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In Fine Style: The Dancehall Art Of Wilfred Limonious



Synopsis

During the 1980s Wilfred Limonious (1949–99) became one of Jamaican music's most prolific graphic artists, designing countless reggae album jackets and record-label logos. With silly characters, scribbled commentary and outrageous Patois-filled speech bubbles, the world he created was the perfect visual counterpart to the island's emerging dancehall scene.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Limonious created a unique universe out of everyday Jamaican life, making it into something fantastic and epic" – Diplo, music producer
"This book is seminal in that it examines an often overlooked component of dancehall culture; its aesthetic." – Dr Donna P Hope The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica
"Any fan of reggae over the past thirty years absorbed Limonious's genius even if they didn't know it." – Tony McDermott, cartoonist

Christopher Bateman first came across the art of Wilfred Limonious in the S&W Soul King record store in Toronto, while on tour with his band The Operators, and later started the Limonious blog, In Fine Style (infinestyle.wordpress.com). He currently works as a library technician and plays bass in a country and western band in his hometown of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Al 'Fingers' Newman is a DJ, cultural historian and Limonious obsessive. His previous projects include Sound System Culture (2015), Clarks in Jamaica (2012), Greensleeves the First 100 Covers (2010) and DPM: An Encyclopedia of Camouflage (2004). In 2012 he co-curated the exhibition Art in the Dancehall,

celebrating illustration and design in Jamaican music.

Limonious was not the only skilled illustrator who specialised in doing cover art for Reggae albums (i just love Jamal Peete's paintings) but he is by far the most prolific and important of the handfull that exists. The sheer number of covers alone makes him an important part of the history of Reggae (just like Sassafrass is the unheralded master of typing). In today's climate many of his covers would be considered as sexist but lets face it, no matter how "PC" our society is: "Men will enjoy looking at sexy women and vice versa". Besides being the uncrowned king of Reggae art he also did a large number of cartoons for Jamaican newspapers (obviously many of these has rarely been seen outside of Jamaica) and advertisements etc... This book chronicling the career of Wilfred Limonious was advertised years ago and i had almost lost hope that it would see the light of day but now it's finally here. This book reeks of quality, just looking at the hardcover with it's embossed lettering you can tell this is going to be quite something. There has been a few books on Reggae cover art before and while they are good they have been little more than just collections of images, categorised and with a little bit of text but not really that informative. This book is a whole different story, i asumed it would just be a collection of his record covers. I would say about 2 thirds of this book consists of an illustrated biography of "Wilfred Limonious", you get to follow his career from start to finish, his brothers, artists and label insiders he worked for are interviewed etc... It also covers so much more than just his album art, we get to see early paintings, sketches and many of his comics that rarely has been seen outside of Jamaica. As it's all encompassing we are luckily treated to the rundown of his covers as well towards the end. You know that you got a good book when it attracts the general public. This is not for Reggae nerds alone, anyone with an interest in art and design should find this a fashinating read (the write up in "Vogue Magazine" should be proof of this). While being a little bit expensive this is one of those rare times when price does not matter, you need to get this book (get it before it goes out of print and becomes even pricier, "One Love Books" prints tend to do that).[...]

I had a wall comprised of that era of Jamaican albums. It was great to get some background on this distinctive style. Top quality book.

It's all about Limonious! A graphic don!

Nice coffee table piece.

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