would pre-release the records, consigning them to the stores all around the corporate area. That means, we just give them the records, we don't sell them, and they sign for it. That's how we started to pick up orders. We just follow **Coxson**'s trend. Only unlike him, we didn't have our own sound system to play it, but we used the sound system still by driving all over our beat to the sound system man, riding bicycles.



RECORDS ALL OVER THE PLACE

I remember one day **Bob** and I were on our bike coming from **Specialists** pressing plant on Slipe Pen Road and we reached right to the comer of Brentford Road and the curve at Princess Street where the bus comes and stops. When you reach that little comer, you definitely have to pause. And **Bob** got out of control. He had too many records piled on the handlebars, holding them with one hand, and holding the handle with the other. A bus come up on us at the same time, and **Bob** tried to beat it, but **Bob** rode into the side of the bus door, and we just flew off -pow! Records all over the place! We had to pick up every record and pile them back up and go on again.

Sometimes we passed each other, I'm heading one way, **Peter** heading the other, just "Yow!" and he's gone, because I'm heading up to the corner to meet two juke box men who I know. **Peter** took care of the sound system men, he got two people who knew the west, and they helped circulate the records, which insures that all the juke box people will know about the record. You'd go to places like Almond Town, Franklin Town, a place called Range, Downcaster, all these places where sound systems always played. People always had their little sets in their little shops, juke boxes were everywhere in Jamaica. You could sell like 20,000 records just through juke boxes. [...]

IT GAVE THE WAILERS THE DRIVE

How must a singer exist? How does a man who sits down and writes a song and comes in the studio and arranges and produces and performs the song, exist after 25 years of that song still selling, and he's getting nothing for it? And the guy who sells it is making all the money, he's living some life from all of that. As a singer, what do you do? Do some gardening, or tum to farming? That means all you did was record a song for somebody else to go and get rich. That's all. That doesn't make sense. These are frustrations that the **Wailers** overcame to the extent that reggae was established universally only because of the will and the push and even a lot of the treatment that the **Wailers** got - it gave the **Wailers** the drive.

I would give credit to the hardships that I went through. What made me as strong as I am today is knowing that things couldn't get harder than they ever were, that I would ever be weakened to the hardships that are to come. Because there are so many hardships that I've been through, that I've learned to survive through hardships. It's as if, if it wasn't as hard as it was, I wouldn't have survived the way I have survived. And the strength that I have is because of the challenges to survive through hardships, not ever wanting to give up. There is always that confrontation of giving up. Like there's always that voice saying there is nothing in it for you, you're a loser, you're a ten-times loser. [...]





NINE MILE 1967-68

There was a period where the **Wailers** dropped out. It was just we recorded **Nice Time**" and was brought on by many things. We got frustrated with **Planno** because of his whole heap of whore house things. That cat started to carry us Friday night downtown to the dancehalls. And we had stopped that kind of life. When **Selassie I** came to Jamaica, we had stopped that kind of dancehall, nightclub, drinking beer vibe, because we were dreadlock now.

And we studied and accepted the Nazarine's vow that you should not cut your hair or drink any alcohol. Also because we were from Trenchtown and connected to musicians like the **Skatalites**, we were forced out of the limelight. And that was good for the **Wailers**. That gave us time to go and be strong singers.



MORTIMER PLANNO, ROGER STEFFENS & TARTAR (VINCENT FORD) IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA 2001

BOB WAS HAVING A PROBLEM WRITING SONGS

So we took a break and went up into the country. **Bob** was having a problem writing songs. It was as if he couldn't get any inspiration, and he was fighting himself trying to write. And the harder he tried, the harder it became to write the songs when we were around **Planno**. So we decided to leave for Nine Mile, where **Bob** came from and where had lived for a while with my father. All of the **Wailers** went - me and my girlfriend at the time, **Sister Jean Watt, Rita, Vision, Bob, Peter**.

And when we went, the people in the country really loved us, people that we have been used to, people we grew up with at the age of nine and eleven. So everyone was happy and joyful. People would readily want to give you their houses and hospitality, ready to say, "*Come stay with me tonight. My house is available for you, Bunny.*" Because these are the people that my father really treated good



when he was in the country, and they would always want to do back some of that good to me. So it was a joyful visit. The people really welcomed us, saying that because we were coming to farm, it made them feel even better, feel important. The **Wailers** came to farm, showing them that what they were doing is good to be doing. [...]



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WE WERE TRYING TO BREAK FREE

Bob's grandfather had this piece of land called Smiff, but we just called it Smit' or Simit. We used to say, "We a go a Simit, go farm." It was a beautiful piece of land between two mountains, along a short valley road. Sweet piece of land, not a slope, no way water can damage anything. We planted yams, coco, beans, com, cabbage, chocho, some pumpkin, everything. The place was about three-and-ahalf miles walking from where we lived, seven miles round trip each day.

We had this donkey that was **Bob**'s favorite when he was growing up, a long living animal named **Nimble**. Now when we arrived, **Nimble** was just a feeble donkey, ready to die, nobody was taking care of him: out in the rain, out in the sun, he was just there. They used him rarely because he was old and feeble now. We fed him on egg and stout, Dragon stout, we beat it with the egg and build back Nimble. And when we finished with him, he got real strong and he was now *"looking ginnies"*, (was after woman donkeys), that's how strong he was. So when we went to farm, we had him ride with us. He carried all our heavy stuff in two hampers, our material, flour, whatever.

The land was nice. The atmosphere, the rain we had everything. We had an old well that was cleaned out. And the rain fell immediately after, Jah blessed us and filled the well nearly full. We built a hut from what was left the original hut, rejuvenating it and building it up strong. Well, there was one evening now when the period of work was peak, when we were digging yamuals, and planting corn between all the yamuals, and goo goo and those kind of plants. They were young in growth. We were cleaning the field with a hoe. We sharpened the hoe so finely that when we weed the bush, the spot was so clean that you could almost eat on the spot. The hoe scraped the bush and any kind of foreign matter, just scraped it away clean so that you only saw earth. The way the field was clean, even the country boys born there who came around us looking for work, the way we were working, they couldn't keep up. We were working hard, pushing the fork, using the hoe and the machete, because we bent our minds to it. We were trying to break free from **Planno** and **Planno**'s attitude, so we were really into it.

I remember this one evening in particular, because **Bob** had sharpened the hoe, and must have left it turned up. The blade of the hoe is supposed to be turned down when it's sharp. Well, he put it back on the ground with the hoe facing up, and accidentally stepped back, forgetting that he left the hoe cocked up, and he cut his right foot bottom in half from one side of the foot to the next side, right up till it was all white, maybe about half an inch up, opening the whole foot bottom.He fell and we grabbed him, and tried to look after him.

Everybody almost fainted, and **Rita** started hollering all kinds of things. It was like, what are we going to do? And all **Bob** did was just say, "*Cool*," and just scrape away at the dirt. Scrape the dirt, scrape the dirt, scraping away all the topsoil until there was that pure earth. And he scraped up some of that and just opened the foot, threw the dirt in and locked it up - tore off part of his shirt, and tied it up.

THAT'S THE KIND OF LEADER BOB MARLEY IS

And **Bob** worked on that foot every day until it got better. That's the kind of person, that's the kind of leader **Bob Marley** is. He would never weaken us by wanting us to sympathize with the position that he was in. Because if he started to act as if he was an invalid, then everybody would be starting to feel sorry for him. **Bob** worked every day. Even when we said to him, "*Let's rest a day*," he said, "*No*," and was vexed. So you know you just had to go because he started to screw up his face. But we let **Nimble** carry him, so he didn't have to walk while he was healing. It took about a month.

So **Bob** worked until that foot got better, that's how tough **Bob** is. But **Peter** didn't last too long with us at all. He never wanted to be in the country doing any farming, and after about a week he got town sick. He told us, "*Bwoi, me can't live this life. All dem peenie wallies and t'ings. Cho, me can't deal* with it." Peenie wallies are, like fireflies, little insects that light up the night. It was our entertainment. We didn't have any electricity. There was no dance, sound system, juke box, not a lot of good looking girls around. So **Peter** got really homesick early, and we just said, "Ok, if you want to leave, you can leave, that's cool with us. But we're staying." And we stayed and planted food and **Bob**'s foot got cut.

There was no real money, and it was a little frustrating. The records were selling, but the money was being devoured into another situation; maybe **Bob** was giving it to **Planno** to do his business. Some things were wrong, and **Bob** wanted to get out. And we just went with him and stayed in there, and finally he began to write songs again. He started to pick up again, the vibes came back again, because something really serious was happening to him at the time. And even when he started to write, you could still hear it in the songs he wrote there like **Trouble on the Road Again**. [...]



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IT WAS JUST PURE HARMONY

When we weren't working we were rehearsing. Many of our songs were born there; *Burial, Wisdom, Comma Comma*. It was just pure harmony. Everybody understood because everybody was already acquainted with the **Wailers'** sound and our technique of harmony. We used to rehearse at the house on top of the hill that was **Bob**'s first home.

Right around the back there was a big tree that fell, but it stayed there and dried, so we used to get our wood to cook from the tree. We wouldn't have to go anywhere. I think it was a pimento tree, tough tree, so there was an ax always stuck in it that Bob would use to chip the wood that we needed. He could use the ax better than anyone else. And we used to sit on that piece of wood and rehearse, because the sun comes on the front side of the house most of the time so it's hot, but the other side of the house was mostly cool. There was a little kitchen right at the back part. So we'd either be rehearsing inside the kitchen because it's warmer, there's always a fire, whether we're roasting corn or coco or vam or sweet potato, or outside.



Neville Willoughby came up from Kingston and filmed Bob singing some songs with the big Betsy guitar, and riding Nimble over the hills. No one knows if this film still exists, but it was shown on the JBC back then. But that was after I had to leave them in the country. We planted food, but I didn't get to eat any of it. Just as the food was getting ready to be matured, I left for prison. [...]









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PHOTO BY JULIAN SCHMIDT

RIP U-ROY APRIL 10, 1942 - FEBRUARY 17, 2021 WAKE THE HEAVENS AND TELL THE ANGELS!

by GARDY STEIN



Dub, Reggae and Dancehall wouldn't exist as we know it without the tremendous contribution of this man: Ewart Beckford OD aka The Originator aka The Father of Deejaying, better known as U-Roy. Born in Jones Town, Kingston, in 1942, he was drawn to music early and started his career at Dickie Wong's Soundsystem Doctor **Dickies** at age 19. Honing his skills as DJ, he passed through Atomic Sound (Sir George). Coxsone Dodd and Sir Percy before finding permanent occupation at King Tubby's, who started dabbling with Dubplates in the late sixties. Influenced by artists such as Count Matchuki and King Stitt. U-Rov applied his unique vocal style to the instrumentals played on Tubby's Hometown Hi-Fi and popularized Toasting as a new art form that, exported to New York City, even spurred the development of HipHop and Rap.

U-Roy soon turned to recording as well, releasing his first two singles *Wake The Town* and *Wear You To The Ball* with John Holt on Duke Reid's Treasure Isle label in 1970 and subsequently working with Jamaica's major producers of the time. His 1975 album **Dread In A Babylon** was a big success in the UK and led to further recordings, all of which expressed his deep Rastafarian convictions. Starting his own Soundsystem **Stur Gav** in 1978, he helped to introduce a new generation of toasters and singers to the public, including **Ranking Joe, Jah Screw, Charlie Chaplin, Super Cat** and **Josey Wales**, who would in turn influence the emerging Dancehall genre.

In 2007, **U-Roy** was rightfully awarded the **Order of Distinction (OD)** for his impact on the Jamaican music scene, an impact that will be honoured in his legacy. A special acknowledgement of the artist's oeuvre were also the 2021 **JaRIA Honour Awards**, where **U-Roy** received the Icon Award - a trophy he, alas, wasn't able to claim.

Ewart Beckford has passed away on February 17th after a heart attack following a kidney surgery, as unconfirmed sources claim. Our condolences go out to his family, friends and fans around the world.



International voices on social media:

FREDDIE MCGREGOR:

"I'm sadden to learn of the loss of Daddy U-Roy today. RIP Reggae Pioneer of Toasting you're unforgettable. In this sorrowful time Team Big Ship extend deepest sympathies to the family and friends of U-Roy."

TROJAN RECORDS:

"(...) U Roy paved the way and influenced genres worldwide with his original 'toasting' sound, a sound that has evolved into modern day rap. We have so much to thank U Roy for. His musical style will live on forever. (...) RIP U Roy"

MAD PROFESSOR:

"What can I say? A very sad moment of transition for the man who inspired Ariwa. Without him, there would be no Ariwa. From I was 15 when I heard Version Galore I wanted to work with U-Roy. And I finally got the chance in 1991 when we met in LA. This is one of the highlights of Ariwa. We last spoke 2 weeks ago, and he was quite frail, but quite quiet. As we mourn the loss, we have the memories of this amazing talent. We have the stories. Without him there would be no Dancehall, no Hiphop, no Rap, no Afrobeat."

DAVID RODIGAN:

"RIP Daddy U Roy the iconic toaster who changed the paradigm of Jamaican music when he voiced the 'Version Galore' album. I was always in awe of him; the tone of voice, the cadence, the lyrical shimmering and riddim riding made him 'the soul adventurer'. Heartbroken. RIP"

SHAGGY:

"Today we lost one of our hero's !! A true legend in this game of dance hall/ Reggae if your a fan of sound system, then your a fan of Stur Gav sound. With such greats as Colonel Josey Wales and Charlie Chaplin, pioneers in this game ... with a catalog of amazing recordings U Roy was a master at his craft. Rest Well daddy Roy!! R.I.P. walk good"

ANDREW HOLMES (Prime Minister of Jamaica):

"I join the rest of Jamaica in mourning the passing of Veteran Singer Ewart Beckford, popularly known as Daddy U Roy. Many of us will recall his signature phrase, "Wake the town and tell the people!" Jamaica has lost a giant in the music industry. Ewart will be best remembered for his sterling contribution to Reggae and Dancehall by popularising the art of toasting on various Reggae and Dancehall rhythms in the early days of sound system. Ewart is also credited with paving the way to allow Rap and Dancehall artistes to realize their true potential in the industry. Owner of Stur Gav Sound System, Ewart honed the careers of veteran deejays such as Josey Wales and Super Cat, among others. Rest in Peace, Daddy U Roy."



Verloi

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YEARBOOK 2021 ROBBIE SHAKESPEARE TRIBUTE



Sly and Robbie. Two names that are as closely intertwined as are their respective instruments, drum and bass. A true staple of Reggae music and beyond, the successful production team and live duo was ripped apart in December last year by **Robbie**'s untimely death following a kidney operation.

Olivia Grange, the Jamaican Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, honored the deceased as one of "*Jamaica's greatest musicians*", the loss of whom "*will be felt by the industry at home and abroad*."

Born Robert Warren Dale Shakespeare in 1953 in East Kingston, he learned the basics of his craft from Aston "Family Man" Barrett, the Wailers' bassie. When he met Sly Dunbar while playing in session bands like The Aggrovators or The Revolutionaries, "the Riddim Twins" were born and soon became the most sought-after instrumentalists of the island. Using income generated while touring with Peter Tosh, they financed a steady stream of releases by their record label Taxi Records (founded in 1974), which has over a 1,000 releases to date.

Their distinctive way of playing drum and bass is heard on countless Reggae and Dancehall tracks,

shaping the sound of the 70s and 80s. They even received a Grammy Award in 1985 for their contribution to the **Black Uhuru** album **Anthem** as well as for their own album **Friends** in 1999.

Lesser known is their involvement in mainstream music. Thus, for instance, they were booked to play for **Grace Jones**, **Mick Jagger**, **Bob Dylan**, **No Doubt** or **Sting**, leaving their traces in music archives all over the world. And now one half of that brilliant duo is gone...

Although it's impossible to look back on achievements like these in a feature numbering a few pages only, we present a special orbituary in the following section. In a preview of his upcoming book **Reggae My Life Is**, the distinguished artist and tour manager **Copeland Forbes** shares with us a short excerpt of Chapter 13, entitled **Going Home**. It captures his experiences on the **Taxi Connection** tour in 1988 (for which he acted as tour manager) and describes an incidence that, had circumstances been different, might have ended in the death of the whole crew.

Back then, a guardian angel watched over **Robbie Shakespeare** - now he has been called home. Farewell!

ROBBIE SHAKESPEARE, FREDDIE MCGREGOR, SLY DUNBAR & MAXI PRIEST ARRIVED AT LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT TO COMMENCE THE EUROPEAN LEG OF THE TAXI CONNECTION WORLD TOUR '88. PHOTO © FREDDIE M

PHOTO © FREDDIE MCGREGOR

TAXI CONNECTION TOUR 1988 'GOING HOME'

by COPELAND FORBES

"We waited a long while before the plane left the gate. It was winter. The flaps on the wings were frozen. They had to de-ice the plane. I started hearing shouts and complaints from some members of our team saying that we should have stayed with our original flight as they considered the de-icing to be a bad omen. The calls grew louder, I finally jumped up and told them that all those complaining should relax and read Psalms 91 and 121. After a prolonged period of deicing, we finally pushed away from the gate. We were on our way to JFK, New York.

Everyone was delighted when, after an uneventful flight, we landed at JFK. When we disembarked, we immediately noted that the mood in the terminal building was sombre. People were crying. Something was wrong. We soon learned that the Pan Am flight 103, on which we were originally booked, exploded shortly after take-off and had crashed over Scotland in a town called Lockerbie. Two hundred and seventy people were killed.

I immediately thought about **Robbie Shakespeare**, who had gone back to the hotel after the show and had promised to meet us at the airport. I decided to call the hotel in London where he had been staying. After clearing customs, I found the nearest telephone booth and made a call to **Sly**. I was overjoyed when I heard **Sly**'s voice. I asked him for **Robbie. Sly** told me that **Robbie** had bought a one-way ticket on British Airways to fly directly from Heathrow to Miami."

Excerpt from the upcoming book: REGGAE MY LIFE IS by Copeland Forbes



F

TOUR - DECEMBER

PHOTO BY GERRY MCMAHO



They say that you should never meet your heroes. Well, when it comes to **Lee Perry** - for me and many more like me - you can 'scratch' that notion. Time passed in the presence of **Perry** was a pure privilege. He was a genius, unique, highly talented, driven and determined, colourful and creative, mischievous, in love with his fans and an all-round decent (if somewhat delightfully different type of) bloke. And his range went well beyond music, with family, art, nature and black magic all getting a look in!

His recent passing marks a well-documented watershed in the history of reggae. Indeed, recent times have witnessed the passing of many roots reggae luminaries from the golden era – from **Toots Hibbert** and **Bunny Wailer** to **Daddy U Roy, Bob Andy** and **Israel Vibration's Apple Gabriel.** And whilst they all had their personal charms and musical accomplishments, none made quite the type of unique and indelible impact that **Perry** did. And for a man who 'couldn't sing for nuts', that's quite an achievement. Truth be told, he was more than worthy of his Grammy award and ranking in **Rolling Stone** magazine's **Top 100 Greatest Artists of All Time**. In the course of **Rototom Sunsplash**'s 2019 crowded agenda, **Perry**'s son **Omar** asked me why I held his father in such high esteem. Beyond the music and his engaging interactions, in reply I focused on the capacity of one born in poverty, in a 3rd world country, with little education and a quirky disposition, to minimise his handicaps and maximise his abilities, to the benefit of many and the joy of millions. And to be still nimble-footed, touring constantly, performing longer gigs and producing music for all and sundry - whilst galloping into his mid-80s - was no mean achievement.

Beyond music, one of the first deep impressions left on me by **Perry** happened in the course of an interview, whilst driving back from Ireland's **Electric Picnic** music festival in 2012. Question: 'So tell me Lee, what has been your greatest achievement in music?' Answer: 'It nah come yet'. **Perry**'s response – at 76 years of age – reflected his positive disposition, appetite for life and an unswerving commitment to his work and fans. And some would say that his greatest achievement didn't actually came to pass until 2019, via the **Heavy Rain** album, peaking at No. 1 on **Billboard's Reggae Albums** chart. It was **Perry's** first ever No. 1!



Despite his eccentric and roguish disposition, **Perry** also enjoyed a remarkable capacity to invoke forgiveness from the few that he surely irritated. Though, truth be told, given their longstanding animosity, I can still hear the late **Jah B** / **Bunny Wailer** growling in anger when I mention his name!

Bunny aside, this capacity to forgive was evident some years ago, after a close associate had to explain to airport customs how a wad of marijuana was found in his bag (that had allegedly been discreetly placed there by **Perry**!). Forgiveness was also on display long before that incident, when **Adrian Sherwood** arrived home to find that his 'house guest' (i.e. **Mr. Perry**) had buried his expensive television set in the back garden! Credit to **Sherwood** that this didn't destroy the relationship, as they often re-united and brought their relationship to new heights via the aforementioned No. 1 **Heavy Rain**.

Despite his endearing and childlike disposition – comics were his thing and **Superman** was his hero - truth be told, **Mr. Perry** also had a capacity to 'roam offside' when his alcohol consumption passed a certain threshold. On recent concert tours it was standard fare for a decent bottle of champagne to be left in his dressing room. Whilst he always offered his entourage a glass thereof, once it was empty you could look out if he went off in search of his favoured ginger wine! As a result, his minders frequently tried to dilute his alcohol with water! But as his biographer **David Katz** explained, promoters and minders have been doing that for years - and **Perry** is well aware of their attempts at deception!

One night in 2019 his alcohol intake provoked an unedifying post-gig 'stand-off' on a busy Dublin street. A misunderstanding provoked a whirlwind of expletives being hurled at a member of his travelling crew, as the cheering and chanting crowds falling out of the local pubs came to support him! However, the following morning it all was 'sweetness and light', as the pair restored their rosy relationship, swopped secrets and laughed as they boarded the plane, leaving the previous night's exchanges well behind them - 'there's no business-like show business, eh?'. In sharp contrast to his alcohol intake. Perrv had a remarkable capacity to smoke large quantities of marijuana into old age - and was often the last man to leave the party - with no apparent impact on his moods or behaviour.

My fascination with Perry began almost 50 years ago. It was ignited by the exotic album covers and the riveting rhythms stored therein. Little did I think that a 7,000-kilometre distance between Ireland and **Perry**'s Jamaica would be bridged in time. It first came to pass when I approached Ireland's Electric Picnic festival organisers to see if I could be his driver for the forthcoming concert. Fortunately, it was a timely request, as Perry's status was a bit wobbly at that time, due to a tendency to try raising his fee just before going on stage. As one promoter explained, 'I already had 29 acts booked and good to go. So, I wasn't prepared to be blackmailed by Lee Perry'. Fortunately, the relationship with the promoter was eventually healed, enabling your author to subsequently serve as **Perry**'s chauffeur (and eventual) minder, runner, gig reviewer and interviewer!



But the cherry on the cake was when I dared to ask him if I could play (my bongo drum) at what proved to be his last Irish concert. **Perry** promptly replied 'No problem'. And for that I will be forever truly grateful, as he enabled one of the greatest privileges in my life.

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Contrary to some people's suspicions, **Perry**'s normal demeanour was neither a distracting nor a destructive one. For example, long car journeys from gig to gig normally passed peacefully, with him working away quietly on his laptop on new rhyming lyrics. And he was also respectful enough of his fellow travellers not to light up inside the car! Though I will always remember one journey where he discarded the laptop and broke into a non-stop soliloquy (or one-man speech) for the full 4-hour duration! On reaching our destination – by which time he had shut up - the stares on the faces of the travelling party were a sight to behold!

On another occasion, I was flattered when he asked me if I thought he was mad. Now, we've all met a few strange people in our time, but **Mr. Perry** was one of the sanest I ever had the pleasure to meet. For example, for all his bizarre behaviour, he always remembered post-gig to direct his minder to go collect his fee (preferably in cash!). And whatever about his occasional abuse of alcohol, he drew a line when it came to 'hard drugs', with cocaine reserved for special opprobrium.

Notably, **Perry** never seemed to carry money – though he was always accompanied by a carefully guarded suitcase that was packed to the brim, bursting with the oddest assortment of knickknacks! However, he was a generous man, as reflected in his family dealings, his post-gig entertainment and tolerance of liggers and hangers-on and in the passing of the rights to **The Congos**' band of the classic **Heart of the Congos** composition.



As he put it: 'many men sell their soul to the God of money', but not **Perry**. And despite the troupe of friendly females that came backstage post-gig, he always left the concert venue alone. When asked about this, he explained: 'The Lord cured me, so that I don't see how I should be tempted by girls who are only going to give me trouble'.



To conclude, I never knew that I could dance and cry at the same time. That changed on August 29th 2021, when I heard the news of **Perry**'s passing. And when **Bob Marley** was told that his God (**Haile Selassie**) was dead, he rushed to **Lee Perry** to compose the earthmoving **Jah Live** track. Who now can we run to? Though **Perry**'s rendition of **Dreadlocks in Moon***light* and **Jah Live** with **Pura Vida** are probably good places to start.

Goodbye Lee. Put plainly, life will never be the same again. So, thanks for the music and the memories. It was a privilege to know and work with you. When I asked about his greatest life achievement, **Perry** succinct-

ly replied: 'Saving my soul'. So then, there'll sure be some jiving and jinking with high hilarity in Heaven now that you've arrived! Here's hoping we'll all be able to join in come the distant future.

So yes, it's unequivocal. Long live Lee 'Scratch' Perry.





YEARBOOK 2021 JULY

MAGAZINE

JULY



GRAMPS MORGAN INNA POSITIVE VIBRATION

Morgan Heritage. A name inextricably linked with Reggae for decades, a family as dedicated to Jamaica's music as the Marleys. Initially groomed by daddy Denroy, the Morgan offspring have released some of the most beautiful...



REGGAEVILLE IN THE NEWS

The average Jamaican reggae fan may not be familiar with the city of Cologne, but Germany's fourth-largest metropolis has become one of the music's hot spots. It is home to SummerJam, the world's largest reggae festival.



SOJA ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM

SOJA, the internationally acclaimed, two-time GRAMMYnominated eight-piece from Washington D.C., will release their highly anticipated new album, Beauty In The Silence – their first in four years – on September 24th...



UB40 ANNOUNCE NEW LEAD SINGER

In the morning of July 5, UB40 have announced fellow Birmingham reggae band KIOKO's Matt Doyle as their new lead singer.



SPICE 10 - DEBUT ALBUM CONFIRMED

The news was first announced via Spice's Instagram account "Besties (fans); it's better late than never, Album got pushed back a week and now drops August 6th right on my birthday, and the only gift I want is for you to buy...



UPPSALA REGGAE FESTIVAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 12th in 2001, Uppsala Reggae Festival hosted the first edition of what is now known as the biggest reggae festival in Scandinavia. This year would've been the 20th anniversary, but because of the pandemic, it cannot be...

YEARBOOK 2021 JULY

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MAGAZINE



REGGAEVILLE WINS JARIA HONOUR AWARD 2021

Originally scheduled for February 28th as the distinguished concluding event of Jamaica's officially designated Reggae Month, the JaRIA Honour Awards were delayed due to measures implemented to protect the production...



JUNIOR & BAMM HOLT JOIN FORCES

Reggae fans will unite to celebrate the life of John Holt this July 11th, with what would have been his 74th birthday. On this day his son and grandson are releasing the ultimate tribute album Voltz of Holt with a personalized...



REVIEW: GRAMPS MORGAN - POSITIVE VIBRATION

Summer is here, and the islander in us wants to be taken to the beach for waves, sand, sunshine... and music! With his new album Positive Vibration, Gramps Morgan provides the perfect soundtrack for such a day at the ocean.

NEW EP BOBBY HUSTLE FASHA D

THE RIGHT PLACE



BOBBY HUSTLE & ASHA D



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www.riddiminstrumental.com

VIDEO PREMIERES





INNA VISION & JESSE ROYAL





JAH SUN - NO PROFIT IN PEACE





TARMAC, LA TIFA, CRIKMANJAM, ALKAMAN, JR. RUIZ & SR. MULATO





AARON NIGEL SMITH - LONG TIME



MARK WONDER - UR EYES



DON'T DO THAT

YEARBOOK 2021 JULY

RELEASES



EARTHKRY





















JAHVILLANI





MELLOW MOOD



PHOTOS



FREDDIE MCGREGOR & YESHEMABETH MCGREGOR @ BIG SHIP MUSIC FEST



L.U.S.T. @ FLORIDA JERK FESTIVAL



Photos by Steve James
YEARBOOK 2021 JULY

PHOTOS



SHAGGY @ FLORIDA JERK FESTIVAI



NATURAL VBYZ ISSENTIAL

YEARBOOK 2021 AUGUST

MAGAZINE

AUGUST



INTERVIEW WITH SIZZLA

Azana Makeda Smith...

Sizzla is back with his third album in as many years; following on from 2019's Victory and 2020's Million Times. On A High sees him deliver a musically sweeping, lyrically potent project that does not disappoint...



When encountering this young lady for the first time, don't let her delicate and slender appearance deceive you there lies an X amount of resolve and power within her!



REVIEW: PRESSURE BUSSPIPE - HEIGHTS OF GREATNESS

After seven amazing releases, Delyno Brown aka Pressure Busspipe now presents the world with the infinite number eight, called Heights Of Greatness. And indeed it is from great heights this album speaks to us, reflecting...



UB40'S BRIAN DAVID TRAVERS HAS DIED

UB40 today published the sad news about the passing of their founding member Brian David Travers... Brian Travers suffered a seizure in March 2019 and was diagnosed with a brain tumour.



Vybz Kartel, imprisoned for allegedly committing a murder a decade ago, speaks exclusively with FOX 5 NY's Lisa Evers about prison, his mental health, and his legal saga.



REVIEW: SPICE - 10

One of the more anticipated albums of 2021 is finally here. Spice's long-awaited debut has been hyped, hyped, and hyped again (and the release date pushed back to her birthday). But – does it live up to the expectation...

MAGAZINE



RIP - LEE SCRATCH PERRY IS DEAD

Sad news reached us today. Legendary Lee Scratch Perry - Rainford Hugh Perry OD - passed away this morning (August 29, 2021) in a hospital in Jamaica.



Two days after Lee Scratch Perry died, still no exact cause of his death is known. The Jamaica Observer reported that he "died in the Noel Holmes Hospital in Lucea on Sunday morning". Perry's sudden passing has shocked...



REVIEW: TAJ WEEKES - PAUSE

A firstling is exciting in so many ways! For many years, we've heard ever growing complaints about a loss of spirituality in our music, about a drop in the morality of youths, about a decline of the roots of Reggae.



MARLEY STATUE TO BE UNVEILED IN LIVERPOOL

Positive Vibration Festival are delighted to announce that they have commissioned a 7ft tall statue of cultural icon, Bob Marley. The artwork is to be created by sculptor Andy Edwards who is well known in Liverpool...



Today, Ajax Amsterdam and Adidas, in collaboration with the Bob Marley family release the 2021/2022 Ajax third kit. The kit is a tribute to the Ajax fans and the love shared by the club and its fans for reggae legend Bob Marley...



REVIEW: PROVERB NESTA I - TOWER OF BABEL

So far, this year has blessed us with impressive albums by some of the biggest names in contemporary Reggae: Gramps Morgan, Jesse Royal, Xana Romeo, Sizzla, Etana, Taj Weekes, Alborosie, Pressure Busspipe...

VIDEO PREMIERES





LOUIE CULTURE - ANOINTED

REGGAEVILLE of

GROOVEGALOREMUZIK, BIG MOUNTAIN & HONOREBEL



DUB ON MARS FEAT. AWA FALL NILOTIKA CULTURAL ENSEMBLE

DRUNK WITH SWEETNESS





JAH GARVEY - TRUE CHEMISTRY

HORSEMAN - LIVE & LOVE



ZULU BOB - GREETINGS

YEARBOOK 2021 AUGUST

RELEASES



















YAADCORE & RICHIE SPICE





JAH SUN & THE RISING TIDE







GENTLEMAN & THE EVOLUTION @ REGGAE@RIVERSIDE FEST



KEZNAMDI IN LOS ANGELES, CA

Photos by Eljer & Jan Salzman



HEMPRESS SATIVA IN LOS ANGELES, CA

LEO CARMICHAEL REGGAE | DANCEHALL | POP



THE

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COVE & LIGHT **Concert Series** WATCH ON YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBE & HIT NOTIFICATION BELL

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Compiled by Munchy & Gardy Stein



My highlight of 2021 was the release of my EP. It was released on my mother's birthday and she prayed it would do well and I would find success. I've met so many great people over the course of last summer and I'm glad that my message is being heard across the world.

The moment that was most special to me was the day that I met Leroy Gibbons. It was the day I was shooting the Easy Now music video. When we were on the set, I was told there was someone I should meet. Lo and behold it was the ...Four Season Lover". I was so ecstatic I'll never forget.

The day that moved me the most was the Luminato Festival. I was so touched that Rise Again was one of the songs chosen to be part of the end credits. I am honoured to be a part of the struggle against the plight of the First Nations people.



One of my highlights in 2021 was definitely working on and recording this album, Heights Of Greatness. It's really been a joy to create this, in and out of studio, day in day out, week in week out, with different producers, different musicians and stuff like that, so it's really been a highlight of last year. working on such a great album!



My personal highlight for 2021 was really learning how to set boundaries, learning how to say no to things and situations I know is not for my highest good. Professionally, the strength to keep going and sharpening and learning my craft inspite of these trvina times.



MILLION STYLEZ

First and foremost I would have to say that just being alive in these crazy times is always a highlight. Apart from that, JAH decided to give me and my wife two beautiful and perfectly healthy twin girls to add to the family tree last year. I never take anything for granted so I really and truly give thanks that everything went so smoothly from the beginning of the pregnancy until their arrival. God is good.

So these last seven months have been a little rough taking care of them day and night but we have of course also enjoyed many moments with them by just watching their growth and development step by step. It has definitely been a double blessing and a double joy but also double the work hehe (wipes off sweat from forehead).

That means I haven't been in the studio creating as much as usual but as it says in the Bible "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven", so I just have to embrace the task for the season and get ready for a more musical one soon hopefully. Despite having my hands full of babies most of the time I managed to release about ten singles including *Thief In The Night* alongside **DanJah**, *Inna Di Dancehall* (Rudeboy Records), **Tun It Up** (Team Damp), *So High* with **Suku Ward** (Warrior Music), **How Would It Be** (Real People Music) just to name a few.

We also finally launched the long awaited and postponed EP with Costa Rebel entitled **Million Stylez Meets Costa Rebel**. All of these songs are available for you now and my next full length album is almost ready to uplift your spirits with JAH words and melodies. May God grant you all a blessed and joyful continuation of the year and beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

YEARBOOK 2021 SEPTEMBER

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER



LEE SCRATCH PERRY LAID TO REST IN JAMAICA

Lee 'Scratch' Perry who died on August 29 was laid to rest last thursday (September 23, 2021) on a family plot in Cauldwell, Hanover. Earlier that day a brief viewing took place at Perry's Funeral Home,



QUEEN IFRICA PAYS HOMAGE TO NINA SIMONE

In Tribute to the legendary, iconic Nina Simone; Queen Ifrica pays homage with a Reggae cover of the marquee track Four Women (originally recorded in 1965, released in April 1966). In a time where respect of female equality...



CALI P - THE VIZION INTERVIEW

Cali P and TEKA's new album, Vizion, is a masterclass in taking Roots as a base genre and then expanding on it to create a whole, new and inventive set of sounds. It also showcases Cali P's skills as a performer...



POSTHUMOUS LEE SCRATCH PERRY ALBUM

10 days ago (August 29, 2021) Lee Scratch Perry, arguably the most influential Jamaican producer and artist, has left us. In mid August Raffaele from Jam Ra Records reached out to Reggaeville about an upcoming album...



THE WAILERS LIVE IN LOS ANGELES 1973

A very special record and DVD was released on September 3, 2021, showing a fantastic performance of The Wailers in Los Angeles, CA (USA) 1973. Unique material of Bob Marley, Peter Tosh & Joe Higgs...



NEW ALBUM... MICAH SHEMAIAH - STILL

For more than a decade now, Jamaica's Micah Shemaiah has been crafting his musical message with a keen and steady focus on Rastafari redemption and African unification. His name, which translates as...

MAGAZINE



THE NEW FACE OF REGGAE IN THE USA

What I witnessed at the Sunset Cove Amphitheatre was an audience of young adults and middle aged Americans singing and dancing to sweet reggae music. The audience was clearly attracted to the venue by Rebelution.



REVIEW: META AND THE CORNERSTONES - DIA

The better an album is, I imagine, the more challenging it is for an artist to release a next one after it, what with all the expectations and anticipations that abound.



REVIEW: USAIN BOLT & NJ - COUNTRY YUTES

The debut album from Usain Bolt has finally arrived – hitting #1 on the iTunes Reggae chart. But does this release from one of the greatest athletes of all time show his potential in music? Possibly – but it sadly doesn't cement it.



PRESSURE BUSSPIPE INTERVIEW

With a steady flow of high-quality releases, the name Pressure Busspipe has become a staple in contemporary Reggae music. Born and raised in St. Thomas, THE creative hotspot of the Virgin Islands next to St. Croix....



INTERVIEW WITH PROVERB NESTA I

"All eyes and ears on Zimbabwe!" That's how the album review of Tower Of Babel ended, and it is a perfect start for the interview with its originator, Clive Jonga aka Proverb Nesta I. This young artist has followed...



,FOOTBALL IS FREEDOM' INITIATIVE

Cedella Marley (CEO of the Bob Marley Group of companies); currently in her seventh year as Global Ambassador for the Jamaica Women's Football Programme, is now expanding her advocacy and commitment...

VIDEO PREMIERES





INDRA - WAKE UP CALL

HI GRADE HI-FI



COME AROUND RIDDIM CYPHER



MAAH JESTY - WOLF INNA SHEEP CLOTHES



META AND THE CORNERSTONES





REKALL - GOOD VIBES



THANKS & PRAISE



RELEASES



DANAKIL



LEE SCRATCH PERRY & YAADCORE



VANA LIYA







REGGAE GOLD 2021







HERBS MEDI RIDDIM



ROTOTOM SUNSPLASH LIVE



SLY & ROBBIE VS. ROOTS RADICS





SOUL SYNDICATE (TONY CHIN & FULLY FULLWOOD) IN LOS ANGELES, CA



Photos by Jan Salzman, Celine Diels & Eljer



KUSHART IN OBERHAUSEN, GERMANY

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YEARBOOK 2021 OCTOBER

OCTOBER

MAGAZINE



BURNING SPEAR ANNOUNCES SINGLE ,MOMMY'

The legendary Burning Spear announced the official release date for his first release since 10 years. In early October Spear started to tell his Facebook fans about an upcoming single and recently the release of Mommy...



NEW FESTIVAL - CALIFORNIA VIBRATIONS 2022

Goldenvoice today announces a unique SoCal lifestyle and music festival - California Vibrations (Cali Vibes) taking place Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6, 2022 at Marina Green Park in Long Beach, CA.



MARLEY X GUILD PRESENT BOB MARLEY GUITAR

Guild Guitars and the Marley Family unite to bring back the guitar Bob Marley used at home in Kingston, jamaica as his primary songwriting guitar through the seventies.



THE DIFFICULT QUEST FOR TRUTH

The truth hurts - both victim and culprit. The former because going through the ordeal all over again is painful, the latter because the offence harms his or her image and may entail penalty or imprisonment.



PRINCE FATTY ANNOUNCES CROWDFUNDING

Producer, engineer, and audio maverick Prince Fatty has asked his fans to help him complete an exciting and visionary new studio he is building in London. With their assistance he plans to transform the recording...



REVIEW: BUGLE - TOXICITY

Few artists nowadays are as quick, honest and precise to react to both local and global happenings as Bugle. With Anointed (2014), Be Yourself (2017), Picture Perfect (2019) and two EPs in between, the Kingston-based singer...

NEW ALBUM OUT NOW

TEACHA DEE



MACHIN

VIDEO PREMIERES





DADDY FREDDY & SHUMBA YOUTH

VIDO JELASHE - JUDGEMENT DAY

YIDNE RASTA - THE TRUTH



NATURAL MAN

DAEVILLE D PREMIER



SELASSIE I FOREVER



BAYERMAN STYLE





APOENA FERREIRA & JOCILAINE OLIVEIRA

90

RELEASES









NO NONSENSE RIDDIM









SKIP MARLEY & POPCAAN











GENTLEMAN & JUGGLERZ @ MATTIA'S BIRTHDAY BASH



Photos by HoRo & Jan Salzman



YOHAN MARLEY, TARRUS RILEY, JO MERSA MARLEY & HYMN MARLEY @ BEST OF THE BEST



Photos by Steve James & Jan Salzman

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Compiled by Munchy



YAKSTA

2021 was very memorable for me because it was my breakout year with my single *Ambition*. *Ambition* got a lot of support from the Jamaican people and music fraternity through reposts on social media, radio airplay, digital streaming platform playlisting, DJ support and by everyone just reaching out and giving me a boost. I don't think I'll ever be able to experience the type of 'high' I got from that - it was overwhelming for me.

I released other popular songs in 2021 that opened doors and opportunities I used to just dream about. *Fowl Coop* led to a promotional campaign in Jamaica with the **National Housing Trust**; *Free My People* widened my global fan base and; *Hype & Bruk* gave my dancehall fans the followup hit to *Ambition* they kept asking me to drop. The *See and Know* music video surprisingly led to acting opportunities that should manifest themselves later this year. I planted many seeds in 2021 so there will be plenty collaborations with many talented creatives from around the globe. I give thanks for everything I have and all that I will achieve.

2021 was also a year of teaching and a lot of lessons were learnt. It taught me to appreciate myself and my mind more because it is from me that all my ideas flow. I've learned to appreciate the small things too because they matter the most, especially to my overall growth, because even if I gain only 1 new fan today, that is still something to give thanks for. The moment you stop having a positive mindset and appreciating the small things, everything will start to seem negative. Sometimes fame can make you end up losing what you are mentally, so you have to constantly find that peace, and for me I achieve that peace by practicing solace and meditation every day. One of my biggest personal achievements in 2021 was showing people that achieving in their own lane is success - especially in areas like farming and the simplest, personal things such as buying a bed - you know, just to be true to yourself - nuh watch the crowd. Overall I can say 2021 was a year of gratitude, abundance, wealth, happiness and ups and downs.

For **Team Yaksta**, 2021 was a teaching and mixing point, now we are pouring the tea out of the cup for 2022! My audiences and fans will get to see a different side of **Yaksta** – many new projects will be dropping. You'll see some acting, different types of visuals and great music that still has the Jamaican Dancehall and Reggae feel and sound. We ready to go!

MARTIJN HUISMAN

THE Reggae Nation

The Global Legacy of Bob Marley & The Wailers



 A travelogue of inspiring revelations (...) eloquent descriptions of Marley's globe-spanning inspiration.
 ~ Roger Steffens, author of So Much Things to Say: The Oral History of Bob Marley. A unique reggae journey through time and space to explore the global legacy and impact of Bob Marley and the Wailers.



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MAGAZINE

NOYEMBER



RIP ALVIN ,SEECO' PATTERSON

After a truly remarkable life, Alvin "Seeco" Patterson, percussionist for Bob Marley and the Wailers, passed away yesterday (November 1, 2021) in Kingston at age 90.



BOUNTY KILLER REVEALS ALBUM SONGS

After a two year break the MOBO Awards are back. Bounty Killer's new album King of Kingston is slated for a release in December 2021 and the list of songs he recently shared on Instagram promise it to be a massive release...



REVIEW: KONSHENS - RED REIGN

Konshens fifth solo album project is a departure from his previous one – but that's a good thing. Because with it, he has confirmed his position as one of the most creative Dancehall artists to emerge in recent years...



NOMINATIONS @ 64TH GRAMMY AWARDS

The 64th Annual Grammy Awards nominees have been revealed. Congratulations to all nominees! Six releases made it to the final round and winners will be awarded in January 2022.



CRYPTORASTAS TO LAUNCH NFT AUCTION

The world's inaugural reggae NFT collection CryptoRastas, announces the launch of a limited brand new auction in collaboration with reggae artists and celebrities...



REVIEW: MARCUS GAD MEETS TAMAL

Ever since the dream team of Marcus Gad and Clement Thouard aka Tamal released their utterly enchanting EP Enter A Space, I was wishing for them to unfold their magic on album-length one day.

MAGAZINE



ASTRO - UB40 FOUNDING MEMBER DEAD AT 64

UB40 founding member Terence Wilson aka Astro has died at the age of 64. The sad news was shared on November 6 on the various social media accounts of UB40 feat. Ali Campbell & Astro...



The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 currently takes place in Glasgow, Scotland. Ziggy Marley sends a strong message via Instagram and a little poem. Real talk!



REVIEW: MAX ROMEO - WORLD OF GHOULS

Max "Iron Shirt" Romeo is back with a full album - just, please, throw any expectations you might have about it over board. World Of Ghouls, a 12-track oeuvre produced by his son Azizzi Romeo and released...



The MOBO Awards 2021 nominations are in. For the first time in the history of the Reggae category, three female artists are nominated and a possible win for Lila Iké, Shenseea or Spice would be the first time ever for a woman...



BLACK UHURU RELEASE NEW SINGLE

Legendary godfathers of reggae Black Uhuru are partnering with SoCal independent label LAW Records for the release of their new single Jamaica To Here, just months ahead of the storied band's 50th anniversary.



SHINEHEAD - FIRST MUSIC VIDEO IN 20 YEARS

Music maverick Shinehead swept music lovers away with his Reggae Soul hit Never Had a Dream Come True on the Peckings label in 2020. To celebrate the song's 1st Anniversary, particularly since restrictions loosened...

VIDEO PREMIERES







MOSIAH - GO HARD







RAS ATTITUDE - REIGN AND RULE





EVERYTHING I NEED





PUBLIK REPORT - JUDGE ME IN REALITY



AZA LINEAGE - THE VIBES IS REAL



RELEASES





TESHAY MAKEDA





AUTARCHI



















WATER LANE MURALS - ,PAINT THE CITY' STREET ART PROJECT IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA



WATER LANE MURALS - ,PAINT THE CITY' STREET ART PROJECT IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA Photos by Steve James



WATER LANE MURALS - ,PAINT THE CITY' STREET ART PROJECT IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA



WATER LANE MURALS - ,PAINT THE CITY' STREET ART PROJECT IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA Photos by Steve James

YEARBOOK 2021 DECEMBER

MAGAZINE





This campaign is spearheaded by reggae aficionado Roger Steffens who is a world-renowned historian of Bob Marley and Reggae Music, and curator of his Reggae Archives...



REGGAE LEGEND FLIES TO ZION

The recently released commercial features a humble, hopeful and heartwarming New Year's poem performed by Koffee. And a wish – that 2021 will be so much better than 2020.



Debut releases always harbour a certain magic. Like footprints on an empty beach, the first ever tracks presented to the public trace an artist's journey into the fascinating

realm of music, and as such should be subject to ...



BURNING SPEAR SUPPORTS CHARITY

In the past years the album poll contained 200-300 releases. All releases in our database were automatically part of the voting and it was a tuff challenge for the fans to select their favorite three releases.



SUMMERJAM 2022 - LINEUP ANNOUNCEMENT

7-year-old Kaiya Mack has her heart set on raising \$10,000 to help children and families in need. Born with a rare birth defect of the abdominal wall called Gastroschisis, a condition that causes the intestines to be outside...



SHENSEEA WINS MOBO AWARD 2021

Great music never gets old, especially when Junior Toots releases the newest remake of his father's famous track, Sweet and Dandy. The Toots Hibbert legacy lives on through Junior Toots, born and raised in St Mary, Jamaica

YEARBOOK 2021 DECEMBER

MAGAZINE



25 years ago, on July 18, 1995 Buju Banton released his groundbreaking album `Til Shiloh that marked his international breakthrough and is seen as a turn towards a more serious path.



BANTON LAUNCHES CRYPTO RUDEBOY CLUB

On winning this special award, Buju Banton says "I thank the MOBO Awards committee, but most of all I thank everyone who has supported me and continues to support me. Let's continue to allow music to do its job as the...



PATRICE PRES. ROCKSTEADY CHRISTMAS ALBUM

It's been 42 years since Inner Circle and their charismatic lead singer Jacob Miller recorded Natty Christmas, a jolly reggae spin on the Yuletide season featuring deejay Ray I. This year, the Bad Boys of Reggae are re-releasing...



QUEEN IFRICA - ,PREDATOR'S PARADISE' VIDEO

He founded The Gladiators in 1965 with his childhoodfriends David Webber and Errol Grandison (who were later replaced by Clinton Fearon and Gallimore Sutherland),...



ROBBIE SHAKESPEARE HAS DIED

There is a whole lot of talent out there - and a lot of it remains hidden. Think of competition shows like The X Factor, The Voice etc. what you will, they do give people an opportunity to showcase their talents to the public.



MEMORIA'S INTI RELEASES DEBUT SINGLE

The legacy and music of Bob Marley is celebrated on the London stage in 2021. Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical will enjoy a world premiere at the Lyric Theatre, starring Arinzé Kene as the musical superstar and...

VIDEO PREMIERES



STRANJAH MILLER - RUFFA THAN DEM



AMMOYE - ON THE DOCK





LEAF OF LIFE - WHEN WE SHINE

BOB MARLON FEAT. DAVID MORRISON



GLORY ON EARTH



SILENT NIGHT





TILIBOP - PROMISE MYSELF



PREDATOR'S PARADISE

YEARBOOK 2021 DECEMBER

RELEASES











MINISTER MARION HALL

















CAT COORE & BARRINGTON LEVY @ CARIBBEAN FOOD & RUM FESTIVAL



THIRD WORLD @ CARIBBEAN FOOD & RUM FESTIVAL

Photos by Steve James & Jan Salzman



REGGAEVILLE SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS



HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Compiled by Gardy Stein & Munchy



TAJ WEEKES

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WEATHERSTON

2021 was a challenging year both personally and professionally, but I had a lot to be thankful for during this time. My family was healthy and safe and we were able to spend cherished moments together. Musically, I just continued writing songs, composing new music while continuing to promote our latest release, Pause, my first solo work after being with Adowa for 6 albums. I was also able to continue my humanitarian work through my charity, They Often Cry Outreach (TOCO). We were able

to deliver 5000 pairs of shoes to underprivileged communities in Ghana coupled with a fundraising performance with various African artists. We sent 30,000 pounds of food to help the disadvantaged people in St. Lucia along with 200 electronic devices for school children and 10.000 masks. 20.000 shields and 36,000 pairs of gloves to help augment the hospitals' efforts with the pandemic. All of these were a springboard to what's ahead to expand **TOCO** into other parts of the world and to help as many children as we can.

The moment my wife Angela and I landed in Accra. Ghana to establish TOCO Africa was verv special. This mission was designed to bridge the gap between Africa and the Caribbean through our humanitarian work. I was so happy to merge my talents as a musician and my desire to help others in a way that truly made a difference. Simple things such as food, shoes, compassion, love - everything came together for me in a very special way.

We had collaborated with the government of Saint Lucia to send some 94 children back to Saint Lucia who had been stranded in America because of Covid. Receiving a letter of thanks from one of the students thanking me for being of assistance to him in his time of need was the most touching moment. It was one of these letters that moved me to tears.

> Personally, my highlight in 2021 was the awakening. I learned more things about music production and got to spend special time with my family. What moved me the most were the people we lost, but also the knowledge learned.



ASTON BARRETT JR (THE WAILERS)

PHOTO BY JAN SALZMAN



TEACHA DEE

PHOTO BY KATJA WARREN

If I should list my top highlights of 2021, it would most definitely start with performing at the premiere of the 25th **James Bond** movie **No Time To Die** at Lux Kino in Frankenthal, Germany. It was my second appearance on the red carpet in less than 24 hours and it felt like I was performing at an opera or some major broadway production in Hollywood. The people were in formal attire and the cameras were everywhere. When my name was called and before I walked on this huge stage, the applause and imagery brought me back to a dream of winning some major amongst the stars. I even opened with a few German jokes, as if it was my "acceptance speech" and the people laughed wholeheartedly. I was a great moment.

In second place comes my trip to Vienna, Austria in the middle of the pandemic for an interview with **Vera Russwurm** on her program **VERA** which was broadcasted to over 2,9 million viewers plus internet streams on **ORF2**. I remember the moment **Sam Gilly** and I were sitting beside the set waiting for our taping. This was my first time on mainstream television in Europe and it was my first interview where I spoke German. It was a milestone for me personally in many ways.

In third place, I made a family trip to the south of Italy where I got a chance to experience both the waters of the Mediterranean and the Ionian seas on one vacation. The weather there reminded me of Jamaica and the people were so friendly and kind. I visited some historic spots too with some good friends there. This was good for my education.

Finally, the completion of my album **Time Machine** and releasing it to close the 2021 calendar year was another important goal of mine. I remain grateful to all the people who have helped to highlight my efforts despite the circumstances of the pandemic and the many reggae icons we have lost. Thank You, 2021.

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WHA' GWAAN MUNCHY?!?





ADDIS PABLO @ WHA` GWAAN MUNCHY?!? #58



USAIN BOLT & NJ INTERVIEW









TEACHA DEE - VIDEO NEWS SPOKEN BY MUNCHY

YEARBOOK - BACK ISSUES @REGGAEVILLE.com/YARD/YEARBOOK















YEARBOOK 2021 YOUTUBE STREAMS

MOST STREAMED... ON YOUTUBE 2021

1.	SEAN PAUL (Jamaica)	1.13 Billio	on + 60,0 Million
2.	BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS* (Jan		
3.	DREAD MAR I (Argentina)	760 Mill	
4.	SHAGGY (Jamaica)	483 Mill	
4. 5.	VYBZ KARTEL (Jamaica)	405 Milli	
5. 6.	POPCAAN (Jamaica)	289 Mill	
-		263 Mill	
7. 8.	DAMIAN MARLEY (Jamaica)	203 Milli 219 Milli	
8. 9.	NATIRUTS (Brazil)		
•••	UB40 (United Kingdom) ALKALINE (Jamaica)	215 Milli 212 Milli	
	ALEANCIAL (Salindad)		
11. 12. 13.	SKILLIBENG (Jamaica)	C Internet State	27 + 130,8 Million - 10,0 Million
	CHARLY BLACK (Jamaica)		14.0 100
14.	TEEJAY (Jamaica)	174 Million	+ 14,0 Million
15.	OMI (Jamaica)	163 Million	1.0.0
16.	KOFFEE (Jamaica)	161 Million	+/- 0 Million
17.	CULTURA PROFETICA (Puerto Rico)	147 Million	
18.	SPICE (Jamaica)	137 Million	
19.	STICK FIGURE (USA)	133 Million	
20.	SOJA (USA)	115 Million	
trai pig			
			14
M	VOULUDE AVSIC CHARTS 2021 DETIGETATIO RECORDS DETIGETATION ALADIST VOLTO		
M		111 Million	+ 27,5 Million
		111 Million 111 Million	 27,5 Million - 2,0 Million
21.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica)		·
21. 22.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica)	111 Million	- 2,0 Million
21. 23.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica) DEXTA DAPS (Jamaica) MASICKA (Jamaica) ALPHA BLONDY (Ivory Coast)	111 Million 110 Million	- 2,0 Million
21. 22. 23. 24.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica) DEXTA DAPS (Jamaica) MASICKA (Jamaica) ALPHA BLONDY (Ivory Coast) TOMMY LEE SPARTA (Jamaica)	111 Million 110 Million 104 Million	- 2,0 Million + 12,7 Million
21. 22. 23. 24. 25.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica) DEXTA DAPS (Jamaica) MASICKA (Jamaica) ALPHA BLONDY (Ivory Coast) TOMMY LEE SPARTA (Jamaica)	111 Million 110 Million 104 Million 104 Million	- 2,0 Million + 12,7 Million + 6,4 Million
21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica) DEXTA DAPS (Jamaica) ALPHA BLONDY (Ivory Coast) TOMMY LEE SPARTA (Jamaica) TARRUS RILEY (Jamaica) LUCKY DUBE (South Africa)	111 Million 110 Million 104 Million 104 Million 102 Million 101 Million	- 2,0 Million + 12,7 Million + 6,4 Million
21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27.	CHRONIC LAW (Jamaica) DEXTA DAPS (Jamaica) ALPHA BLONDY (Ivory Coast) TOMMY LEE SPARTA (Jamaica) TARRUS RILEY (Jamaica) LUCKY DUBE (South Africa) MAVADO (Jamaica)	111 Million 110 Million 104 Million 104 Million 102 Million	- 2,0 Million + 12,7 Million + 6,4 Million

Which artists were the most streamed on YouTube in 2021? To find the very accurate numbers we had to check the **YouTube Music Charts** on January 2nd. Only on this single day did the 12-monthsstatistics display the period from January 1st to December 31st.

We did this in great detail and took into account around 150 artists charts to present the exact figures and compile some TOP lists for you:



TOP20 JAMAICAN ARTISTS IN JAMAICA

FEATURING

MORGAN HERITAGE / ANTHONY B / CLAY RICHIE STEPHENS / GAPPY RANKS / MACKA B RUNKUS & ROYAL BLU / PERFECT GIDDIMANI MARLA BROWN / EXCO LEVI / KELISSA / CALI P SKARRA MUCCI & YANISS ODUA / CALEB HART

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HEIGHTS OF GREATNESS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR 2021



IN:SIDE

GODDESS

PUBLIC VOTING RESULTS



#3 BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS THE CAPITOL SESSION '73

For the second time, we made an internal preselection. The voting panel included 16 people from TeamReggaeville and we invited 35 Reggae industry members from all over the world: Amy Wachtel, Becca Dudley, BuyReggae, Carter van Pelt, Cristy Barber, David Katz, MC Allgi, DJ Daddy Turbo, Dutty Bookman, Fabi Benz, G Cole, Helmut Philipps, John Masouri, Keep It Real Crew, Kulcha Shok Muzik, Lee Abel, Lloyd Stanbury, Lukie Wyniger, Maken Dzięciołowski, Nikki Z, Positive Vibration Festival, Reggae Jam, Reggae Vibes Magazine, Riddim Magazine, Selekta KZA, Shotta Paul, Shrik Kotecha, Sista Irie, Stan Smith, SummerJam Festival, Sunrise Reggae Festival, The Fix, Uppsala Reggae Festival, Uprising Festival & Prof. DDr. Werner Zips.

51 people submitted their favorite 10 releases of 2021, a total of 150 different albums, 47 of these entries made it to the public voting.

Determined by 4500 votes from 1500 registered voters @ REGGAEVILLE.com, we present the TOP33!

#32 PROVERB NESTA I

TOWER OF BABEL

#33 **DEMARCO**

MELODY



#31 BUGLE

TOXICITY

#29 SPICE

115

REST IN POWER

















REST IN POWER

Alvin "Seeco" Patterson Angela Stewart Astro (Terence Wilson) **Brian David Travers Bruno Ranks Bunny Wailer** Delbert "Ngoni" McKay Donald "Tixie" Dixon **Ernest Wilson** Garth Dennis **Ishmael Seally** Jah Hammend Jah Ruby Jean Binta Breeze Lee Scratch Perry Leo Graham **Mikey Chung** Mikey Reuben Campbell Peps Persson **Robbie Shakespeare** Silver Kamel (Tony Gorman) Sister Charmaine Skanka Skankin Spiritual **Tonton David Tony Dread** Trinity (Junior Bramma) **U-Roy** Warren Smith **Yvonne Sterling**





