

## Hands that giveth

Gabriel Singh (Sunday, December 03, 2006)

MAKE no mistake. The Tosh Meets Marley Tour entourage arriving tonight brings some of the greatest reggae musicians to our shores for the first time.

These are the guys who not so quietly engineered the sound that Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer and the pioneers of reggae fronted for.

They helped break shackles of the Third World and pave the road that today's second-rate crooners are cashing in on.

These are the guys who gave inspiration to South Africa's gift to the reggae world, Lucky Dube, the closest spiritual reggae act to wow us in recent times.

Today, they are giving joy, hope and inspiration to millions around the world and tomorrow and Tuesday, they give their hearts to the people of Fiji.

The entourage includes Claudio Peppe, the Brazilian-born percussionist who grew up, like me, listening to every Bob Marley tune he could find.

He saved every cent that came his way so he could buy the tools of his trade, eventually playing with Jimmy Cliff, the Wailers, and the prophet's sons Damien and Julian Marley.

Joe or Jawge Hughes is no relation to Andrew, our police chief who has fled to Australia.

Jawge is a veteran whose prowess has enabled him to tour with practically every act coming out of Jamaica.

His one-drop roots rock style is deadly, winning him countless gigs with Bunny Wailer, Judy Mowatt, the late Joe Higgs, The Mighty Diamonds, Leroy Sibbles, Stranger Cole, Freddie McGregor, The Itals, Pato Banton, Dennis Brown and the Wailing Souls, among others. He is from the island of Saint Thomas.

Another keyboard king is Georges Kouakou, the Ivorian who is best known for his workd with Alpha Blondy,



Bob Marley and Peter Tosh

the first real reggae star to come out of Africa.

Anything who has heard albums like Apartheid is Nazism needs no introduction to this multi-skilled musician and producer.

Karl Wright is a stickman extraordinaire. Today he is not only regarded among the world's best drummers but he has a voice to remember. You have to hear it to believe it.

He has played with Maxi Priest Band, Dennis Brown, Culture, Marcia Griffiths, Gregory Isaacs, Freddie McGregor, Sugar Minot, Eek A Mouse, Nahki, Shabba Ranks, Junior Reid, Shaggy, and Super Cat.

He is now as an integral member of the Peter Tosh Celebration Tour, featuring Andrew, Peter's son.

Tony Chin is Trenchtown-born guitarist who went through the rock steady era only to find himself with reggae outfit Soul Syndicate Band in the early 1970s.

That solid grounding has allowed his fingers to talk for Dennis Brown, Bob Marley, Big Youth Burning Spear, Don Carlos, Gregory Isaacs, the Mighty Diamonds and Jody Mowatt.

With them come the incomparable Fully Fullwood and Junior Marvin, who step into the spotlight for this tour, organised by Mark Miller, who was Bob Marley's stage manager.

They jet in tonight courtesy of Radio Fiji and its the sponsors who understood the importance of backing a tour like this at a time our nation is crying for someone to heal it.

Tickst for the shows, tomorrow night at FMF Dome and Tuesday night at Churchill Park, are moving for \$20 from SPR outlets.

Remember, coup or no coup, the show will go on.

---

Copyright © 2007, Fiji Times Limited. All Rights Reserved.