

Lucky Dube's Prisoner Album 60th Birthday Edition Announced



Reggae legend Lucky Dube's *Prisoner* album is getting a 60th anniversary edition to honor the late singer's 60th birthday. Dube used reggae to bring attention to social issues that were happening in his native South Africa. He started his career recording mbaqanga, which was a form of Zulu pop music in his native tongue. By the time he released his fifth album, he had learned English and had fallen in love with the reggae sound.

Dube used music as activism. The South African government banned Dube's 1984 album, *Rastas Never Die* because of the song "War & Crime" in it. The ban was a minor obstacle because Dube

went on to record more than a dozen reggae albums, of which most were commercially successful. He became the biggest reggae artist in Africa and gained respect from an international audience, which earned him the Best Selling African Musician prize at the 1996 World Music Awards. *Prisoner* is considered his best album because of its fiery criticism of apartheid, and he was fortunate enough to see it end in 1994. Dube's reputation grew, and he continued to release music until his untimely death in 2007 at the hands of carjackers in Johannesburg. The 60th birthday edition of *Prisoner* is a celebration of Dube's contribution to music and humanity. The album will drop on November, 15th via Shanachie Records.

Media Questions Of The Week



Is [Buju Banton](#) right about Afrobeats being inferior to reggae and dancehall because the music has no socio-political anthems?



Is [Billboard's](#) list of honorably mentioned pop stars who did not make their best of the 21st century list accurate?



Will [Afrika Bambaataa's](#) reputation be restored after a healing moment with Ronald Savage, who accused him of sexual assault?

Throwback: Bob Marley and the Wailers-Lively Up Yourself



Bob Marley and the Wailer's "Lively Up Yourself" first appeared on their 1974 album, *Natty Dread*. The song was first recorded in 1973 and reflected the band's political and spiritual growth as they got deeper into Rastafarianism. The religion refers to God as Jah and the followers call the customs livity hence the title "Lively Up Yourself." The reggae ska beat and Al Anderson's bluesy guitar lick kicked off the celebratory feeling of community, cannabis, and resisting colonial rule. *Natty Dread* did well in the UK before reaching other parts of the world and it was the first album Marley recorded without Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer. "Lively Up Yourself" also appeared on their 1975 *Live!* album and many fans have argued that it is the best version. *Natty Dread* was remastered and re-released with a bonus track in 2001. The Reinaldo Marcus Green-directed biopic *Bob Marley: One Love* will be released in theaters on February 14, 2024.

Liam Bailey's Mercy Tree Challenges Bigotry



Credit: Cristian Sanchez Verona

Liam Bailey's "Mercy Tree" willfully calls out racism in the true spirit of resistance reggae. Bailey, who spent his childhood in Nottingham, England, tapped into his memories of "all the cliché racism that happens when people started mixing up in the '80s in England" to write "Mercy Tree." The stately horns, Bailey's voice, and the foot-stomping drum are fused together into a modern-day protest song. Leon Michels of the

El Michels Affair produced the single that demands equality and reparations. "Mercy Tree" is the third single from Bailey's forthcoming *Zero Grace* album, which is scheduled to arrive in February. "Mercy Tree" is the third single from the album and an example of the kind of honesty the album title suggests. Bailey is singing with pure intention and no apologies for his truth. "Mercy Tree" should go down as one of reggae's rebel classics.