

Happy Birthday James!

Trojan Records Celebrates 40th Anniversary



In 1967 Trojan Records released its first record in Jamaica by Duke Reid. Some time later, the legendary Chris Blackwell, always a vocal supporter of reggae, officially took the reigns of the fledging label and set up distribution through Island Records. Sanctuary Records took control of Trojan in 2001 and continued to cultivate the rich history of the label. Over the past 40 years, Trojan has given birth to some of the world's most creative, soulful and eccentric musical talent. The Trojan label has proudly become synonymous with reggae.

Travel back in time and its clear how reggae's influence soon made itself known via the genre's adoption by both skinhead culture and the punk revolution. From early Ska and Rocksteady right through to Dancehall, the spirit of Trojan is very much alive. The sound and impression of reggae can be found in modern music from the likes of Sean Paul to No Doubt to Radiohead to Shaggy to Sublime.

So how do you celebrate forty years of all that musical goodness?

Kicking it all off is a unique release from the undisputed Godfather of reggae himself, Lee "Scratch" Perry. Selecting his favorite tracks from his own prolific and highly experimental career, Perry takes us on a journey through

reggae that includes chart topping hits, collaborations and his own personal high points.

Perry's jukebox collection is just one in a successful, curated series. DJ SPOOKY PRESENTS paved the way last summer followed by JONNY GREENWOOD IS THE CONTROLLER from Radiohead's discerning guitarist and the upcoming FURRY SELECTION, LUXURY CUTS OF TROJAN CHOSEN BY A SUPER FURRY ANIMAL (bassist Guto Pryce). Later this summer we'll see a double mix collection by The Orb featuring unreleased material by the Mad Professor.

In addition to Trojan's Jukebox Series, Trojan has mined numerous Definitive Collections and Anthologies, over 60 eye-catching Trojan Box Sets and a host of seminal Classic albums. Coming this summer are great classics by I Roy, King Tubby, and Lee "Scratch" Perry's original Jamaican mix of SUPER APE will finally make its US debut.

To continue in the festivities, Trojan Records has also entered into a partnership with Starbucks for a compilation to be available in all stores across North America as of August 1. With a forward written by Lee "Scratch" Perry, this collection will celebrate Trojan at its best and most accessible.

The influence that reggae has had both musically and culturally is world renowned, with the Trojan label playing host to some of its most legendary performers such as Bob Marley, Toots and the Maytals, Lee "Scratch" Perry, Dennis Brown, Desmond Dekker, Horace Andy and Gregory Isaacs. This year will be devoted to TROJAN 40, a celebration of not only the music and the artists, but the history that has made Trojan Records the foremost reggae label in the world.

Sacha Jenkins and Livingroom Johnston in Eyejammie Show on May 9



SHR and Livingroom Johnston Pair Up in "Write on Bros."
Joint Show at Eyejammie Opens on Wednesday, May 9

The artist/writers Sacha Jenkins SHR and Livingroom Johnston are

teaming up to exhibit their works in a show entitled "Write On Bros.:

Paintings and Words by Sacha Jenkins SHR and the Legendary Livingroom

Johnston." Hosted by the Eyejammie Fine Arts Gallery, the show will begin

with an opening night reception on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, from six until

nine o'clock. It will remain up through Saturday, June 2, 2007. The

Eyejammie Fine Arts Gallery is located at 516 W.25th Street, Suite 306, in Manhattan.

"Write On Bros." will be devoted – in Jenkins's words – to works

exploring "New York, slavery, clandestine emancipation, and the notion that

God is one of us." For the most part, these works will be paintings on

canvas (Johnston) and on wood, canvas, and corrugated plastic (Jenkins.)

Jenkins is variously known as the editorial director of Mass Appeal magazine and co-founder of the ego trip collective, whose most recent

product was the reality television series "The White Rapper Show" for VH1.

His first show at Eyejammie, "Writers Convention: A Collaborative Study of Pigments," took place in November and December of 2005.

Johnston is a pioneering skateboarder, self-published novelist, and

painter. In 1989 he became the first black man to grace the cover of

Transworld magazine. Since March of 2004 he has written six well-received

hand-made novels, beginning with "Harlem Remembers the Bronx."

Johnston's first one-man show of paintings occurred in New York in July of 2006.

Cey Adams's "Untitled: An Exhibition of Original Skateboard Art" will

remain on display at Eyejammie through Saturday, May 5.

For more info:

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Phat Kat Representing Motor City To the Fullest With New Album Entitled Carte Blanche



Brooklyn, NY April 23, 2007) Detroit native Phat Kat, aka Ronnie Cash, is set to release his second solo album, Carte Blanche on May 8th on Look Records. Carte Blanche marks the first time Phat Kat was given total creative control to cherry-pick the best beats and the best emcees to work with. The result is an example of the finest in Hip-Hop Detroit has to offer.

In the early 90's Phat Kat, the emcee also known as Ronnie Cash, was busy making his first album in the basement of his buddies' mom's house. The group was called First Down and his partner was Jay Dee, now known as legendary DJ/producer J Dilla (R.I.P.). Since then, Phat Kat has become a permanent heavyweight on the Detroit scene. He appeared on the Representing The Streets compilation with the now-classic "Front Street," contributed to albums by Dilla and Slum Village, and in 2004, after inking a deal with Barak, he released his first solo album The Undeniable LP. Phat Kat is now set to release a new solo effort entitled Carte Blanche.

Phat Kat speaks of major players in the rise of Detroit such as Proof, Eminem, D12 and Dilla with the insight of a sibling. "We all knew Detroit hip-hop had some real lyricists, more than the drug dealing, violent types that everyone assumed Detroit would be full of, and whether it was in 5 or 15 years the songs we were putting down would get their due. Unfortunately for Dilla, he had to be gone for people to come

out and say he was the greatest. I've always said that," says Phat Kat. In the wake of Dilla's passing and with the national spotlight securely focused on Detroit Hip-Hop for more than a minute now, Phat Kat puts it on his shoulders "To give the world a crash course of Detroit Hip-Hop. This is what it is." Almost everyone associated with Carte Blanche represents the D. Dilla contributes five tracks, but the work of up-and-coming producers Nick Speed, Young RJ, and Black Milk is just as impressive. Other guests include SV's Elzhi and T3, Truth Hurts, Melanie Rutherford, Fat Ray, Loe Louis and Guilty Simpson. Rather than pursuing cameos and features from overexposed stars, Phat Kat chose instead to work with his peoples from the D, figuring "The people I got on my album is just as hot as people that's out."

Detroit Hip-Hop appears to be a mainstay on the mantle of Hip-Hop's elite cities. Phat Kat has been in the mix before it was on anyone's radar and associated with all the major players thereafter. With Carte Blanche, Phat Kat delivers an album that gives us all we've come to appreciate about Detroit MCs: it is intricate but still intimate, hardcore but still lyrical. Along the way, we are introduced to the up-and-coming torchbearers of Detroit Hip-Hop and we are also given another chance to vibe with a fallen legend. Carte Blanche will be released on May 8th on San Francisco based Look Records.

Phat Kat's MySpace page:

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