

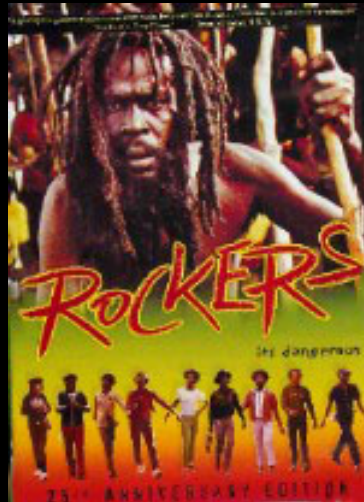


CRAVE MAGAZINE

Your Guide To Extreme Culture
Music - Art - Culture - Sports

July/Aug 2005

- Crave Northwest Interviews
- CD Reviews
- DVD Reviews
- Show Reviews
- Feature Artists
- Extreme Art
- Extreme Sports
- Extreme Film
- Adrenaline Life
- Trade Secrets
- Extreme Reading
- The Underground
- Current News
- Artists
- Resources
- Message Boards



Dangerous Rockers By Erwin Karl

"Rockers, 25th Anniversary Edition," Blue Sun Films/Music Video Distributors

"Rockers" in 1979 and "The Harder They Come" in 1973 did for the reggae culture what "Krush Groove" did for the hip-hop world in 1985 by casting real musicians to play characters much like themselves in a slightly fictionalized movie narrative that gives an insider's view of what was, at the time, an underground culture. Many reviewers argue that "Rockers" is superior to the better known "The Harder They Come" both due to the caliber of musicians involved and the ability of the narrative to both portray life in Jamaica in the late 70s and to entertain viewers.

The cast of "Rockers" includes some reggae artists who were already stars and others who would later become chart toppers including Robbie Shakespeare, Inner Circle, the Abyssinians, Gregory Isaacs, Big Youth, Richard 'Dirty Harry' Hall, and Leroy 'Horsemouth' Wallace, a noted Jamaican drummer who sessioned for Studio One and plays the lead role in the film. Horsemouth uses the film not only as a way to scratch the itch of the acting bug but also to share the philosophies of Rastafari with viewers. In asides between action scenes, Horsemouth summarizes the main ideals of Rastafari with the help of healer Ashley 'Higher' Harris, who opens the film with a shaman-like blessing in patois. Although the film involves conflicts





[Get your music played!](#)



The Rolling RocHaus

Join Our List

Name

E-Mail

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

between organized crime figures and rockers, and a bit of friction between the rockers who follow reggae and the 'bald-heads' that favor soul/disco, the film does communicate the Rastafarian focus on non-violence, elevation for disadvantaged groups, as well as communalism and mutual respect.

The movie was shot on location in the shantytowns and streets of Kingston and the footage has held up well in terms of quality. Director Theodoros Bafaloukus shot in a style that may have prefigured reality TV by a few decades as the characters seem to be living their lives as themselves with a camera following shakily along rather than playing fictional characters and reciting lines from a script. All dialog is in the thick patois of Jamaica but fortunately for those less familiar with the Rastafari culture, there are subtitles throughout and the DVD booklet includes a glossary of patois vocabulary. The action of the movie is portrayed in a light-hearted manner but is not strictly speaking a comedy. Even if you aren't watching for insights into Jamaican culture or brushing up on your patois, you will still find this movie to be thoroughly enjoyable.

The bonus features on the DVD include biographies of the performers updated to include what they have accomplished since 1979, original trailers, music videos, and an interview with the director in which he describes the process of making the film as well as the 'riots' as people tried to get into the Cannes premiere and the rave reviews the film enjoyed over the last 25 years.



Content copyright © 2004 Crave Magazine. All rights reserved.

