

THE UPSETTERS

With the anticipation of the late 1970s, the budding careers of Jamaica's musical giants, 1973 proved to be a watershed moment not only for the reggae's most distinctive, but possibly for Reggae's most prominent, Lee "Scratch" Perry. This year saw not only the release of his seminal dub project "Cloak and Dagger", as well as reggae's first major solo instrumental single, "Blackboard Jungle Dub", but also the creation of Perry's famed Black Ark studio. It was here that he would later release up such compelling works as the Congos' dubby rendition "Heart of the Congos", Max Romeo's seminal "War Ina Babylon", and "The Hypocrite" album. Perry, then, was in constant motion. He was needed to produce Justin Hinds' seminal "Poker and Shiner". There has been criticism, especially when it comes to his "Moby" (1974) of Perry's creative direction during his year consisting out of the Black Ark.

However, amidst the late 1970s pillars of "Cloak and Dagger" and "Blackboard Jungle Dub", the experimental, yet often overlooked, "Rhythm Shower" album was also released in '73. Originally issued as a one-sided 7-inch single, it was later re-released as the Trojan label as part of its 3 LP, and later 2-CD set, The Upsetter Collection, first issued in 1986.

Whereas earlier albums offered plenty of instrumental versions, on "Rhythm Shower", Perry really begins employing the studio sleight of hand that would become part and parcel for what was then the emerging art form of dub -- dropping voices and instruments in and out of the mix to create a trippy, hypnotic effect. Not to go unnoticed is the mighty Upsetters themselves, whose revolving crew of musical heavyweights included Bob Marley & The Wailers future rhythm section Aston "Family Man" Barrett on bass and drummer Carlton Barrett. The powerhouse rhythms they forged give Perry all the space he needs to work his mojo at the mixing desk.

With one foot planted firmly in the celebrated sound of the time and the other stepping assuredly into the future, "Rhythm Shower" is essential listening for any fan of Reggae, Dub or Lee Perry. This is crucial music. This is classic Scratch.



UPSETTERS RHYTHM SHOWER

Between the twin pillars of "Cloak and Dagger" and "Blackboard Jungle Dub", the superlative, yet often overlooked, "Rhythm Shower" album was also released in '73. Originally issued in a very limited Jamaican pressing with no sleeve, it became better known when re-released by the Trojan label as part of its 3 LP, and later 2-CD set, The Upsetter Collection, first issued in 1986.

Despite its obscurity, "Rhythm Shower" is a pivotal album in Perry's career as a producer and bandleader; it finds him beginning to experiment with dub and developing his singular studio sound that would come to full maturity in subsequent years.

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A1. Tighten Up (Dellinger)

A2. Django Shoots First (Sir Lord Comic)

A3. Uncle Charley (The Upsetters)

A4. Sokup (The Upsetters)

A5. Double Power (The Upsetters)

A6. Lover Ver. (The Upsetters)

B1. Rumpelsteelkin (The Upsetters)

B2. Skanking (Dellinger)

B3. Kuchy Skank (The Upsetters)

B4. Connection (Dellinger)

B5. Operation (The Upsetters)



ARTIST:
TITLE:
CATALOG:
STREET:

Upsetters
Rhythm Shower
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