

NIAH REBEL ARTICLES

On the
brink!

Weekend chat! THURSDAY-MONDAY, APRIL 9-13, 2009 PG 13



Niah Rebel

Niah Rebel

- continuing the trod towards good music

Niah is another talented product of Kingston's east side. Born in Norman Gardens, a little community at the foot of the Pleasant Heights Hill, he knew from early that music was to be his path, however, a sound education had to come first.

Born Kirk Jones, he attended Rollington Town Primary School and later moved on to Tivoli Gardens Comprehensive High School. It was while going to high school that he developed his passion and true focus for music.

His peers noticed this gift for music and encouraged him to rock the community jam. The people clamoured for more and Niah realised this could make people joyful with his voice. Tivoli Gardens had some of the best

music programmes available to him; one of the best bands, and a good choir and Niah took advantage of both opportunities. He joined with several bands while in school with his classmates, including Lukie D of the group LUST and Ghost, of the group Monster Hemp Higher.

His first professional turn on a track was recorded at a studio in the Seaview Gardens community with the artiste Rodney Pryce aka Bounty Killer and Ran Stan aka Shabba Ranks. The recording was done by Wayne Smith, the producer, singer and songwriter who had produced the *Sleng Teng* riddim and was also the singer for the hit single *Under Me Sleng Teng*.

He signed his first record deal with Tuff Gong and was managed by

Cedella Marley, Bob's daughter. Cedella had great vision for Niah Rebel, she wanted to include him in a group of emerging and established artistes, such as Shack D and Pliers, Tyrone Taylor, Yvad, Papa San, Lady G, Grindsman, and Cool Breeze among others. While at Tuff Gong, he also received voice training from Majorie Whyly, one of Jamaica's leading voice coaches and musicians.

His newest project is a collaboration with Qbist Sound System. They are releasing an album in the summer of 2008, but more importantly are joint partners in their own music label, Xion Sound. The label's goal is to build a bridge to third world countries to bring artistes to an audience that would have previously been unreachable.

chat!
scene!

Chat! Shout Out

- Big up to all of the massive and Chat! readers, wi hope unno enjoy di long Easter weekend and meck sure unno get some rest tuh seen. Wi doan waan unno a surface a work tiad and a yawn dung di place.
- Big up to wi fambilly Brandon hype, wi nuh like how you a kip whey yuhself, whey yuh seh wi link up over di holidays!
- Oh wi have a nex' hype fi shout out and is di one and only Mamma Hype. Wha happen, bwoy you foot berely touch dung pon di grung a Jamaica before you lift dem up again and goner chu man... find some time fi yuh favourite evering tabloid friend dem nuh.
- Macka Diamond, wha happen man, a long time wi nuh hear ruh big song, wi need one... Money O big bak. Still nuh watch ruh face, just gwaan deh yuh ting, cause wi kno sey when yuh a come, yuh a come good.
- Ninjaman a big shout out to you. Bwoy wi wish, wi coulda come look fi yuh, cause tings set a way star, it hard fi yuh a spen di big big Easter under lock dung, but kip strong...
- Luciano big up yuhself and may Jah Jah sweep ova yuh soul wid some peace and gi yuh strength to face anodda day.
- Sizzla, just gwaan hold a vibes and memba sey anything whey bun dung can build back again. Still wi glad sey yuh always have Judgement yard fi kick back...
- To wi media colleague Judy Bodley a big fat shout out. Bwoy wi caan si yuh, but wi hope everything criss, wi just waan yuh fi know sey a one love everytime.
- To wi big friend a Canada Newell Morgan, large up yuhself, a just one time wi haffi sey, how you can get di Jamaica news dem so quick star? You have some spies out yah or something?

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Niah Rebel— living the musical life

By TOUSSAINT SMITH
Staff Reporter



BORN KIRK JONES, known to his friends as Niah Rebel. Jones was raised in East Kingston, Norman Gardens around the beats of 1970s reggae. Rebel, being music conscious grew a passion for reggae at a tender age of 15 years.

Getting into the business he told **THE STAR**, "It was like a home thing, we use to do some little skits, when I reach 15 I started going to studios like Tuff Gong, Penthouse and to the famous Wayne Smith - there I did my fist voicing (recording) called **How Yuh Look So Hot and Deh Yah From Dawn**. He received a two-year contract from Cedella Marley where he worked with artistes like Yvad, Tyrone Taylor, Chakademus & Pliers, Wailing Souls, Papa San and Lady G.

Currently Rebel has two new songs **Burry Burry** and

Label. Rebel also said a video for **Burry Burry** is in the making.

Describing his style he told **THE STAR**, "It's more like roots and culture with a modern clarity... more like Buju Banton" he added.

Rebel, who is a Rastafarian says his greatest inspiration comes from two of reggae's greatest icons Bob Marley and Peter Tosh.

He told **THE STAR**: "Mi consider music as mi life, I consider myself as being in the music uncountable years."

He also plans to own his own recording studio. He added, "As a youth a go through mi would a love to have a studio so mi can help out other youth and make more music cause it's really about

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