

BRAIN DAMAGE MEETS HARRISON STAFFORD

Album *Liberation Time*

Released on october 20th 2017 (CD, vinyl & digital)



PRESENTATION

To gain some grasp of the genesis of this new project, that may seem surprising at first, let's address what both artists have in common, rather than what differentiates them. Internationally recognized masters in the styles, respectively reggae & dub, that they are developing in parallel for almost 20 years, without never really meeting each other, the two protagonists strive to challenge their codes in an ever greater respect to their Jamaican roots: two decades furthering a relentless fight against musical orthodoxy, to the benefit of interbreedings that have always been major contributions to music — and arts in general — History. This is evidenced by jazz and Jamaican traditional music fusion in the case of Harrison Stafford, and notably with his amazing adventure with Groundation, as well as by Martin Nathan countless experimentations, over Brain Damage prolific discography, always digging in more unlikely and audacious directions.

From this unexpected collaboration will stem « Liberation Time » album, an LP that will delight many fans of the two artists' works, all what builds their respective uniqueness being there so well intricated. Harrison Stafford unique voice supports, in a most elegant way, the delivery of a uniting message focused on self-empowerment through music and his universalist vision of Rastafarian faith. Brain Damage writing and production, on the other hand, appear always more subtle and personal, intellectualized yet visceral. Solid compositions, hit melodies and classy dub effects are among assets that will undoubtedly confirm « Liberation Time » as one of the most accomplished collaboration project of this year.



Tracklisting album

- 1 – Liberation Time
- 2 – Everyone A Christ
- 3 – Singing Soldiers
- 4 – Rebel Music
- 5 – Harrison Hello
- 6 – Stand By Me
- 7 – Baby
- 8 – Raw Talking Rebels
- 9 – Pick Up Yourself
- 10 – Open Up



BIOGRAPHY

MARTIN NATHAN



With more than 12 albums behind him already, Martin Nathan ventures for almost 20 years now, into many artistic and stylistic experiments, under the name of Brain Damage. Alternately dark, atmospheric, aggressive or poetic, his universe seems to be constantly evolving, what may be the key to his project longevity. Brain Damage Acclaimed as one of the founders of the French dub scene, he presents, early in 1999, the first dub live-act of its kind in France, and quickly forges connections with some masters of the style in the UK (Zion Train, Alpha & Omega, The Disciples). 2002 and 2004, alongside bassist Raphaël Talis, he produces his two first albums on the mythical Parisian label Hammerbass, before joining Jarring Effects label in 2006 for a trilogy of three experimental and conceptual opuses, developed in collaboration with a host of international artists (Black Sifichi, Mark Stewart, Hakim Bey). He then openly breaks the codes and blows up the very boundaries of the style, where he was a bit hastily catalogued.

After his sidekick left, 2011 marks the beginning of a new chapter, prompting into new directions the project that becomes more polymorphous than ever. Martin Nathan balances then collaborations (High Tone, Vibronics, Sir Jean) and his solo works, getting always closer to the roots of his favorite style. 2015 the realization in Jamaica, of the « Talk The Talk / Walk The Walk » project, featuring icons like Horace Andy, Willi Williams Brain Damage Live, Winston Mc Anuff, Kiddus I and Ras Michael seem to confirm it. 2017, the producer turns to the United States for an exceptional collaboration with Harrison Stafford, singer and charismatic leader of legendary band Groundation, determined to flout codes once again and to build bridges between styles and genres, sometimes confined in their own orthodoxy.

Over the years, he has grown a solid reputation throughout the international scene, brilliantly cultivating a certain dichotomy between cerebral studio sessions and hundreds of live performances, always explosive. In France, in the light of his experience and ability to continually renew his art, Brain Damage appears now as the link between the scene he contributed to establishing more than 20 years ago, and the new activists of a more synthetic & frontal dub.

HARRISON STAFFORD

Harrison Stafford was born in 1977 and grew up in the town of Pleasanton, an east bay suburb of San Francisco, California. He attended regular public schools and also spent time in Synagogue studying the Torah and learning Hebrew. His parents have a deep appreciation for the love of music and music played an important role in the daily life of the family. For reasons even he can't fully explain, Reggae music and its' history touched him at a very young age and Harrison Staffordsparked a love of the rhythm and culture of the African Diaspora. Still in high school he began to wonder why Reggae music, coming from a relatively small group of poor black people, was such a powerful voice for equal rights and justice, and he longed to be a part of that worldwide struggle.



After graduating from high school, Harrison Stafford studied jazz at Sonoma State University where he formed the fusion Reggae group Groundation in 1998. Groundation has since become one of the leading conscious bands of the underground music scene having released eight albums of original music and participated in countless world tours. Harrison Stafford continues to be a driving force behind Groundation both in his role as lead vocalist and in his creative ability to develop exciting new music. Drawing on his personal research and his travel experiences in Jamaica and Africa, Harrison Stafford created a college level course titled « The History of Reggae Music », which he taught at Sonoma State University from 1999-2001. The course was unique in that it took students who maybe just recently heard of Reggae music or only knew it from the popularity of Bob Marley and helped them appreciate the music on a deeper level; helped them understand how the music and message really defines who we are and where we stand in this time.

From 2000-2012 Harrison Stafford produced a documentary film on the history of the Rastafarian movement and Reggae music; entitled « Holding on to Jah ». The film features exclusive interviews with the who's who of Reggae legends including The Congos, The Abyssinians, Ras Michael, Brother Samuel Clayton, Pablo Moses, Israel Vibration, IJahman Levi, Countryman, and Winston McAnuff among many others. « Holding on to Jah » was a collaboration with his long time childhood friend, director Roger Hall, and after so many years following securing all the publishing rights « Holding on to Jah » saw its world-wide release November, 2015. Harrison Stafford continues to write music and tour with Groundation and to get involved in other projects that help spread the music and the message. He recorded a groove-jazz influenced album call « Rockamovya » in 2008 which was a Harrison Stafford collective featuring members of Groundation along with Horsemouth on the drums and Grammy nominated Jazz guitarist Will Bernard. Harrison Stafford also began solo works including a studio release (« Madness », 2011) and a live DVD/CD (« Throw Down Your Arms », 2012) under the name "Professor" which focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and featured legendary Jamaican musicians Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace on the drums and Errol "Flabba Holt" Carter on bass.

In 2016 Harrison Stafford released another solo project this time under the name "Harrison Stafford & The Professor Crew". The album « One Dance » was released in May and received international acclaim as an album of celebration and a call for world

unity. Featuring his Jamaican all-star line up tour dates throughout Europe, South America, and USA saw the band take to some of the biggest festival stages in the world. Looking to take the new year by storm Harrison Stafford has put together a new Bay Area group featuring young up and coming Jazz and Reggae musicians fit and ready to tour the music and bring the fans something they've never heard before. Always looking to surprise the audience with something creative and unique; expect great things in 2017 and beyond !



TOUR 2017

- 10/11 - Marseille - Le Moulin
- 10/12 - Montpellier - Victoire 2
- 10/13 - Cahors - Les Docks
- 10/14 - Bourgoin - Les Abattoirs
- 10/15 - Bagnols s/Cèze - La Moba
- 10/16 - Baraqueville - Before Roots'Ergue Festival
- 10/18 - Bruxelles - Atelier 210
- 10/19 - Audincourt - Le Moloco
- 10/20 - Annecy - Le Brise Glace
- 10/21 - St Etienne - Le Clavier
- 10/22 - Issoudun - Issoudun Reggae Temple
- 11/14 - Nancy - L'Autre Canal
- 11/15 - Dijon - Les Tanneries
- 11/17 - Vitry-Le-François - L'Orange Bleue
- 11/18 - Nantes - Stereolux
- 11/22 - Niort - Le Camji
- 11/23 - Tours - Le Temps Machine hors les murs
- 11/24 - Montmartin s/Mer - Faut Qu'ça Chauffe / Chauffer Dans La Noirceur
- 11/25 - Paris - Télérama Dub Festival
- 11/26 - Tourcoing - Le Grand Mix



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