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JAH LIGHT

« *Almighty Zion Keepers* »

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Who Can Save Ft. Don Carlos (single)

ALBUM RELEASE : April 9, 2021

REGGAE / WORLD / AFRICA

Jah Light, Basile Valentin Okon, was born on September 2, 1981 in Cocody, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. His father was a school Director and his mother a sales agent. He grew up with his ten brothers and sisters in the town of the Two Plateaux where he spent his childhood and his school years.

He is rapidly taken by the music virus and spends his free time in the backstage of 'informal' recording music studios that are growing in many townships of Abidjan. He integrates different local reggae musical bands and began singing with the band « **Reggae Jam** » in 2001. The band performed regularly in the various Reggae spots of the city (Pams, Jamaica, Kingston, Menekre). He was barely 20 years old when he decided to stop studying at INSAAC (the Ivorian National Arts and Music Institute) and immerses himself in the reggae culture, preferring to spend days and nights with elders musicians. **Jah Light** then embarks on a Bohemian life specific to aspiring artists. He will hit the road touring in the sub-region, notably in Burkina Faso and Benin. **Jah Light** is making a name for himself. He makes a first collaboration with the #1 Reggae singer from Ivory Coast **Alpha Blondy** on the 2011 « Vision » album with the *International Herb* title and also a collaboration with the Ivorian Reggae Band **Les Vieux Mogos** - the most international Band of Abidjan - with the track *I'm Dread*.

Anti-conformist and rebellious at heart, **Jah Light** is a multi-instrumentalist (guitar, bass, drums) and is totally dedicated to reggae music. From 2007 to 2020, he performed regularly as lead singer at the legendary **Parker Place**. A wide and rich experience of the live scene which also enhances his impressive repertoire of covers. **Jah Light** is a whole and sincere artist who actively contributes to the development of reggae "made in Ivory Coast". This highly anticipated debut album represents the culmination of a 20-year career and a new page for the artist. **Jah Light** presents 9 tracks that he himself wrote and performed, as well as the track *Corona Can't Stop Reggae*, which has become an anthem, a real cry of hope in collaboration with the singers **General Dimitri** and **Ras Kalif**. Also on the album's tracklisting, Jamaican legend **Don Carlos** on *Who Can Save ?* recorded in December 2020 in Abidjan. **Jah Light** sings the themes that are dear to him. From *Cette Chanson* to *Let Jah Be Praised* through *Politique Vampire*, his commitment remains authentic and resolutely turned towards Rasta culture. With maturity helping, the prolific **Jah Light** promises to follow through on projects and cross borders with his music.



TRACKLISTING

- 01 - *Corona Can't Stop Reggae*
Ft. Général Dimitri & Ras Kalif
02. *Cette Chanson*
03. *Knockin' On Heaven's Door*
04. *Politique Vampire*
05. *Ni Dji Bôna* Ft. Sœur Barry
06. *Touche Pas Mes Dreadlocks*
07. *Who Can Save ?* Ft. Don Carlos
08. *Babylon Burn*
09. *Jah Voit*
10. *Let Jah Be Praised*
11. *Politique Vampire Dub*
12. *Touche Pas Mes Dreadlocks Dub*
13. *Babylon Burn Dub*



P R O M O T I O N A G E N C Y



AZK PRODUCTIONS PRÉSENTE

JAH LIGHT

ALMIGHTY ZION KEEPERS

1ST ALBUM
APRIL 9

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"Almighty Zion Keepers", Jah Light's first album, was recorded from March to June 2020 (the first 9 tracks) and finalized in December 2020 (with the arrival of Don Carlos in Abidjan for two private Concerts!).

2020 has been a difficult year for the cultural industry, where most concerts, festivals and live shows have been put on hold due to the global corona virus pandemic. **Jah Light** took the opportunity during the lockdown period in Abidjan, since having the chance to have a music recording studio at hand (the AZK Production label studio he co-owns with his wife), to fine tune his album that he was able to record with the assistance of some of the Ivorian musicians that he has crossed over his (already long) career. The lyrics had been written for a long time, it was just a matter of finding the right time to have the lyrics put on the right music !! So that is how the recording of the 10 tracks took place in an atmosphere of self introspection and with the desire to show its versatility and independence. The artist was supported in his album Project by his wife, who assisted him in helping to make the right connection with inspired and inspiring people (**Georges Kouakou, Serge Assouan, Christian Konutse**), encouraging him to reveal more of his personality. Indeed, it is also for his masterful covers of Bob Marley that we know **Jah Light**, and it was even more important to him that he could express and show his own artistic sensitivity. *"It's Jah who inspires, it's Jah who gives. It has pleased Jah to make this period of global Lockdown a right time for my personal projects"*.

The collaborations with his Ivorian reggae underground artists such as **Ras Kalif** and **General Dimitri** are part of his willingness to ensure that they all get the opportunity to get to be known and shows his humility and simplicity. **Jah Light** is from an ethnic minority in the South East of the country (M'Batto also called Gwa) from the Akan group. He sings in English, French but also in the local language - Dioula - a language which is not his own but which he has borrowed to call for peace and reconciliation. Its Lyrics are committed and call for appeasement, union, meditation, wisdom and justice. And, as a True Rasta, an overflowing spirituality and an omnipresent Jah.

On *Cette Chanson*, **Jah Light** pledges that only reggae can change humanity. The vibes of the track take us back to the late 60's, the days of ska and rocksteady. The singer likes to speak out about the excesses of a society ruled by money, personal success and increasingly disconnected from nature/ mother earth. Because if God had destroyed the city of Babylon which had sinned by excess of pride, the Rastas prophesize the fall of our "shitstem", like the explicit *Burn Babylon!* a direct reference to the Bible (Jeremiah 51), and as a practicing Rastafarian, **Jah Light** has not combed or cut his hair for the past 20 years. The duet with **Don Carlos** was done in the most natural way since, passing through Abidjan for two shows on December 25th and 26th 2020 (AZK Productions), **Don Carlos** met **Jah Light** and enjoyed his personality. They both entered the studio and recorded *Who Can Save ?* composed by **Jah Light**, a true rasta manifesto calling for reunification and spirituality. The album title *"Almighty Zion Keepers"* is also full of meaning - and echoes the name of the very first band **Jah Light** created 20 years ago: Zion Keepers.



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