

DVD Review: 'The Upsetter – The Life & Music of Lee Scratch Perry'



You may never have heard of [reggae](#) legend Lee 'Scratch' Perry, but you have almost certainly heard his music or his influence. Whether you like reggae from the likes of Bob [Marley](#), hip-hop, or drum and bass and dubstep, you have been exposed to the influence of this Jamaican musician, artist, and (as he would say) prophet.

This film documents Perry's influence and growth over 30 years of Jamaican music, taking the sounds of the island from ska-styled R&B covers to reggae and dub. His studio mastery is hard to deny as he manipulated sounds to create brand-new sounds and, in doing so, influenced producers and DJs from the Bronx to Britain, and beyond.

There are many that would also say that Perry is a madman, allegations that he has himself addressed in his music. This DVD gives you the chance to get closer to the man, his music and influence on Jamaican and world-wide musical culture, and to decide if he is, indeed, insane.

Comprised of classic footage of Perry, both in interview and otherwise, along with a social narrative courtesy of Academy Award-winning actor, Benicio Del Toro, this film is a must-see movie for reggae fans around the world. However, while the 90-minute documentary is an obvious fit for reggae and dub fans, there is plenty to be gleaned for the more casual viewer.

This film documents Lee 'Scratch' Perry's personal growth against the back-drop of his music, as he builds and destroys his infamous recording studio, becomes side-tracked by marijuana consumption and finally comes clean, moves to Switzerland and marries, before giving an exclusive interview to this film's producers.

'The Upsetter' shows the workings of the music industry, the far-reaching influence of Perry and offers a look at the man himself. This is inspirational viewing for fellow producers and fans alike. Get closer to one of the most creative and inspiring men to have ever worked a recording studio... Ground-breaking stuff!

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