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Rockers: Blu-ray

Before the 1973 release of **The Harder They Come**, most of what people outside Jamaica and England knew about reggae music could fit in the hole of a 45rpm record. Americans had embraced a few pre-reggae pop songs -- **Desmond Dekker's** "The Israelites," **Millie Small's** "My Boy Lollipop," **Johnny Nash's** "I Can See Clearly Now" -- but nothing tied their success to a thriving Jamaican music scene.

That would change with **Eric Clapton's** cover of **Bob Marley's** "I Shot the Sheriff" and concert tours by Wailers in the mid-1970s. Shot at the height of the international reggae frenzy, **Rockers** is the other great movie about rastas, rude boys and Kingston's cutthroat record business. If anything, it's even more authentic than **The Harder They Come**, which benefitted from a discernible storyline.

Basically, **Rockers** tells the story of a drummer and record hustler, who swears revenge on the people who stole his beloved motorbike (noteworthy for the Lion of Judah on its gas tank). Written and directed by **Theodoros Bafaloukos** -- a Greek drawn to Jamaica by the music -- **Rockers** is so lushly atmospheric it's difficult to resist the temptation of lighting up a spliff and ordering out for some jerk chicken. In **The Harder They Come**, most of the music is heard as it's being produced in the studio. In **Rockers**, the reggae sounds come from record players, radios and juke boxes, while the cast is comprised of several of the island's biggest recording stars, including **Jacob Miller, Gregory Isaacs, Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace, Richard "Dirty Harry" Hall, Big Youth, Robbie Shakespeare, Winston Rodney** and Lester "Dillinger" **Bullock**.

Another thing **Rockers** shares with **The Harder They Come** is the necessity for non-Jamaicans to use the subtitle option and keep the "patois" glossary handy throughout. - *Gary Dretzka*