

Search :: Contests :: DS :: Mac :: PC :: PS2 :: PS3 :: PSP :: Wii :: Xbox 360 :: Interviews :: Media ::

## One Love: Words & Powah

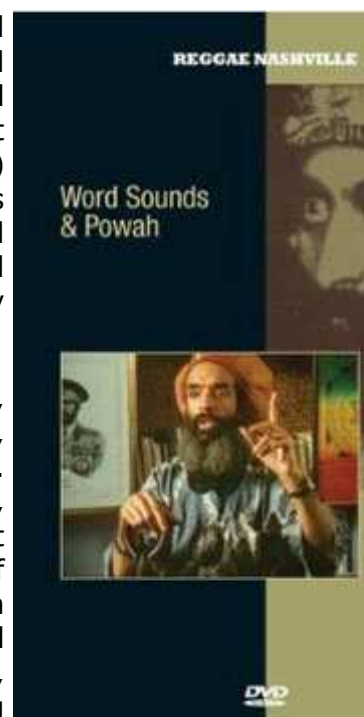
Score: **75%**  
 Rating: **Not Rated**  
 Publisher: **MVD Entertainment Group**  
 Region: **A**  
 Media: **DVD/1**  
 Running Time: **110 Mins.**  
 Genre: **Musical/Documentary/Live Performance**  
 Audio: **Stereo Sound**  
 Subtitles: **English**

One take on this collection of three documentary and live-performance segments is that the so-called Rastafari movement is much more interesting and nuanced than most folks suspect. The flip side is that too much incoherent (even by patois standards) rambling and revolutionary rhetoric during interviews reinforces negative stereotypes of dreadlocked island denizens stoned out of their collective minds. To avoid polarizing the debate along these lines, we'll just say there's too much philosophizing here for our taste.

Contained here are three documentary segments, offering interesting and almost "outsider" viewpoints, from Rastas in the U.K. before the turn of the century. The final segment carries that phrase from the title, **Word Sounds & Powah**, derived from a core tenet in the Rastafari "bylaws." The roots of this belief system run parallel to similar developments in America, where African slaves used drumming and music to communicate. In Jamaica, as in America, slave owners drove wedges between families, blocking language and religion, in an attempt to stifle social forces that might foment rebellion. Although the common ground isn't explicit in the documentary, the same forces behind the creation of Jamaican music were at work in the creation of early jazz and blues in America.

**One Love: Word Sounds & Powah** goes into great depth in exploring the connection between music and faith. Historical perspectives are provided that will take the most ignorant viewer up to speed. Making connections between figures like Marcus Garvey and Ethiopian ruler Haile Selassie I puts Rastafari into a broader context and explains the origins of their religious beliefs. Beyond the patois, there is a lot of coded language in Rastafari, such as talk of "lions," "eagles," and "Babylon." **One Love** doesn't provide a complete history of the seminal figures in the U.K. Rasta scene, but it does go to some lengths to diagram the "Where, and When" of their practice. The first documentary, "Nyabingi Blood & Fire," explores the African roots and ancestors of the people settled as slaves in Jamaica; this is patois music plus what we might now characterize as a mash-up of revival and spoken word drumming. The cast members are ordinary folks gathered together, just a group of men, women, and children passionate about sharing a ritual experience that predates the movement by several hundred years.

The second short piece, "Blues for Rastafari," fills in critical history and context with a look at how music was able to bridge the sacred and profane in Rasta culture. The final





## DVD

[Anime](#)  
[DVD's](#)  
[Soundtracks](#)  
[Graphic Novels](#)  
[System Video](#)  
[Interviews](#)  
[All Features](#)

## Areas

[DS](#)  
[Mac](#)  
[PC](#)  
[PlayStation 2](#)  
[PlayStation 3](#)  
[PlayStation Portable](#)  
[Wii](#)  
[Xbox 360](#)  
[Media](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Search](#)  
[Contests](#)

"**Word Sounds & Powah**," brings everything together through extended music from *The Naturalites*, and interviews with band members. These interviews mean to the viewer because of all the information shared previously, where it would be tempting to frame their religious and protest aspirations as nothing more than an overarching question not answered (or posed, for that matter) in **One Love: Word Sounds & Powah** is whether this form of protest has a meaningful function for the moment. Considering the issues facing people of color across the world, and especially in the hands of hand-wringing over decadent Babylon and imperial powers seems antiquated. If the ideas of Marcus Garvey held are still valid, Rastafari must recognize that even after the ills were purged from the continent, internal poverty, corruption, and genocide have not. Garvey's vision for Africa as a free country. As historical re-enactment, **One Love: Word Sounds & Powah** is a fascinating piece of work, but it's missing a credible mode of Rastafari culture.

-Fridtjof, GameVortex Communications AKA M

## Related Links:

[MVD Visual Online](#)



[Click Your Idols](#)



[Paul Blart: Mall Cop](#)