

Anthony **B**

Live At Reggae Rising (DVD) 83B

Posted on 03/24/2009

I have been going to see live reggae for fifteen years and one thing you quickly realize is that there is no contemporary genre of music more rooted in institution than reggae. From the positive vibes of the lyrics, to the start/stops of the band, the cheesy synths in place of the horns, and the requisite hopping on one leg and grooving from an ultra charismatic front-man, Anthony B and his band are no exception.

Emerging as a leader from these traditions, Anthony B continues to carry the torch for the Roots and Rasta movements, with many classic righteous tunes. Now fans can enjoy a lively 13 song set filmed in HD at last year's First Annual Reggae Rising Music Festival in Humboldt "the Marijuana State of America*" County, California.

The DVD features exclusive and up-close interview clips between every song where Anthony B explains his inspiration and message for each. Of those I personally found his monolog prior to "Fire Pon Rome" the most intriguing. Here he traces the cause of the lack of peace in the world to the mindset of Imperialists (aka white people, starting with the Romans) while chastising their manner of cultivating of violence with the invention and spreading of the gun in "Trigger Happy Cowboys."

Anthony B demonstrates a balance in views, like in his song "Good Cop" which acknowledges that there are righteous among the corrupt. He also demonstrates the ability to simply tears it down with such massive tunes as "Waterpumpee."

It's great to just put on in the crib any weekend afternoon to keep you moving while you clean up the spot (especially if you have a nice, big television). I personally burnt one down (if you are into that sort of thing) and did my dishes. I suggest you do the same.

* B proclaims this from the stage before launching into the up tempo "Tease Her," track 11 on the DVD.

-dantana

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