

of the tracking "live" as a band?

Brian: We record to whatever is handy. Good quality digital is just as good as good quality analog. Most people swear that our stuff must be all analog tape, but it's actually all digital. We record almost everything live, in the room together.

Roger: We have a lot of little secrets that we keep to ourselves. There are some recordings we did in J's studio that were one take no overdubs, mostly for ideas when we go into Signet. Some of these recordings came out really good with a vibe that you cannot recreate. We will be releasing some of these on 45s.

BW: All of your recordings sound very authentic, down to the over modulated vocals on some of the songs off of your previous release Dirty Reggae. Is there any special gear that you rent, borrow, or bring into your recording session; what's your secret?

Roger: We get asked this all the time. Brian is a big part of how we achieve this. More importantly of how this kind of music is recorded is the instruments and equipment we use. You have got to use a real organ, old school drums, and guitars. Sitting back and listening to how we think the sessions went down for the Dynamites or Hippy Boys. What would Lee Perry do? How would Clancy Eccles approach the vocals? Overall we do have secrets and we are not telling!

Brian: There are some very cool tricks that we've learned over the years for getting that old school sound. Of course those are our secrets, but I will say, it isn't using analog tape or tube microphones or old equalizers and compressors from the '60s. It has more to do with the way the instruments sound, the way the musicians play and where you place the microphones. Think about it, if you have a lousy musician that doesn't know the music, playing a really bad sounding instrument and not grooving with the band, it doesn't matter how much "vintage" equipment you use, it's still gonna suck.

BW: As a band do you find it more difficult to produce an album yourself as opposed to hiring a producer to work with you?

Roger: Not at all. We have had many people interested in playing the producer role. As a band we have a vision, we are very stubborn on how our music progresses in the studio.

We are very proud in knowing that the members in the band know how to mimic the old reggae days of Jamaica and England. For someone to come in that doesn't have a clue of what we are trying to lock down....it would do more harm than good. Plus you have to pay those producer types, ha!

BW: Tell us about the latest project that The Aggrolites did with Tim Armstrong.

Roger: Tim hit us up about recording some songs that he wrote and translating them in an Aggrolite feel. Everyone across the board is happy on how it came out. He gave us so much freedom in that session that we gave it the same mindset as if it were an Aggro album. I think Tim is touching grounds that he started to do in the Op Ivy days; mixing JA music with punk. I think this project is touching the shadows of bands like The Clash & The Specials.

BW: How long have The Aggrolites been at this, and what do you attribute to the bands success?

Roger: The Aggrolites have been together around four years now. We have done a lot of paying dues in previous bands all the way back to when we were young. We do this for the music and the people that want to hear this kind of music being played. The band has traveled a long way since its birth. I think it's due to the original fresh feeling that we bring. It's very different from mainstream music as well as the underground music that is current. We play music that kids and their parents can dance to. Music that punks and at the same time rastas could get into. People that have nothing to do with subculture can still find something groovy about this music. Dirty reggae is now a genre!

BW: What's in the future for The Aggrolites?

Roger: We're touring with Madness this December in the U.K. Start recording for the next album, and getting some good 'ol vinyl singles out on our own Aggro Reggae label. More touring in the year of 2007!

The Aggrolites will be performing in Southern California November 16th, 17th, and 19th. For all of you readers out there who have yet to see The Aggrolites, do yourself a favor and go see them next month. As an added incentive they are playing with yet another legendary band the Skatalites and in December with Madness in Europe. Also, for all of you readers out there that have already seen the band, go see them again! The Aggrolites get better with each and every show and are truly talented performers to say the very least. "I need more soul with my music; I got to have reggae reggae music."

By: Joe Hawkins

SHOW INFO

11/16 @ Galaxy Theatre w/ The Skatalites and
Not A Chance

11/16 @ Cal State University Fullerton w/ The
Skatalites

11/17 @ Belly Up Tavern w/ The Skatalites

11/19 @ El Rey Theatre w/ The Skatalites and
The Roundabouts

