

# Island Stage

July/August 2015

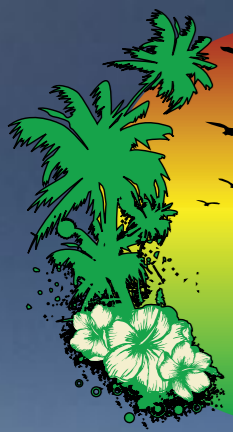
MAGAZINE

*Stephen  
"Ragga"  
Marley*

#31

THE 31ST ANNUAL  
REGGAE ON THE RIVER





# Island Stage

M A G A Z I N E

THE 31ST ANNUAL

REGGAE ON THE RIVER

*SPECIAL FESTIVAL EDITION*

Use Promo Code **River15** to receive a \$25 discount on 3 or 4 day passes! **[www.reggaeontheriver.com](http://www.reggaeontheriver.com)**

Mateel Community Center Presents

**JULY 30 - AUGUST 2**

THE 31ST ANNUAL  
**REGGAE ON THE RIVER**  
**2015**

AT FRENCH'S CAMP  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
LOCATED 10 MILES SOUTH  
OF GARBERVILLE, CA ON HWY 101

3-DAY MAIN EVENT PASS- \$200  
4-DAY EARLY ARRIVAL TICKET- \$250  
ALL NEW! AMBASSADOR PASS- \$500

*Featuring*

**STEPHEN "RAGGA" MARLEY**  
**CHAM ~ ALBOROSIE & THE SHENGEN CLAN**  
**TARRUS RILEY & BLAK SOIL ~ PROTOJE & THE INDIGNATION**  
**CE'CILE ~ COLLIE BUDDZ ~ NAHKO AND MEDICINE FOR THE PEOPLE**  
**GHETTO YOUTHS INTERNATIONAL** FEATURING CHRISTOPHER ELLIS JO MERSA  
BLACK-AM-1 & WAYNE MARSHALL  
**EMMANUEL JAL ~ THE CONGOS ~ KATCHAFIRE ~ STICK FIGURE**  
**EXCO LEVI ~ ALERTA KAMARADA ~ BASSEKOU KOUYATE & NGONI BA**  
**AARADHNA ~ INNA VISION ~ LIOR BEN-HUR ~ EMPRESS UNIFICATION ~ REGGAE ANGELS**  
**JUCE ~ PLUS TOP DJs AND SOUND SYSTEMS!**

EXCLUSIVE SETS ON THURSDAY, JULY 30 FOR 4 DAY TICKET HOLDERS!  
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AND CRAFT VENDORS



#REGGAEONTRIVER  
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INFO- 707.923.3368

Tickets Now On Sale at [ReggaeOnTheRiver.com](http://ReggaeOnTheRiver.com)



THE 31ST ANNUAL  
**REGGAE** ON THE RIVER

On the weekend of July 30th-August 2nd, the non-profit Mateel Community Center presents the 31st anniversary of the longest running reggae festival in the U.S., the one-and-only **Reggae On The River**. Set on the banks of the majestic Eel River and delivering the best in reggae and world music to the hills of Humboldt County, CA, the 2015 edition of this iconic gathering will feature global luminaries like:

**Stephen “Ragga” Marley, Cham, Alborosie & Shengen Clan , King Jammys, Tarrus Riley & Blak Soil, Protoje & The Indignation, Ce’Cile, Collie Buddz, Nahko and Medicine For The People, Ghetto Youths International featuring Jo Mersa, Christopher Ellis, Black-Am-I, & Wayne Marshall; Emmanuel Jal, The Congos, Katchafire, Stick Figure, Alerta Kamarada, Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba, Fortunate Youth, Mr. Williamz, Aaradhna, HIRIE, Empress Unification, and more!**

The 31st annual **Reggae On The River** will also showcase more than 60 vending and non-profit booths, the ever-lively KidLandia, an opportunity to help with the **Tools For Change** humanitarian outreach program (and other worthy causes!), and- of course- the camping, community, and irie vibes which have made **Reggae On The River** famous.

3 and 4-day tickets are available at [reggaeontheriver.com](http://reggaeontheriver.com). Use **RIVER15** code for a \$25 discount!! Or better yet, go big with the new Ambassador Pass to enjoy unprecedented perks and access- the ultimate festival experience! And while you’re at it, make plans to really do things in style with an RV. RV registration is open now, but spaces are very limited so don’t delay on making these arrangements.

Visit the festival website for the full scoop and start planning your Reggae On The River pilgrimage today. It’s happening July 30th-August 2nd at French’s Camp, in Garberville, CA- heart of the Emerald Triangle- and your portal to a **higher vibration!**

THE 31ST ANNUAL  
**REGGAE ON THE RIVER**





**Humboldt County** is a county in the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 134,623. The county seat is Eureka.

Humboldt County comprises the Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA Micropolitan Statistical Area. It is located on the far North Coast 200 miles north of San Francisco.

Its primary population centers of Eureka, the site of College of the Redwoods main campus, and the smaller college town of Arcata, site of Humboldt State University, are located adjacent to Humboldt Bay, California's second largest natural bay. Area cities and towns are known for hundreds of ornate examples of Victorian architecture.

Humboldt County is a densely forested mountainous, and rural county with about 110 miles of coastline (more than any other county in the state) situated along the Pacific coast in Northern California's rugged Coast (Mountain) Ranges. With nearly 1,500,000 acres (6,100 km<sup>2</sup>) of combined public and private forest in production, Humboldt County alone produces twenty percent of total volume and thirty percent of the total value of all forest products produced in California. The county contains over forty percent of all remaining old growth Coast Redwood forests, the vast majority of which is protected or strictly conserved within dozens of national, state, and local forests and parks, totaling approximately 680,000 acres (over 1,000 square miles).

The original inhabitants of the area now known as Humboldt County include the Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Chilula, Whilkut, and the Eel River Athapaskan peoples, including the Wailaki, Mattole and Nongatl. Andrés de Urdaneta found the coast near Cape Mendocino then followed the coast south to Acapulco in 1565. Spanish traders made unintended visits to California with the Manila Galleons on their return trips from the Philippines beginning in 1565. Humboldt County was formed in 1853 from parts of Trinity County. The first recorded entry by people of European origin was a landing by the Spanish in 1775 in Trinidad.

<http://humboldt.gov.org>

# Reggae on the River Site Map



# *Global Connections, Positive Vibrations*



*Reggae On The River not only represents global diversity on stage, but this year they have asked some of the world representatives on their line-up to share the non-profit causes and projects that are close to their hearts. Spreading the global love through the simple sharing of information.*



## *Maui, Hawaii- Inna Vision*



Without hesitation, on the forefront of Inna Vision's mind is protecting the sacred mountain, Mauna Kea. At 13,796 ft above sea level, measured from its base at the bottom of the sea, it surpasses Mount Everest as the tallest mountain on earth. A place of cultural significance and practice, it is the ancient home of many Gods and Goddesses as well as a site of shrines and burials.

At issue is the 1.2 billion dollar University of Hawaii's Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (referred to as TMT – Thirty Meter Telescope), which would be one of the largest telescopes in the world, allowing scientists to see further into our universe. But at what cost? As of this spring, the development of this project had been halted by lawsuits over the telescope's violations of the mountain's cultural and environmental integrity (TMT could disrupt Mauna Kea's glacial environment, the freshwater supply, etc). Although Mauna Kea is already home to twelve telescopes, it's been nearly 15 years since one has been installed on the otherwise pristine land mass. In Hawaiian genealogy, the mountain is revered as the piko, or the center of one's being; this controversy has many younger Hawaiians participating in civil resistance that hasn't been seen since the 1970's. To learn more about this deeply personal discussion about the relationship between science, the sacred, and Hawaii's sovereignty, search @protectmaunakea on all social media outlets.

**#protectmaunakea #AoleTMT #TMTshutdown  
#WeAreMaunaKea**

## *Mali- Bassekou Kouyate*



Kouyaté's nieces and nephews are among the village children benefitting from the work of Plan Mali, an NGO that promotes children's rights in an effort to end child poverty.

Kouyaté's home village of Garna, in the Dioïla District of the Ségou Region, is one of the four areas that Plan supports in Mali. By selecting an area in need of upliftment, Plan matches children known to be needy in the area with a sponsor who commits to giving regular financial support toward the area where the child lives. The organization then identifies work that needs support in the areas of the rights of that child, including education, health, sanitation and understanding of rights. For example, in Dioïla, with Plan's support, the school board (that runs schools owned by the local government) is able to improve school buildings and add science, sports and library facilities. In the larger village next to Garna, where some of Kouyaté's nieces and nephews are students, Plan has facilitated the building and equipping of a school library with electric light and after-school hours that allow for children to do supervised homework, or simply read.

The health component has involved setting up an innovative local blood bank which has prevented a number of maternal deaths after childbirth. Recruiting members of a "walking blood bank" ready to donate whenever there is need reduces the need for storage and transport of supplies in an area without good roads. In a country with low literacy rates and limited understanding of physiology, it is a real achievement to get the community to understand and support this project. Additionally, there is a great need for clean water, and Plan has a list of wells to dig and equip, but the water table is generally very deep and these projects are expensive. If you are interested in learning more about how Plan works in 86,676 communities throughout 51 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas, look them up on Facebook or at <http://plan-international.org/where-we-work/africa/mali>.

## *Sudan- Emmanuel Jal*



**The Lose to Win** challenge aims to raise money to support three charities that Emmanuel believes aim to provide a well rounded education to children in Africa. The campaign encourages people to “lose” or give up something of value in their lives (i.e. giving up meat, alcohol, lattes, profits for 30 days – calculate the money saved and pledge or contribute it) – to understand the value of going without the normal things in each of our daily lives that we take for granted. Emmanuel’s first challenge in 2008 was to eat only one meal a day to raise money for the Emma Academy in South Sudan. The three charities which receive money raised by those participating in Lose to Win include:

### *Gua Africa*

A project in Sudan and Kenya that works with individuals, families and communities to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty through academic scholarships, construction of classrooms and providing educational resources.

### *Africa Yoga Project*

Emmanuel believes that the practice of yoga can prove transformative and empowering for the people in East Africa who are facing the unique challenges of war and poverty. Creating opportunities for people to learn and teach yoga is to support people’s abilities to provide for their own emotional, physical and mental well being and allows them to experience greater self-sufficiency.

### *My Start*

Providing creative art workshops for young people in refugee camps, My Start facilitates an opening for Africans to communicate their experiences through art, photography and film. The art work produced at the camps is exhibited in schools as a powerful resource for students to learn more about the issues surrounding conflict, migration and displacement, and what it means to be a global citizen. If you are inspired to go without in order that others should gain, look further into [www.losetowin.net](http://www.losetowin.net)

## *New Zealand- Aaradhna*



Aaradhna encourages us in joining her in supporting the New Zealand Music Foundation which fuels projects at schools, hospices, youth organizations, and rehabilitation centers that use music as a vehicle for people to experience self-healing. The foundation supports programs that help people recover from strokes by singing; at-risk/homeless youth opportunities to find safety in learning an instrument and playing music; special needs kids the opportunity to find self-expression easy and joyful through singing and dancing; and young people with cancer the opportunity to learn music theory and DJ skills, with chances to perform live. This year, the Foundation wants to raise \$750,000 to support projects around their country that will change the lives of thousands of New Zealanders. Check out the videos of what they’re doing and learn how you as a music lover can contribute by going to [Nzmusicfoundation.org.nz](http://Nzmusicfoundation.org.nz)

## *United States- Empress Unification*



This year for Women’s History Month, Empress Unification gathered donations of hygiene products at their shows to support the Women’s Daytime Drop-in Center (WDDC-Berkeley). The WDDC opened in 1987 in response to the enormous problems with homelessness in the community and is currently under the leadership of a core group of women, operated by 12 full/part-time staff and several volunteers. Open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 4pm they offer free services to any homeless woman and her children, including breakfast and lunch. Women in need can find administrative and funding support in finding safe emergency shelter, long-term housing, and assistance if facing eviction or need motel vouchers. WDDC also offers parenting support, referrals for children’s medical, dental, and mental health services. You, too can contribute to improving the quality of life for an average of 150 women and children a month by donating time (3 hours a week, money - \$10 gift cards to Safeway/Target/Trader Joes, or items such as deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, new underwear, socks, bras, rain gear, baby wipes, etc). If this endeavor calls to you, learn more at [womensdropin.org](http://womensdropin.org)



*Reggae on the River turns 31. Now that they have been around a while, They are old enough to know that it's not all about them. But truth be told, this awareness has been an inherent part of their identity ever since this event began in 1984, as this event was specifically created to raise money to rebuild their community center, which was lost to an arsonist's fire. To this day, ROTR continues to be the primary fundraiser for their Mateel Community Center's annual operating expenses. Your having purchased a ticket*

*to have fun with them on festival weekend , directly assists them in fulfilling their mission to provide their local people with social services, as well as arts, educational, cultural, youth, and health/ fitness opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have access to in this rural location.*

*This spirit of generosity, of service, of contributing to the greater good, of ONE HEART, inspired #ROTR this year to want to join hands with and recognize theirbredren and sistren across the globe (including theirline-up's artists!) for their dedicated efforts toward co-creating a better world.*

*"We thank those who bring a new or used "Tool For Change" -- your donation will directly benefit one of nine villages in Burkina Faso, West Africa where more than 3,000 people farm and work the land". - ROTR Team*

*For those who plan to arrive by way of the new Reggae Ambassador Pass, ten percent of the proceeds of your ticket price will go directly to Kingston, Jamaica's Alpha Institute (formerly Alpha Boys School) and to the Lil Raggamuffins Camp for the resident youth in the Blue Mountains*

*Each One Reach One – We hail up each of you at Reggae on the River!*



## 2015 Reggae Ambassadors Beneficiaries



### *Alpha Boys School*

Since 1880 the Alpha Boys School (recently renamed the Alpha Institute) in Kingston, Jamaica has cared for and given education and trade training to thousands of needy, at-risk boys. Hailed as one of the primary drivers of Jamaican popular music, graduating some of the most pioneering musicians in the country's history (Ernest Ranglin, Yellowman, Horsemouth, Leroy Smart, The Skatalites and so many more), the non-profit former residential school has recently changed to a day program due to shifts in funding.

Although the school is consistently credited for shaping well-rounded young men who learn under its tutelage how to be responsible citizens embracing the dignity of honest work, the school is currently hanging on by a thread and will utilize the support of the Ambassadors at this year's ROTR. Alpha employs eight trained teachers under the direction of one principal and hosts 150 boys aged 15-18 years old. In addition to music, they offer vocational training in agriculture, tailoring, woodworking and screen printing. Sometimes big needs can be addressed by simple actions. In this case, ten dollars a month can support a student in their music program or provide social services for him. A great way to pay your respects to reggae music and encourage its continuing flow, go to [Alphaboysschool.org](http://Alphaboysschool.org)

## 2015 Reggae Ambassadors Beneficiaries



### *Lil Raggamuffin Summer Camp*

Founded in 2002 by 18 year old Zebi Williams, who used savings earned from waitressing to finance what has become a growing organization called the Lil Raggamuffin Summer Camp, it is the longest-running summer camp in Jamaica's Blue Mountains. In a place where the average coffee farmer earns \$1,000 annually, this camp has created a special niche working with a generation of coffee-farming children, providing mentorship, arts enrichment education, access to technology and entrepreneurship training.

Every year, 30 local/international volunteers, professionals in their fields, lead 125 campers in activities and workshops that empower the youth with tangible skills to increase their sense of self and inspire them to take powerful ownership over their lives and economic future. An absolutely incredible program, the camp is seeing attendees from the first and second years now becoming counselors and teachers themselves. The camp annually provides over \$60,000 worth of arts, business, technology, and holistic wellness training, and community leadership skills to the attendees and you are invited to contribute by donating money in a variety of creative or conventional ways or by giving your time (see the website for skills needed in-person or virtually). An important and fun way to make a change! [Lilraggamuffincamp.org](http://Lilraggamuffincamp.org)

## ***Tools For Change Program***



A new program we are excited to offer at ROTR 2015 - festival attendees are encouraged to be a Tool For Change by bringing a new or used tool with them to the event. Collected tools will support a humanitarian project that donates tools and appliances to rural villages in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Comprised of nine small villages that farm and work the land together, more than 3000 people will directly benefit from this program. If you are reading this before coming to the event, please consider bringing a tool with you to support the cause. Needed items include all types of hand and electric construction tools, kitchen accessories, and appliances like sewing machines, etc. Donations to help with shipping costs are accepted at [www.gofundme.com/ToolsForChange](http://www.gofundme.com/ToolsForChange).

## ***Urban Releaf Exchange Urban Releaf Project ~ Oakland, CA***

This year, Reggae on the River is participating in an exchange program with Urban Releaf by bringing up select youth from the city to experience the forest and nature-based community of rural Northern California. A program that mentors and hires at-risk/hard to hire youths, Kemba Shakur founded Urban Releaf in 1998 after noticing the lack of trees in her neighborhood. Determined to improve the quality of life for urban communities, she focuses the organization's work around serving economically-disadvantaged and ecologically underserved neighborhoods suffering from disproportionate environmental health hazards, such as poor air quality. Planting and stewarding trees in neighborhoods with little to no greenery or tree canopy, researching and educating about the layers of benefits of urban forestry, Urban Releaf is responsible for having planted over 15,000 trees since its inception and has become one of the preeminent urban forestry groups in the nation. Plant Trees, Sponsor Youth, Enrich Community [www.urbanreleaf.org](http://www.urbanreleaf.org)

## ***Non Profit Beneficiaries Of #ROTR***

As part of our mission to give back to the community, all food booths at ROTR benefit local non-profit organizations working to improve the quality of life on the North Coast. A list of 2015 participants/ beneficiaries includes:

**KMUD- Redwood Community Radio**

**Sprowel Creek VFD**

**Beginnings Inc.**

**Recycled Youth**

**Southern Humboldt Community Park**

**Kiwanis Of The Redwoods**

**Hempstead Heart Project**

**Redway/ Garberville Chamber Of  
Commerce**

**South Fork High School Booster Club**

**Salmon River Community Land Trust**

**Tree Of Life School**

**Environmental Protection  
Information Center**

**Heartwood Institute**

**South Bay School**

**Mateel Community Lunch Program**

## ***Festival Donation Fund***

Each year, 2.5% of net proceeds from Reggae On The River are dedicated to a fund that is used to support a variety of worthy causes/projects in our local community and beyond. Some recent beneficiaries/projects have included:

- Save Our Schools for a multi-year donation to the Redway School music program

- New computers for Leggett Valley School

- A grant to the Eel River Recovery Project for a watershed wide study on the health of Eel River

- Funds to help with the continuation of shop and other vocational classes at South Fork High School

- Insurance assistance for the SoHum Skate Park

- The purchase of a public bench in the Garberville Town Square

...and numerous other community projects.

# *Masters Of Ceremonies*

**Agnes Patak** – Agnes has been involved with ROTR since the beginning- photographing, working the press tent, emceeing, and participating on the talent committee. Host of the World Beat Show on KMUD for the last 27 years, between her show and the ROTR press tent- she has interviewed just about every reggae and world music artist out there. She is also proud to represent as one of the few female emcees of a major festival.

**Spliff Skankin'** - Veteran emcee and reggae DJ, Spliff Skankin', has been a fixture at ROTR for years. He is a founding member of the seminal Bay Area sound system, Massive Sound International, and is a popular host of reggae radio programs on KKUP, KPFA and KFJC. He will be emceeing and spinning tracks throughout the weekend.

**Madi Simmons** - Returning for his second time as and ROTR emcee, Madi has been passionately creating music for over 20 years. A Rasta, born and raised in the US, this longtime resident of Humboldt County was recently nominated for a Billboard Jamaica award for his track, "One Love, One World."

**Rasta Stevie**- A veteran of the reggae industry for over 3 decades, Rasta Stevie has served in every capacity available to forward the reggae vibe. He has hosted radio programs and been a DJ/ emcee across the US and in Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, Bali, and Costa Rica. He currently hosts two radio shows on KDUR in Durango, CO and on VP Records online station, Randy's Reggae Radio. His positive vibration and clear voice for the movement helps keep the event emanating One Love and encourages attendees to Live Up

**Wisdom** - Progressive music artist, Wisdom, has been in the forefront of the Bay Area's hip hop/reggae culture for over a decade. Committed to a path of self-mastery through meditation and spiritual growth, Wisdom recently released his third full-length album, "Full Spectrum," featuring Sizzla and Michael Rose, and we are happy to host him once again as an ROTR emcee.

**Irie Dole** - A well established DJ, event host and radio personality, Irie Dole is an all around reggae advocate. Whether alone or with Jah Warrior Shelter Hi-Fi Sound System, his unique delivery and selection puts him a cut above the average selector. After 20 years of service to the CA reggae scene, Irie Dole now resides on Maui where he is programming/ operations director and a favorite on-air radio voice for Q103, the only commercial radio station in the US to play strictly reggae music.

**Marley** - Born and raised on the rocks of Reggae On The River, Marley is a local DJ continuing the legacy of the SHC, and now making his second appearance as an emcee on the ROTR this year.

**Jade Steel** - One of SoHum's favorite sons, Jade has graced the ROTR stage many times with his Emerald Triangle Band. This will be his first time rocking the mic as an emcee.



# ***THURSDAY 'EARLY BIRD' LINEUP JULY 30***

***12 to 4 Mixed DJs***

***4:00 Iya Terra***

***5:05 Irie Fuse***

***6:10 Pyrx Band***

***7:20 Solution***

***8:30 HIRIE***

***9:35 Mr Williamz***

***10:45 Fortunate Youth***

***12:00 King Jammys***





## *Iya Terra*

Comprised of five young musicians from Los Angeles, CA, Iya Terra fuses their love of roots, rock and reggae into everything they do. Coming from diverse musical backgrounds, they released a self-titled EP in January of last year and their second album, **Full Circle** (2015) debuted strong on the charts, just in time for this year's festival.



## *IrieFuse*

IrieFuse is a collection of long-time friends and fresh talent, hailing from the hills of Marin County, California. Performing together since early 2013, they have hit the festival scene hard, gaining recognition with every stop. Their first release, the EP **Sun is Rising** (2013) precipitated their hold of top positions on local reggae charts in San Francisco, and this 2015 is looking to be an important year with the release of their highly anticipated album Give and Get Back.



## *PyRx Band*

High Times Magazine's Underground Artist of the Year (2008) and one-time headliner at Amsterdam's Cannabis Cup, PyRx (meaning "infinite medicine") consists of five members playing high energy shows of dub-step, hip-hop and California reggae. With hit singles including "**She's Got the Love**," "**Sweet Sensi**," and "**Struggle**" that received wide support from West Coast college and mainstream radio, they're currently collaborating with Junior Reid on their fourth record.







## ***Solution***

Orange County's Solution came together in 2012. Their dynamic, California sound that tends uniquely toward a harder edge has had them nominated for multiple Orange County Music Awards, including Best Live Band. Their debut album, **Take Me High** was followed by the EP, **Breathe Fire** that trended in the top 100 reggae albums in the world on iTunes. A new album is slated for this 2015.



## ***HIRIE***

This female-fronted band released their first single, "**Sensi Boy**" in 2013 and was nominated for San Diego's World Music Award. A roots reggae sound accompanied by pop vocals capable of free styling to a skanking rhythm, HIRIE's "Sensi Boy" has received over 150,000 YouTube view indicating that they are on the rise as the newest reggae sensation. The immediate success of their self-titled full-length album garnered the attention of the country's festival circuit, including **Blaze 'N' Glory**.



## ***Mr. Williamz***

Mr. Williamz is something of a throwback to the foundation days of dancehall. He deejays in a cool yet serious style similar to Super Cat and maintains a dapper dress sense in the gentleman rudeboy fashion. Born in London and raised in Jamaica, Mr. Williamz emerged onto the reggae scene in 2008 with his debut single "**Babylon in Helicopter**" which reached #1 on the U.S Singles Charts.





## ***Fortunate Youth***

Fortunate Youth is a collaboration of South Bay Area reggae stand-outs. Rootsy vibes, unique bass lines, multiple harmonies, boisterous guitar solos and heavy keys, Fortunate Youth has an EP (**Up-Lifted** EP), and two full -length albums **Irie State of Mind** and **It's All a Jam**. They've held #1 and #2 spots on the iTunes Reggae Charts as well as #1 and #13 spots on Billboard's Reggae Charts and their new album, *Don't Think Twice* (2015) is yet further indication of their surging popularity with the masses.



## ***King Jammys***

Jamaica's Lloyd "King Jammys" James has played a seminal role in many of Jamaica's musical eras. The reggae pioneer, producer and dub mixer began his career as an apprentice under the late great King Tubby in the 1970's. Jammys found himself right in the mix of some of the finest roots reggae ever to be created, recording countless notable works including the debut effort of Black Uhuru in 1977, the results of which represented a breakthrough for both parties.



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Made In Humboldt

# *FRIDAY, JULY 31 LINEUP*

*12:30 Opening Ceremony*

*1:00 Juce*

*2:35 Inna Vision*

*4:15 Stick Figure*

*6:00 Katchafire*

*7:45 Collie Buddz*

*9:35 Protoje & The Indiggnation*

*11:40 Cham*





## *Juce*

These Humboldt transplants of nearly 15 years bring their confident swagger and conscious attitudes by way of the streets of Inglewood, San Diego, the Bay Area, and an international upbringing on the deep blue sea. Prior to coming together as Juce in 2001, the eight members have a long history devastating stages up and down the West Coast. Rootsy and urban, island and rudeboy, Juce is currently working on a brand new album, **Move the Masses**.



## *Inna Vision*



Maui's Inna Vision is a foundation, roots reggae group that brings forth the distinct and clear energy of "aloha." One of the most played island reggae bands on Pandora and holding multiple, global chart placements on iTunes; Inna Vision is setting the pace for today's "band to the fan" barometer.

With hit songs "**Inspiration**," "**Positive Ions**," and "**Irie Insulation**," Inna Vision has released several albums since 2008 under their independent label, Cultural Vision Maui. Their 2013 EP, Live at Imperial Sound released under VP Records, debuted #4 on the iTunes charts and their new EP, **Push** is a sneak peak of what is to come once the four-piece Hawaiian powerhouse releases their fourth full-length album scheduled to drop in summer 2015.



## Stick Figure



Exploding popularity, the band Stick Figure is quickly catching the attention of music lovers virtually and in-person by measure of online buzz and sold out shows. "**Smokin' Love**" featuring Collie Buddz, is one of the latest singles since the release of their 2012 album **Burial Ground** which made it to #1 on iTunes and Billboard Reggae charts.

Musically innovative, instrumentally transcendent and lyrically complex, Stick Figure's music has a unique style that creatively blends upbeat roots reggae with the reverberating echoes of dub. Originally launched in Duxbury, Massachusetts, band founder, Scott Woodruff single-handedly created four, full length albums from 2006-2012, recording instruments individually and then layering tracks on top of one another in unison. Now located in Southern California, Woodruff has since put together a live band with Kevin Bong (vocals and keyboards), Kevin Offitzer (drums), and Tommy Suliman (bass).

Stick Figure's debut tour in the fall of 2012 ignited flames under the band as well as with the dedicated fans that had been patiently waiting to hear this music live. The Stick Figure sound is elevating music to new heights and their forthcoming, sixth studio album, is the most anticipated reggae album of the year.

## Katchafire



Hailing from the mighty H-Town (Hamilton), Aotearoa (New Zealand), Katchafire have become a global roots reggae phenomenon. The all Maori Reggae band, bring their pure classic sound to music lovers worldwide, delivering one of the most authentic Reggae shows around today. Four highly successful studio albums, multiple awards, platinum sales, highest selling singles, and the list goes on. Their sound is built on the foundations of classic roots reggae with an R'n'B and funk rub, mashing modern dancehall and slinky reggae pop. Katchafire has crafted a universal vibe, capturing something truly special in a diversity of instrumentation and clarity of sound.

Built on a family movement, it all started when lead guitarist, Grenville Bell, father of lead singer, Logan Bell and drummer / singer / songwriter, Jordan Bell; moved into an apartment building in town with his then teenage sons where they could make music all night, and the rest is history. Countless jams and sell out concerts later they are now an 8-piece collective of multi-talented songwriters and musicians and have become a staple on the Californian and Pacific Roots scenes- and the buzz just continues to get hotter. Their latest release, **Best So Far**, tips the hat to Katchafire's classics in one amazing compilation- and the band is also now deep in studio mode creating their highly anticipated 5th album. As the momentum continues to grow, its clear there is no stopping the fire of **Katchafire!**



*Collie Buddz*



## *Collie Buddz*

Unforgettable sing-along hooks, the kind of beats that pound in the chest and a vocal tenacity that's as uncommon as it is infectious, Bermuda's Collie Buddz blew up in 2006 with his demo track "**Come Around**;" exploding a whole new scene in reggae music, topping the charts in the U.K. and even making it to number one in Jamaica.

Born Colin Harper in New Orleans, but raised in Bermuda, (his mother of Bermudian heritage has roots in the island dating back to the 1700s) Harper was entranced by the urban music of his island home. He favored dancehall the most, but soca and hip-hop were important too, and by the age of 12, Harper had learned his way around a music studio. It soon became apparent to everyone within earshot of the boy that his voice possessed a quality that lingers long after you've heard him.

Collie Buddz' latest album, **Light It Up** (Sony 2014) is bumping in cars and nightclubs across the globe at the same time that he has also launched a new radio station in Bermuda (Vibe 103), and even become a father. In light of the sweeping movement to legalize medicinal cannabis, this will be Collie Buddz' first experience at Reggae on the River where his new single, "**Prescription**," is sure to find irie reception.







## *Protoje & The Indignation*

There is an exciting resurgence of conscious music in Jamaica and industry experts and fans agree that Jamaica's Protoje is among those at the forefront of the movement known as the "Reggae Revival." Leading the band, The Indignation, the philosophical thinker and powerful songwriter reports for duty, re-establishing the standard for the decaying art of socially responsible, mentally stimulating lyricism.

Despite being the cousin of regular chart-topping producer, Donovan 'Don Corleon' Bennett, who produced his first two albums, Protoje resists the urge to lay his vocals on every other riddim in the dancehall mainstream. His latest artistic concentrations are exemplified in his current album, **Ancient Future** (2015) produced by Winta James. "Where I am right now is more of a self-reflection. For me that's the important topic and my music has to signify that. Lyrically I really address the feelings in my chest and know it's alright to feel that way...that's what this album is - more of a self-investigation. I say things on it where somebody might say 'Hmmm, OK' but I have to say it and hear it because to me music is my therapy first and foremost."

In 2011, David Rodigan declared that he was "particularly impressed" with Protoje's debut album, **The Seven Year Itch**, and reactions to his sophomore album, **The 8 Year Affair** (2013) and now Ancient Future has the charts, social media sites, and critics confirming that Protoje is indeed the most accelerating artist of the times.



## Cham

Cham, formerly known as Baby Cham (born 1979), emerged as a dancehall artist at the ripe age of 16 and just a few years later, without even releasing a proper album, was considered one of Jamaica's biggest dancehall artists.

His debut release, **Wow...The Story** (2000), reached #5 on the Billboard Top Reggae Album Charts and paved the way for his 2006 major label debut album, **Ghetto Story**. The "Ghetto Story" single, released ahead of the album, exploded in Cham's native Jamaica and made its way to the American radio waves. From there, the track appeared in the Billboard Hot 100 and garnered attention from Akon and Alicia Keys, both of whom recorded "Ghetto Story" remixes with Cham. The fire Cham brings through this narrative of the rough and rugged life he overcame in some of Jamaica's toughest garrison communities runs throughout all of his deliveries, mercilessly blowing up his audiences.

Having started in the music business by watching artists like John Wayne and Super Cat rehearse on his uncle's Waterhouse-based sound system, the deep baritone voice, lyrically lethal, Grammy-nominated Cham is known for his seductive and commanding stage presence. Riding high on a string of high-tempo, club-rocking hits with newcomer artist, 'O,' Cham's stake on dancehall is as strong as ever. If the single "**Fighter**" with Damian Marley produced through Cham's longtime alliance with Madhouse Records is any indication of his third and forthcoming album, **Lawless**, then be ready with lighter in hand for this scorcher of a Friday night closing set.



# ***SATURDAY, AUGUST 01 LINEUP***

- 11:00**    ***Opening Blessing***
- 11:30**    ***Lior Ben-Hur***
- 12:55**    ***Aaradhna***
- 2:30**    ***Alerta Kamarada***
- 4:05**    ***Emmanuel Jal***
- 5:50**    ***Ghetto Youth***
- 7:45**    ***Ce'Cile***
- 9:30**    ***Tarrus Riley & Blak Soil***
- 11:30**    ***Stephen "Ragga" Marley***





### *Lior Ben-Hur*

Born and raised in Jerusalem, Israel, Lior Ben-Hur has traveled to over a dozen countries where he spent time learning, performing and sharing experiences with musicians and artists from around the globe. For the last ten years he has made his home in San Francisco, CA and in 2011 he founded **Sol Tevé! Project**. In 2013, they released their debut album, **World Light**, which aims to shed a new light and contemporary interpretation on old Jewish texts, ideals, and mysticism. Along with his 7-piece band, Lior Ben-Hur focuses on his passion for Reggae music, a key inspiration on his musical creativity and spirituality.



### *Aaradhna*

This 31 year old is a platinum-selling R&B/soul artist from New Zealand. With a sound described as "retro/metro," Aaradhna has a silky voice, a contemporary doo-wop style, and reggae attitude. Her hypnotizing harmonies are inspired by Otis Redding, Ruth Brown and Sam Cooke, but with her own Pacific edge. A New Zealander of Samoan and Indian descent, by 11 she was writing songs and at 16 signed her first recording deal. Currently in a five album project with Republic Records, and having completed tours with JBoog, Katchafire, and Daptone's Records' artist, Charles Bradley, Aaradhna's honest and straight to the point songwriting call forth the feeling of contemporary soul divas such as Amy Winehouse and Adele. Her most recent album, 2012's **Treble & Reverb** proves that this New Zealand treasure is touching critical acclaim and international stardom.



### *Alerta Kamarada*

Reggae sensations from Bogotá, Colombia, Alerta Kamarada was founded in 1996. Voted Best National Reggae Band (twice), they are hugely popular in Colombia as can be witnessed in their online following as well as their YouTube videos garnering over a million views (e.g. "**La Misión**").

Releasing their first track in 2001, their first LP, **ALERTA** (2004) sold 800 copies on its first day. Their second album, **Somos Uno** (2005) was recorded in Colombia, but mixed by world-renowned producer, Sly Dunbar. Their most recent album (2012), **Made in One2 Vol.1** features the Wailers as well as Gorgo Bordello and other MCs from Colombia and beyond. They have also collaborated with the likes of Lee Scratch Perry, Tanya Stephens, Sugar Minott, Anthony B, and the Marley family, among others.

# *ALERTA KAMARADA*



THE 31ST ANNUAL  
**REGGAE RIVER**  
ON THE RIVER

**Island Stage**



*EMMANUEL*

*JAL*

THE 31ST ANNUAL  
REGGAE ON THE RIVER

# *Emmanuel Jal*

Emmanuel Jal was born into the life of a child soldier on an unknown date in the early 1980s in the war-torn region of Southern Sudan. Through unbelievable struggles, Jal managed to survive and go on to emerge as a recording artist, achieving worldwide acclaim for his unique style of reggae/hip-hop.

After releasing four noteworthy albums, Jal has upped the ante considerably last year with his fifth studio album, **The Key** executively produced by Demacio "Demo" Castellon (Jay Z, Justin Timberlake, Rihanna). In demand as a main spokesperson for Amnesty International, he also recently co-starred with Reese Witherspoon in the Warner Brothers motion picture, *The Good Lie*.

Having lived in Kenya, London and Canada over the last 20 years and having had the opportunity to collaborate with artists such as Peter Gabriel and Alicia Keys, Jal's worldview has expanded. His music reflects that, touching on EDM, reggae/dub, and pop all the way to hardcore hip-hop, folk, traditional African music and soul. Developing resilience and moving toward reconciliation in the face of life's hardships is a theme that courses its way throughout all of this artist's works.





## *Emmanuel Jal Interview*

**IS:** We are excited to see you on this year's lineup for Reggae on the River! Is this your first time appearing at this very special reggae festival?

**EJ:** Yes

**IS:** You have an incredible back story, and I know that people always want to focus on that because after all, it is very inspiring to see where you are today, after what you have been through. I want to focus on the music. Let me ask first, as a hip hop artist, how does Reggae influence your style?

**EJ:** Reggae is soul music that speaks to all oppressors and the oppressed at the same time and brings them together. It influences my style because of its simplicity. The delivery mostly the vibe, shaking my hair my back and becoming high in the music. I'm high in the music every day.

**IS:** Who are some of the reggae artists you listen to past and present? And Why?

**EJ:** Bob Marley, Lucky Dube, Alfa Blondy, The Wailers, Peter Tosh, I listen to them because of their messaging, their consciousness, they allow you to speak truth to the power for us to become better citizens.

**IS:** How do you feel about the current state of hip hop in the US?

**EJ:** It depends, there's commercial hip hop, there's social hip hop. Most records concentrate on what sells and unfortunately violence and sex sells fast, basically what happens is that the industry understands what sells music quickly and that's the music that pisses the parents off and the music that pisses the children off doesn't sell. Imagine that conscious music was made illegal? It would suddenly sell. People sometimes want to live out their fantasies and their rebellion in the music, and that's what helps them sell, it's not real life. I've been told that the violence I describe in my music is 'too real' 'too political'. It's the same in the movies fighting aliens.



**IS:** One of our favorite songs on **Warchild** is 'Vagina' "*Stop treating Mama Africa like a vagina, she is not your whore anymore; you take your riches and leave your people poor*" These lyrics certainly resonate with a lot of people from all around the world. Tell me more about using music as your platform to tell the truth, heal and unify people.

**EJ:** It's easy to communicate difficult messages through music (even if it doesn't prove to be commercial ah ah) it's a universal language; the spirit and the soul understand it and the body enjoys it. You can use music to hate or music to love. I used my song **WE Want Peace** with Alicia Keys for attention to South Sudan and to spread a message now of peace and to tackle global issues. "**My Power**" which I wrote with Nile Rodgers also talks about the importance Kennedy stressed about speaking truth to power. We all have a power and I hope to influence young people all over the world to find their special light, their power to bring positivity.

**IS:** You have released 5 albums "**Ceasefire**" "**Gua**" "**See Me Mama**" "**Warchild**" and "**The Key**" Are you working on the next album?

**EJ:** Yes I'm working on my next album now. I've got a lot of songs ready and it should be ready soon. Here there will be more stories told, I'll be dancing and having fun but at the same time keeping the truth within.

**IS:** What do you like to do for fun?

**EJ:** I like to cook and make superfoods. I've invented myself a superpowder called **Jal Gua** with **Moringa** and **Sorghum** it's got 7 essential nutrients and massive amounts of iron. It's off the hook you guys need to watch out for it!

I like to dance and be silly too.

**IS:** Who's in your music player right now?

**EJ:** I'm now on Def Jam Poetry. I have been waking up and listening to poetry now for a couple of months - just poetry. I love African Music - Wenga Musica and Michael Jackson too - he's off the hook, he's artistic and I don't know if we'll ever have an artist like that again in our lifetime. I'm also listening to a South Sudanese singer called Luany.





## *Ghetto Youths International*

The Ghetto Youths International (GYI) will turn up the heat in a classic Jamaican format where different artists take turns on stage and hold the mic. Back in 1989 the younger Marleys identified the children of the ghetto as the spiritual source of their music and set up GYI to reach out to this population through charitable programs and also as a record label. On Saturday night, GYI will feature a creative mash up of talents featuring **Jo Mersa**, **Christopher Ellis**, **Black-Am-I**, and **Wayne Marshall**.



## *Jo Mersa*



Born in Kingston, JA in 1991, Joseph "Jo Mersa" Marley, the eldest son of Stephen Marley and grandson of Bob Marley has inherited abundant musical intuition and talent. Mersa's music however, is his own. He writes many of his own riddims spanning the terrain of pop, hip-hop, EDM and dancehall influences. A deft lyricist, his debut EP, **Comfortable**, was released last year. As Mersa's career progresses, he looks forward to making his mark as an individual artist while continuing the Marley legacy.





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## *Christopher Ellis*

Trenchtown, the economically depressed but musically blessed area of downtown Kingston, JA is not only where Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer stirred it up, but many other musical heroes, too including the innovator of rocksteady, Alton Ellis. His son, Christopher, toured extensively with his father from the age 11 on, and after his death, began being mentored by Damian and Stephen Marley. Ellis has collaborated with Jah Cure and Bay-C (of T.O.K.) reworking his father's classics as well as exploring his own expressions .

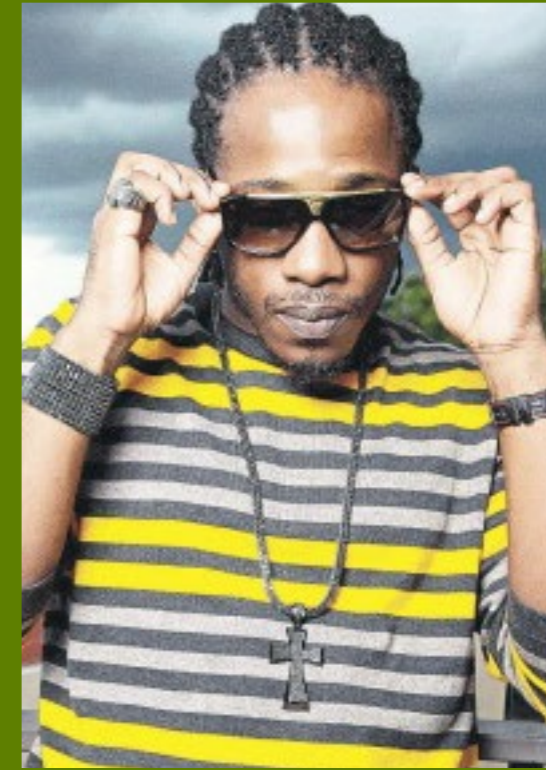


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## *Black Am I*

One of the newest recruits to the GYI ranks, the sound of the roaring lion can be heard through this talented Jamaican youth. Culturally inclined reggae singjay, Black Am I is distinguishing himself as a powerful and soulful voice of Jamaican music's next generation. Black Am I was born and raised in the rural village of Nine Mile (the birthplace of Bob Marley), situated in the hills of the Jamaican parish of St. Ann. "Growing up in Nine Mile," Black Am I explains, "Reggae was a part of me."



## *Wayne Marshall*

Born in 1980 in Kingston, JA, Marshall released his debut album Marshall Law on VP records in 2003. Characterized by his cleverly rhymed lyrics and skillful riddim riding, Marshall is best known as a dancehall performer. A widely respected musician, producer, and songwriter, he waited to record his second album until he found "the right producer with a focused direction." It wasn't until 2014 that the driving force behind his sophomore album, Tru Colors would appear: Damian "Junior Gong" Marley.

## Interview with Black-Am-I

Story by Reggae Robin and Empress K. Photos: EmpressK -  
ReggaeReflection.com

**Black-Am-I**, a Roots Reggae singer from Nine Mile, Jamaica, signed to the **Ghetto Youths International** label has been a familiar face on tours over the last few years with both **Stephen Marley** and **Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley**. His conscious works including **Samson Strength**, **Modern Day Freedom**, **In the Ghetto** and **Dwelling**, have been featured on the **Set up Shop Volume 1 and 2** compilation CDs. This year continues to be strong for Black-Am-I who has recently been on tour in support of "**Set up Shop Volume 2**" along with **Cham**, **Wayne Marshall**, **Jo Mersa Marley**, and **Christopher Ellis**. Reggae Robin caught up with Black-Am-I before the Boston show in April to chat about the tour, his new music and his upcoming plans. During the tour, he released a video for his latest single, "**In the Ghetto**". You can see Black-Am-I again later this summer on the "**Catch a Fire**" tour with **Damian Marley**, **Stephen Marley**, **Jo Mersa**, **Tarrus Riley**, and **Morgan Heritage**.

**Reggae Robin:** How does the rest of the tour look?

**BAI:** Yes, The tour looks very great and it's an opportunity to show America what we have in Ghetto Youths International. That's what we'll be doing, bringing live music to them and sharing new stuff too; you can look out for that.

**Reggae Robin:** And you have Baby Cham along with you too.

**BAI:** Yes, Baby Cham, Wayne Marshall, Christopher Ellis, Joe Mersa, and Black Am I .

**Reggae Robin:** It's kind of a mixture of Dancehall and Roots?

**BAI:** Well, I guess you could say Jamaican music because we have Christopher Ellis who sings Rocksteady, and then Jo Mersa is Dancehall and Reggae. I am Reggae and Roots. It's just Jamaican music.



**Island  
Stage**

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**Reggae Robin: What do you think of the President going to Jamaica?**

**BAI:** Yeah, that's a cool thing. Of course I look up to Barak Obama as a black man who has been a success on an international scale. It's definitely something important to Jamaica and not just to Jamaica, but to the Caribbean Islands.

**Reggae Robin: What can we look forward from you in the future? Do you have some new tunes coming out?**

**BAI:** Yes, I have these few things that have been released on Set up Shop Volume One and Two. And there should be a video out for me soon. It's out actually but it's being released this weekend. Basically we are always working still. We are making music right now and we definitely have good music in the studio. Some are finished and some needs work, but we are always making music. As soon as possible we might just put it together and it will be an album or an EP. So look out for music from Black-Am-I.

**Reggae Robin: Ok, so the Video is coming out this weekend, [April 16, 2015]?**

**BAI:** Yes, "In the Ghetto". It was shot in Jamaica. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_j9EF6ecX3c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_j9EF6ecX3c)

**Reggae Robin: What do you like to do when you are relaxing, when you are not doing music?**

**BAI:** When I am not doing music... I don't know a time that I'm not doing music, since my existence as a child. Anytime I'm not doing music is when I'm sleeping and by the time I get up I want more [laughs]. I basically live music!

**Reggae Robin: What artists do you look forward to work with? Have you done any collaborations that we might look forward to?**

**BAI:** You can look forward to see me working with the Ghetto Youths International - definitely into more collaboration. There's a lot of people that I want to work with, but I just don't want to mention it - so as not to single out anybody and leave it open. I just did a collaboration with Jo Mersa. That one is called "No Way Out". You can always look out for that one; it's out on this compilation.

**Reggae Robin: I was reading your bio and saw that you had to really try out to be where you are now. You had to do a test. What was that like? Were you nervous or did it feel natural?**

**BAI:** Well, of course it feels natural because I believe in myself. We all don't consider it twice defeated but you always have to know that you have to believe in yourself first, then you can convince the wider world. So that's me, basically that's from my point of view. I don't know if anyone feels different; that's how I see it clearly.

**Reggae Robin: How much longer are you on this tour and are there are any plans coming up this summer?**

**BAI:** The tour is almost one week old and runs until May 3rd. After this one is finished, I'll definitely have another schedule. Nothing definitely that I can say that is happening after this right now but surely there is.

**Reggae Robin:** You are certainly getting a lot of exposure with Ghetto Youths International performing at big venues and small venues. What do you prefer more? Doing a big show with thousands of people or performing for a smaller crowd?

**BAI:** Performing is my thing so whether it is a small crowd or a big crowd, it's just what I do. I just do a performance and bring my best to the table. It doesn't matter; work is work when it comes time to work, I just work.

**Reggae Robin:** Is there anything you would like to say to the people while you have the opportunity?

**BAI:** Yes, of course. I would like to say to the people stay strong in these times. There is a reason why I say Samson Strength, because in these trial times, we have to be stronger than we ever have. Feel free to be you and be the best you can be because at the end of the day your best is good enough.

**Reggae Robin:** Do you have a special message for the youth?

**BAI:** To be strong. To the youths, hold your head high. Education is the key. You have to be hard working and dedicated to be successful; these are the ingredients for success.

*“In the ghetto more dance fi keep, life ruff ruff ruff ruff ruff but di music sweet!”*



## Ce'Cile

International recording artist Cecile "Ce'Cile" Charlton, born in Jamaica, is the original self-imposed bad gyal. She is on a mission: to seduce the world with her musical style - one song at a time, one album at a time, and one show at a time. This intelligent and creative diva has proven she has the skill-set required to produce and record international hits like "**Can You Do Di Wuk**" (a duet with Sean Paul) and crossover tunes, "**Rude Bwoy Thug Life**" and "**Hot Like We**" (with over 1.5 million YouTube views).

A pioneer, she broke into the dancehall scene in 2000 with the self-produced, shockingly refreshing, and thought-provoking hit, "**Changez.**" As the most outspoken female, especially on issues concerning women, Ce'Cile boldly and sometimes with brutal honesty expresses her personal views on matters of the heart. Her 2008 album **Bad Gyal** was the best-selling Reggae album in Germany, and in 2010, Ce'Cile reached the #20 position on the UK POP Charts with **Gold Dust** (re-serviced in 2013, it received more chart topping success selling over 400,000 copies to-date). Her newest album, **Still Running** (2014), has Ce'Cile continuing to advance her career by doing things her own way. This uncompromising attitude has transformed Ce'Cile into the most raw, explicit, and innovative female reggae artist in the world today.



*Tarrus Riley*



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Stage**

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## Tarrus Riley & Blak Soil

Tarrus Riley, affectionately known as "Singy Singy," is truly one of the great reggae singers of this time. Leading a resurgence of traditional roots reggae, Riley embodies a rare blend of wisdom and street cred. Awarded Best Singer/Vocalist/Cultural Artist/Song of the Year and Best Song by various institutions, his expressive, instantly recognizable voice, lyrics and melodies capture the ups and downs of life in a way that is both familiar to his island audience and accessible to the whole world.

The name Tarrus Riley is legitimately mentioned in the same breath as fellow highly-esteemed vocalists Dennis Brown, Gregory Isaacs and Beres Hammond. His debut album, **Challenges** (2004), was followed by two albums in 2009, **Parables** and **Contagious**, which were all greeted with widespread acclaim and spawned the several hit singles, including **Lion Paw** and **She's Royal** and a sensual take on Michael Jackson's **Human Nature**. *"I target women and children with my music because slavery tampered with the woman's mind and that's why I wrote 'She's Royal.' She's the head of the household so she has the power to influence the young men and women of tomorrow."*

Born in the Bronx and raised between Florida and Jamaica, Riley started his career as a deejay (dancehall parlance for rapping) and released his fifth studio album last year **Love Situation**. Riley's stature as a strong and well-respected roots artist amidst coarser fare on the JA charts reveal the power of authenticity which will be ours to behold Saturday night when the lights go up on this regal performer.



## *Tarrus Riley Interview*

**IS:** Welcome back to Reggae on the River!! This is your second time performing at this festival. What can the audience expect from your performance this time?

**TR:** They can expect Reggae Music in HD..... Dance Hall in HD..... Good Vibes in HD.

**IS:** This year, Reggae on the River is highlighting '**Global Connections**' and the humanitarian programs we all love to support. Do you have a special charity that you would like to share with us?

**TR:** I have a lot of Charities that I'm hands on with.....I'm in the process of organizing it so we can get the support from other people.....

**IS:** It's been a little over a year since the well received release of your 5th studio album, "Love Situation". Since you took a different approach this time on the business side for an independent distribution, how did that work for you and what did you learn from the process.

**TR:** Well independents is all about standing up on your own 2 feet..... and doing things for your self..... and even though we are independent we did get a lot of support from ZoJack..... Big Up ZoJack.....

**IS:** "Love Situation" fully embraced the Rock Steady Style. What style(s) are influencing your next body of work and do you have a time frame for it?

**TR:** I'm influenced by lots of styles..... feeling..... emotions etc..... and I'm not gonna tell you I'm just gonna let life be life.....and as far as the time frame...maybe about next year..... Love Situation still needs to soak in.....

**IS:** We just shared your new video "Herbs" with our audience. We love it! How do you feel that things are going, specifically in Jamaica with the recent decriminalization of ganja?

**TR:** It's a work in progress.....people have to understand what's going on because it's not just about the smoking in the streets....it's



very Deep....

**IS:** We understand that you have recently collaborated with Major Lazer and Ellie Goulding on the track "Powerful" on their upcoming "Peace Is the Mission" album. We can't wait to hear it. Tell us more about the that experience working with them. How do you think the track will be received?

**TR:** Working with Major Lazer was a great experience..... we had a blast in the studio so it didn't seem like work.....we were doing what we love....Powerful is a Powerful ballad.....

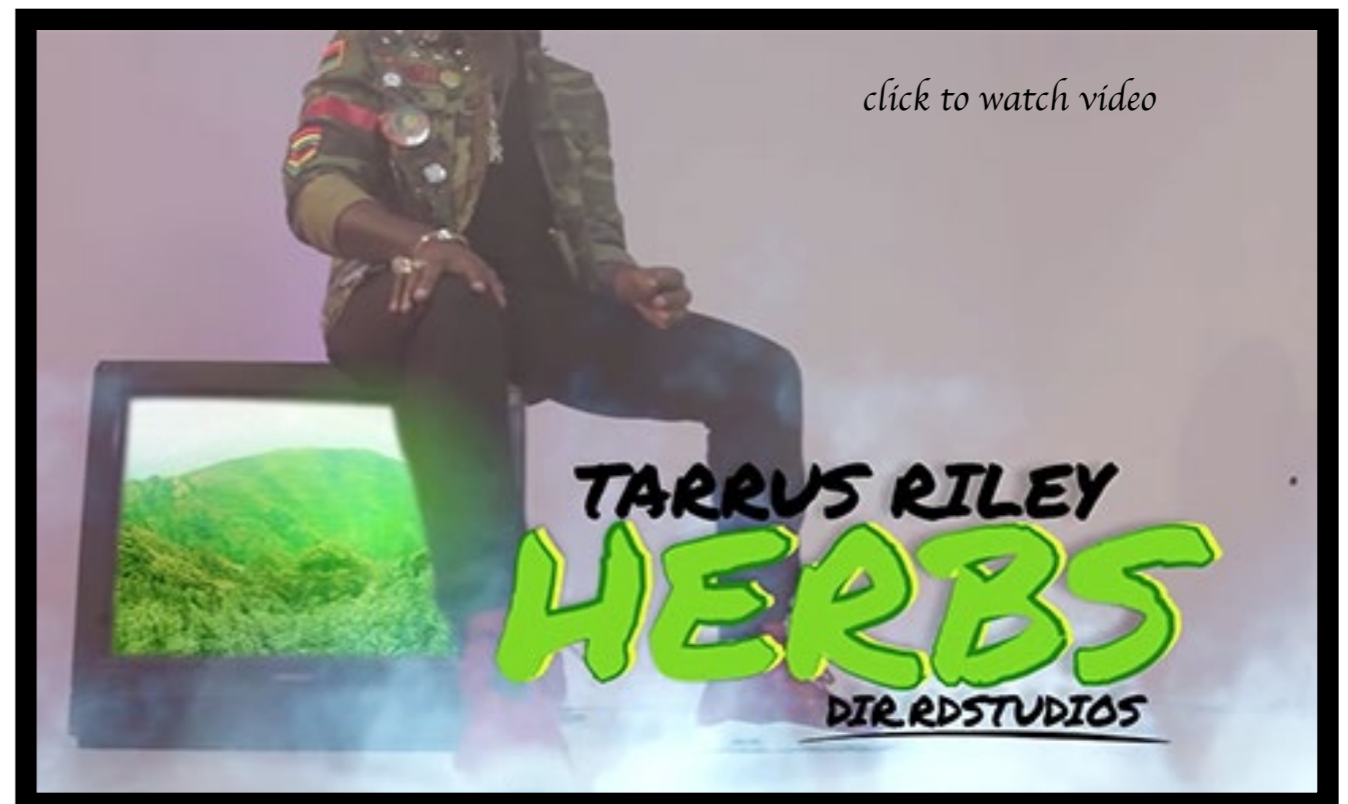
**IS:** You are joining the Marleys and Morgan Heritage on the upcoming US "Catch a Fire" Tour. The vibe and response to this line-up has been huge! How does that make you feel?

**TR:** It's gonna be amazing..... it's like a Allstar Basketball team..... Jr.Gong,Steven,Heritage and Riley in one lawn..... Oh gosh mannnnn.....

**IS:** What else is in store for Tarrus Riley in 2015?

**TR:** Well half the year is already gone.....so for the rest of the year we just wanna be healthy and strong.....and now keep making music!!

Use Promo Code **River15** for a \$25 Discount on 3 or 4 Day Passes!!!





## Stephen “Ragga” Marley

Stephen “Ragga” Marley is one of the strongest pillars of the powerhouse that is the Marley family. The second son of reggae legend Bob Marley and Rita Marley, he was raised in Kingston, Jamaica and started singing professionally as a seven-year old with his elder siblings Ziggy, Sharon and Cedella in The Melody Makers.

Needing to satisfy his creative interests outside of the group, Stephen decided to become familiar with the music industry from behind the scenes. He began his own production work in 1996 remixing the Fugees as his first public display of his love for hip-hop and R&B. His role as executive producer of the Bob Marley remix compilation **Chant Down Babylon** (1999), drew criticism from reggae purists who thought Stephen’s mixing of hip-hop and his father’s music was blasphemy, but the album’s success encouraged the young producer and he has been building a formidable reputation ever since.

Attaining such mastery didn’t happen overnight and Stephen is gratified by the time it has taken. *“I believe in struggling to attain greatness and it has taken a lot of sacrifice to get these things,”* he explains. *“It’s like exercise, you can’t just get fit, you really have to work at it. It is the same thing with music.”* His solo album in 2008, **Mind Control** uniquely earned him two (of his over six) Grammys, one for the electric version (2008) and one for the acoustic version (2010), respectively. The just released and buzzing album, **Revelation Part II: The Root of Life**, expresses a diversified sonic palette conveying the far-reaching impact Jamaican music has had on various genres. **Revelation Part II: The Fruit of Life** will be released this summer. Stephen Marley will preside as the headliner Saturday night in his full regalia as legendary vocalist, ingenious producer, versatile lyricist, and accomplished instrumentalist.



# ***SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 LINEUP***

***11:00 Opening Blessing***

***11:30 Empress Unification***

***1:15 Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba***

***3:00 Reggae Angels***

***3:40 Exco Levi***

***4:55 The Congos***

***6:30 Nahko and Medicine For The People***

***8:30 Alborosie & Shengen Clan***



# EMPRESS UNIFICATION



*Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba*





## *Empress Unification & The Fyah Squad Band*

A collective of Bay Area female artists who perform conscious reggae & world music in six different languages (English, Farsi, French, Hebrew, Portuguese and Spanish), Empress Unification champion the messages of peace, love and unity. Their 2015 tour, **"Strength in Unity"** will include hosting concerts and events that collect donations for homeless women and children and other women-centric charities. Developing out of the previous collaboration by the name of Empress Meditations, the current group of women represents Armenia, Bolivia, Iran, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands, and the USA.

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## *Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba*

Bassekou Kouyate is a musical wizard and one of Africa's most innovative bandleaders. He plays the ngoni, a traditional lute from Mali (West Africa) that dates back hundreds of years and is the musical forebear of the American banjo. Bassekou, however has reinvented the ngoni and its musical role, adding several strings to create a seven-string instrument, and has created the first all-ngoni group featuring four different-sized instruments, including a bass ngoni, also his invention. Bassekou calls this group Ngoni Ba, adding two traditional percussionists and his wife, Amy Sacko, on vocals. Although based on traditional Mande music, this is an entirely new sound — as powerful as the best rock 'n' roll bands, and certainly more danceable. His debut album in 2007 led to worldwide tours including an impressive first time in New York City playing at Carnegie Hall (2010) and a U.S. tour with Bela Fleck in which he won fans coast to coast. Bassekou's newest album, Ba Power (2015) shows how his music engages with the world, and Sunday afternoon we'll see for ourselves the role this ancient African instrument plays now, in the 21st century.

[Facebook](#)





**Reggae Angels**

Currently based in Oakland, CA the Reggae Angels have been touring for 18 years around the globe and have one of the most extensive discographies of any American-based reggae act. Their 13th release (January 2015) and strongest album to date, **The Way**, features Sly and Robbie and the Taxi Gang. [Facebook](#)



**Exco Levi**

Born in 1981, Levi emigrated to Canada at the age of 24 where he became the first artist to receive the Canadian Juno award (on par with the American Grammy Award) for Recording Artist of the Year, four years in a row. The award was precipitated by singles, "**Welcome the King**," "**Life in the Factory**," as well as "**Strive**," featuring Kabaka Pyramind. He's also the featured vocalist on Busy Signal's big club tune "**Wicked Evil Man**." Born in Manchester, Jamaica and heavily influenced by icons such as Bob Marley and Peter Tosh, Levi has developed a sound that pays tribute to the founding fathers of reggae, but with a modern twist. Levi started his solo career in 2007 and has since recorded over 150 songs, 30 singles, an EP (Words of the Wise) and his debut album (Country Man) produced by Penthouse Records, was released this past spring. [Facebook](#)



**The Congos**

A trio out of Jamaica famous for their distinctly haunting vocal harmonies, they are best known for their album, **Heart of the Congos**, released in 1977. Formed by Ashanti Roy Johnson (tenor) and Cedric Myton (falsetto) and later Watty Burnett (baritone), The Congos have been active on and off since the 1970s with Myton joining only on occasion.

Although the group released multiple albums and their music is undeniably great, Heart of the Congos is considered a seminal reggae recording on equal ground with Bob Marley and the Wailers' Natty Dread, Burning Spear's Marcus Garvey, and the Mighty Diamonds Right Time. The Congos created nothing short of a masterpiece, working with Lee "Scratch" Perry at his Black Ark Studios in Kingston and it remains one of, if not the finest production job of Perry's long and prolific career. Jamaican jungle vibes steeped in smoky roots, these righteous reggae veterans are an important part of the underpinnings of this cultural music we present to you at Reggae on the River.

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Use Promo Code **River15** to receive \$25 OFF a 3 or 4 day pass to Reggae on the River #31!!



*Nahko Bear*





## *Nahko and Medicine For The People*

Twenty-nine year old Nahko Bear is an old soul on an incredible life journey. His grandmother forced his mother into prostitution at the age of 14 and he was born, in Oregon, from an act of violence. Adopted by a white American family, they raised him as a conservative Christian and introduced him to music. The rest of his journey, thus far, has been about cultural identity (he is a mix of Apache, Puerto Rican and Filipino) and acceptance, with his music acting as a catalyst for his own self-discovery. Nahko eventually found his mother, discovered his biological dad had been murdered, and even visited his father's murderer in prison. These experiences compelled him to truly consider the idea of forgiveness. The group has produced numerous standout music videos, two captivating albums **On The Verge** and **Dark As Night** and singles. The band's raw power and intensity has ignited fans to spread the word at wildfire pace, and, as anyone who has seen them knows, the sweat, gusto and honest rock that this band offers on stage is an experience you won't forget. Nahko and Medicine For The People capture the spirit of reggae music: unity with others, but unity within ourselves as well. Undoubtedly one of the most engaging, shamanic bands of these times, Nahko and Medicine For The People are awakening crowds at reggae festivals throughout America and Europe including Cali Roots and now Reggae on the River.





## *Alborosie & The Shengen Clan*

The first Italian reggae artist to be internationally recognized, Alborosie promotes reggae music with authentic mastery. His former band, "Reggae National Tickets" was the first Italian band to play Jamaica's Sumfest and Sunsplash (in the nineties). However, despite many solid tracks, he didn't hit it big until 2006 when "**Herbalist**" was released and David Rodigan deemed it Song of the year. Born in the Sicilian town of Marsala, Italy, Alborosie has released numerous critically acclaimed albums including his first, **Soul Pirate** (2008), **Sound The System**, **Escape To Babylon** and most recently a collaboration with the illustrious King Jammys, **Dub of Thrones** (2015). Representing an exciting new era for reggae music, he has long been a keen student of Jamaican music, and as a producer is fascinated by analogue recording techniques while also playing many different instruments, (including guitar, bass and keyboards). His Shengen Studio/home in Kingston, JA is better stocked than any museum and contains equipment once owned by the likes of King Tubby and Coxsone Dodd. With dreadlocks near to the floor, he is a proud Rastafarian armed with a rebel philosophy. A highly talented musician, deejay, producer and singer, Alborosie shows the audience that the state of reggae music is strong and belongs in the dance.



# The #ROTR Team 2013 French's Camp HomeComing



## Interview with Justin Crellin

General Manager Mateel Community Center



*photo left: Justin 'jumping' with members of Rootz Underground and Blue King Brown, 2014*

**IS:** Hi Justin, so **#ROTR** began in 1984. What artists were on the lineup that first year?

**JC:** It was actually- as a single day show. The Itals and **The Meditations** were the headliners, along with the **Caribbean Allstars, The Dreadbeats, Airhead,** and **Tommy Tabu & The Flaming Limbo Dancers.**

**IS:** Moving back to it's "Spiritual Home" in 2013, Reggae on the River has gone back to it's humble roots. This year's festival is the 3rd year back at French's Camp. Has being back there met your expectations? What feedback are you getting from the attendees?

**JC:** Yes- it has met our expectations and more.

Though this venue is a lot of work- to essentially take a raw piece of land that is inaccessible most of the year and transform it into a public ready concert venue- this is where the event needs to be- and where attendees want it to be. The response from fans has been incredible.

**IS:** There are many larger festivals happening each year in California, and we know that choosing which festival to attend can be a big decision for many people. What makes **Reggae on the River** stand out among other festivals in the area?

**JC:** Many things really- our unique Humboldt community, the beauty of our natural surroundings, our history as the original and longest running reggae festival in the US, the quality and diversity of the talent we host each year, and, ultimately, the fact that we are more than just a music festival. Produced in a grassroots style by and for the non-profit **Mateel Community Center, #ROTR** is an important fundraiser not only for MCC, but also a host of other non-profit community causes- and this year we have stepped things up on a global level too.

**IS:** **#ROTR** grew into the lifeblood for many nonprofits -- including Southern Humboldt schools and fire departments -- which operated food booths at the festival, bringing in money that helped sustain them for the rest of the year. This year, new program is offered where festival attendees are encouraged to be a Tool For Change by bringing a new or used tool with them to the event. Collected tools will support a humanitarian project that donates tools and appliances to rural villages in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Tell us a bit more about **Tools for Change**.

**JC:** We are making a concerted effort to deepen our global connections and **Tools For Change** is one of several programs we are sponsoring this year. The thing we love about this program is how simple, yet meaningful it is. Tools are something many of us have in excess- and instead of letting old tools sit around and collect dust- we are encouraging folks to donate them at Reggae On The River so that we may send them to rural villages in West Africa. Though some cash funds are needed for shipping the tools, the beautiful thing about this program is that it operates on the principle that tools are more lasting than monetary support and that with tools, work can be done, families can be sustained, and communities can flourish.

**Mateel Community Center (parent company for Reggae on the River donates a percentage of net proceeds to include**

~ **Save Our Schools for a multi-year donation to the Redway School music program**

~ **New computers for Leggett Valley School**

~ **A grant to the Eel River Recovery Project for a watershed wide study on the health of Eel River**

~ **Funds to help with the continuation of shop and other vocational classes at South Fork High School**

~ **Insurance assistance for the SoHum Skate Park**

~ **The purchase of a public bench in the Garberville Town Square**

**...and numerous other community projects.**

**IS:** It's a good feeling to give back to the community. Anything else you would like us to know about your charitable works?

**JC:** Yes, these projects- and a number of others- have been supported through contributions from our festival donation fund. Basically we put 2.5% of net festival proceeds (both from ROTR and our other main festival- the Summer Arts & Music Festival) into a dedicated account that we dole out to important community causes that align with our mission goals. And we have now stepped this up on a global level thanks to our new **Ambassador program**- where 10% of the cost of every Ambassador Pass sold is dedicated to a fund that will annually support a rotating cast of global non-profits related to reggae culture.

*Spirit of the River*



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# Spirit of the River

2015 beneficiaries are **Alpha Boys School** and **Lil Raggamuffins Summer Camp** in Jamaica.

**IS:** We love the diversity of artists on the line-up this year! Do patrons ever make requests for specific artists they would like to see? Are you open to requests?

**JC:** Thank you- we have a talent committee who puts a lot of heart and soul into the annual selection process. And yes, we encourage recommendations as ultimately it is the fans we are trying to please. In the past we've had suggestion boxes at the event- and this year we tried something different by giving our early ticket buyers an opportunity to guide our talent selection process through questions in our online ticketing platform. We received this information in time to be factored into our bookings- and it definitely helped guide us in several of our selections this year. And for those who buy an **Ambassador Pass**, you still have a chance to cast your votes for our 2016 line-up.

**IS:** Humboldt County is a beautiful area to hold this epic event! Tell us a little more about Humboldt County, and what we can expect to see while at ROTR 2015!

**JC:** Humboldt is known for ancient redwood trees, wild coastlines, creative communities, and world class marijuana. We recommend extending your trip beyond Reggae On The River for the full **Humboldt** experience.

[www.reggaeontheriver.com](http://www.reggaeontheriver.com)





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