

Lee "Scratch" Perry in Concert The Ultimate Alien

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Producer/Director {\$Dave Meehan} outdoes himself on this 63 minute documentary of {^The Ultimate Alien}, {\$Lee "Scratch" Perry}. Gorgeous camerawork lovingly captures the band's performance at Brighton, England's {~Concorde2} venue with "the king of Soul", as the voice opening the show proclaims, descending a stairwell in his trademark attire before launching into {&"I Am A Madman"}. The film actually starts at the hotel and follows the eccentric genius to the venue where he gives the crowd an hour's worth of suggestive titles like {&"French Connection"}, {&"Doctor Dick"} and {&"Rub And Squeeze}, among others. On the 7 minutes and 45 second {&"Tighten Up"} (not the {\$Archie Bell & The Drells} hit) Lee lights up his sacramental ganja while {\$The Naylor Twins}, {\$Michelle Farmer} and {\$Sharron Naylor}, chirp away in the background. The band is most impressive and worthy of mention - {\$Anthony Harty} on lead guitar, {\$Nick Welsh} on bass, drummer {\$AI Fletcher}, keyboardist {\$Justin Dodsworth} and saxophone player {\$Leigh Malin}.

The extras are also noteworthy - a forty minute interview conducted by {\$Dave Hendley}, who also wrote the four page biography, is revealing and invaluable. Lee lights up again while telling his story in pretty coherent fashion, mixing his philosophy in a mellow but still very compelling conversation. An extra bonus and key component here is a collection of {@Guiness} beer commercials featuring {\$Lee "Scratch" Perry} that are outrageously funny and superbly produced. A true pioneer and legend having some fun on a video that has no booklet but plenty of material on the disc itself. It's also an excellent introduction to this underrated and highly entertaining wild wizard of Reggae music.

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Song Titles:

I Am A Madman, Station Underground News, French Connection, Jungle Lion, People Funny Boy, Tighten Up, Doctor Dick, Rub And Squeeze, The Thanks We Get

- Joe Viglione