

Clive Hunt Biography

Originally from Linstead, St. Catherine, Jamaica, Maurice Clive Hunt grew up near where his Rastafarian father had helped found one of the first Rasta tabernacles (temples) in Jamaica, on a hilltop near Wakefield. He learned trumpet at Stony Hill Approved School and at the age of 17 joined the 1st Battalion Jamaica Regiment Band. He developed an interest in music theory and arranging, which led him to study at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, in the UK.

While playing with the Jamaica Philharmonic Orchestra (and still serving in the army), he was a member of Byron Lee's Dragonaires and would write charts for when visiting artists, such as Mighty Sparrow, needed arrangements for their live performances. Hunt became involved in studio recording sessions via relationships with members of the Fab 5 and the Now Generation bands, initially for Harry Johnson, Derrick Harriott, Duke Reid, and for the Hoo Kim family's new Channel One studio, where he participated in some of their earliest instrumental releases.

Throughout the 1970s, Hunt widely recorded as a multi-instrumentalist (horns, bass, and keyboards), arranger, and producer for hire. His best-known and most influential production from the golden era of reggae was the Abyssinians' LP *Satta Massa Ganna*. During the same period of the mid-1970s, Hunt recorded the Skatalites, Max Romeo, Pablo Moses, and more obscure artists including Bonnie Gayle and Sylford Walker. Notably, Hunt used the In Crowd band's moniker for his first production, the self-produced "Milk and Honey," later popularized by Dennis Brown.

Hunt played trumpet on Dennis Brown's *Spellbound* LP and produced tracks for Brown's 1981 A&M Records debut, *Foul Play*. He also recorded and arranged on key sessions at Lloyd Barnes' Bullwackies outfit in New York in the late 1970s/early 1980s. He appears prominently in the essential 1985 documentary film *Bullwackie*. It was during this same period that he did some of his favorite arrangements, including Peter Tosh's *Mama Africa* and *Mystic Man* LPs.

Hunt remained in the US until the late 1980s but eventually returned to Jamaica, where his career as a producer and arranger continued in the rapidly changing digital era. He co-produced a number of singles and albums for Tappa Zukie, including Beres Hammond's "Putting Up Resistance," and his resume includes work with Bob Andy, Jimmy Cliff (including as co-producer of the hit "I Can See Clearly Now"), Tyrone Taylor, and Dawn Penn, among literally hundreds of performers.

In recent years, he has been involved in a number of VP Records projects, including albums by Jah Cure, Queen Ifrica, Etana, Ikaya, Richie Spice, Jah9, the *One Drop Anthems* series, and the landmark *We Remember Dennis Brown* tribute album. He is currently developing a studio and creative retreat in St. Catherine on the same land where his father help found the Rastafarian tabernacle.

Clive Hunt's work is celebrated in 2020 on two VP Records releases. *Bad, Bad, Bad* is a collection of rare 1970s and 1980s singles, and *Blue Lizzard* (VP Records, 2020) is an

album of all new instrumentals in the style of the Channel One dub albums of the 1970s to which he originally contributed. Other of his pivotal and enduring productions are highlighted on the VP Records Icons playlist, *Clive Hunt – Satta Massa Ganna*.

--Carter Van Pelt