

BAFCD 038

Yabby You [with King Tubby & Prince Jammy]
:Dub It To The Top 1976-1979

1. Zambia 3:19
2. Revolution Conference 3:24
3. Zambia Dub featuring Jah Walton 3:29
4. Steppin' High featuring Tommy McCook 5:17
5. Vengeance in Dub 3:11
6. Mount Zion Version 3:10
7. Heads A Roll Dub 2:49
8. Achieving in Dub 3:36
9. No Tarry Yah Version 3:58
10. Dub It To The Top 3:22
11. Rock With Me Dub 3:00
12. Turn Me Loose Dub 4:23
13. Conscious Man Dub 4:14
14. Mash Down Rome Dub 4:09
15. Warn Them Jah Dub 3:47
16. Humanity Dub 3:46
17. Praise You Jah Jah Dub 3:42
18. Tribal War Dub 3:52

Produced by Vivian 'Yabby You' Jackson

Reissue compiled / annotated by Steve Barrow

Digital restoration by Tony Webster @ CEDAR Audio, Cambridge

Edited and mastered by Kevin Metcalfe @ The Soundmasters, London

Designed by Julian House @ Intro Design Group, London

Photography by Dave Hendley

Thanks to Russ Bell-Brown and Colin Moore for crucial assistance

Special thanks to Vivian Jackson aka Yabby You.

Musicians:

Drums: Carlton 'Santa' Davis [Sly Dunbar, tracks 1-3 only]

Bass: Clinton Fearon [Robbie Shakespeare, tracks 1-3 only]

Rhythm Guitar: Albert Griffiths

Lead Guitar : Earl 'Chinna' Smith

Keyboards: Bernard 'Touter' Harvey, Ansell Collins

Horns: Tommy McCook, Bobby Ellis, Vin Gordon

Percussion: Noel 'Skully' Simms

Recorded at Channel One Studio except #18 [at Black Ark]

Mixed by King Tubby and Prince Jammy

This CD reissues the 1977 King Tubby-mixed LP "Yabby You Meets Michael Prophet : Vocal & Dub" in its entirety, together with seven b-side dubs from Yabby's 45s of the period, and a 12" b-side featuring the late Tommy McCook. By 1977, the career of Vivian 'Yabby You' Jackson had undergone a change of direction; the emphasis was no longer on the vocal performances of Yabby and his group the Prophets, whose output and early days are chronicled on the Blood and Fire 2-CD set "Jesus Dread" [BAFCD 021]. Yabby had begun to release songs by many other artists as well as nurturing the early careers of several younger singers, displaying a remarkable ability to pick out promising talents. The first to benefit from Yabby's mentorship were Michael Prophet and Wayne Wade, both of whom went on to further success in the next couple of decades; both continue right up to the present. Yabby issued two albums each by the pair. During 1978-9, Michael did "Serious Reasoning" and "Know The Right", Wayne had "Fire Fire" and "Dancing Time"; Michael also gained exposure from two further dub sets ["Michael Prophet In Disco Showcase" and "Yabby You and Michael Prophet Meet Scientist At Dub Station"], in addition to the one included on this CD.

The original dub LP - mixed by King Tubby - is one of the best of the time, with everyone involved displaying the qualities that originally made their reputations. Prince Jammy mixed several of the tracks added to the original LP for this release. As with his contemporary the late Augustus Pablo - another with a sharp eye for emerging talent - King Tubby's studio provided the defining mix that optimised the spiritual depth of Yabby's output, yet also enabled it to appeal to the dancehall audience of the day, perhaps more so than Pablo. Thus Yabby was not only able to compete with newer emerging outfits like Bertram Brown's Freedom Sounds and Michael Campbell's Dread At The Controls, but could also develop talent that would last well into the future. Yabby's leanings in the direction were only curtailed when a severe arthritic condition prevented him from continuing in the music business beyond 1981 until his eventual return to studio work and limited touring from the early 1990s. At the onset of his illness, he was working with Half Pint, who later scored massively for Jammy, George Phang and others.

The dubs here feature all the Yabby You trademarks - superb horn lines, deeply-felt vocals and unrelenting, hard-driven rhythms. And at the controls, King Tubby [and Prince Jammy]. Jah Walton says it all far better on "Zambia Dub", the third track of this set:

"Now brothers an' sisters, good night -
I hope you're feelin' alright
Now here's King Tubby's at the controls to make things bright
An' to make you feel alright...
Alright ?
Alright."

Steve Barrow/ March 2002

Track Commentary:

1. Zambia
2. Revolution Conference
3. Zambia Dub / featuring Jah Walton

Three cuts of Yabby's version of the "Shank Kai Shek" rhythm; the melody was first recorded as a ska instrumental by Baba Brooks for King Edwards the Giant, recut by Bobby Ellis for Mrs Sonia Pottinger in the mid-seventies. The first two cuts here were originally released as a & b-sides on Yabby's "Jammy's" imprint in 1976. The label, originally intended to give Jammy a helping hand on the engineer's return to Waterhouse from Canada that year, was manufactured and distributed by Yabby before Prince Jammy set up his own label in 1978. "Zambia" - the straight instrumental, rockers-style, is credited to both Tubby and Jammy; "Zambia Dub" is from the 'Vocal & Dub' LP; it features Jah Walton [later to rename himself Joseph Cotton] toasting the virtues of King Tubby's studio at the microphone. Walton/Cotton was often around at the studio in those days - he recorded sides for Harry Mudie, and Carlton Patterson in this period. He also contributed intros for Michael Campbell's "Dread At The Controls" releases, including the memorable "dash it weh now Dread, dash it weh - nasty it up" on Rod Taylor's epic "His Imperial Majesty / Parrot Jungle" 45.

4. Steppin' High / featuring Tommy McCook, tenor sax.

Originally released as b-side to Trinity's "Blessed Are The Meek" 12". The late saxophonist eventually made an excellent album ["Blazing Horns"] for Yabby, along with several other singles.

5. Vengeance in Dub

b-side of Ranking Trevor's Prophets 7" 45 "Jah Vengeance", a steppers recut of the original Yabby You classic.

6. Mount Zion Version

b-side of Patrick Andy's 7" "Living In Mount Zion". Patrick Andy followed his namesake's style, and was another of the young talents first exposed by Yabby.

7. Heads A Roll Dub

From the original "Vocal & Dub" set, this is a dub of Yabby & the Prophet's "Blood A Go Run Down King Street", a standout track on the vocal set "Deliver Me From My Enemies",

8. Achieving in Dub

b-side of Junior Brown's 45 "I Must Achieve What Is Mine"; Brown also recorded a handful of sides [for Hit Bound and Ises International] up to the early 1980s. According to Yabby he died shortly after.

9. No Tarry Yah Version

b-side of Tony Tuff's "Warrior No Tarry Yah" 7", wherein Tony, a founder member of the African Brothers trio alongside Sugar Minott and Derrick Howard, can be heard deejaying over his own vocal cut. ["One Big Family", released on his own label and credited to African Bros.]

10. Dub It To The Top

b-side of Michael Prophet's 7", a cover of the Leroy Sibbles song "Heptones Gonna Fight", originally done by that legendary trio at Studio One. Trinity's deejay version together with Michael's vocal included on "Shanty Town Determination" [BAFCD 031]

11. Rock With Me Dub

A version of Delano Stewart's original song, this had also been revived before by Johnny Clarke for Bunny Lee in 1974. In 1977, Michael recorded it again for Yabby; it was also issued as a 7" 45 with different dub mix to the one here. This cut is taken from the "Vocal & Dub" set.

12 Turn Me Loose Dub

13. Conscious Man Dub

Two versions of songs from Michael Prophet's "Serious Reasoning" debut; both dubs here were first available on the "Vocal & Dub" set

14. Mash Down Rome Dub

Version of Michael Prophet's "Love & Unity", and another cut from the original dub LP. Similarly, Michael's vocal can also be found on the "Serious Reasoning" set.

15. Warn Them Jah Dub

A 12" mix of this with full vocal [and differently-mixed dub section] was also issued on Grove Music in the UK; this cut is again from the original "Vocal & Dub" set.

16 Humanity Dub

Version of "Hear I Prayer" [vocal version on "Serious Reasoning"] from the original "Vocal & Dub" set.

17. Praise You Jah Jah Dub

as track 15...

18. Tribal War Dub

A version of the Prophets "No Tribal War" from the 'Vocal & Dub' LP. Trinity did a deejay version of this rhythm, included on his "Shanty Town Determination" set. This rhythm was laid at Lee Perry's Black Ark studio

More Yabby You music available on Blood & Fire:

BAFCD 005 King Tubby's Prophecy Of Dub

BAFCD 021 Jesus Dread [2-CD set]

BAFCD 031 Trinity: Shanty Town Determination