

# YASUS AFARI BIOGRAPHY

Jamaican-born reggae artist and dub poet Yasus Afari's signature poetic event, *Poetry in Motion*, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2013, as the annual rendition of Jamaica's rich poetic heritage that showcases leading poets and entertainers. In August 2011, he established the *Jamaica Poetry Festival* in Kingston. Afari's first anthology *EyePen* continues to be exceptionally well received, and his poetry album *Kiss Mi Neck* has created waves, as he continues to delight audiences at home and abroad.

Deeply rooted in his Rastafarian faith, Afari is not only a dub poet, but also an author, philosopher and reggae artist of unprecedented insight and inspiration. Afari attended the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia, as an Ambassador of the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions to make a presentation on "Rastafari: The Livity of Spirituality," and to also perform for delegates and local people.

Afari is one of the original Christian Souljahs who engineered the cultural renaissance in reggae and dancehall music and the dancehall culture, alongside other Rastafarian artists such as Garnet Silk, Tony Rebel, Everton Blenda, Uton Green, Luciano, Buju Banton, Sizzla, Capleton and Louie Cultur, among others. In the mid-90's, Yasus teamed up with reggae legend Pablo Moses and Dele Mandeyah to form Fathers Of Africa, which toured the schools in Jamaica, and also did a tour of the United States, led by Afari, Everton Blenda, Determine and Dele Mandehyah.

The 1990s and beyond saw Yasus Afari touring the world, as well as recording with the likes of Black Uhuru, Toots and The Maytals, Freddie McGregor and Beres Hammond, thereby enhancing his international profile and expanding his horizons and creating a "revolution through dub poetry." Afari also released the Afromatic poem "Woman I Love You," the inspirational "Work," and the visionary "Brand New World," which appeared on the Grammy-nominated Black Uhuru album, *Strongg*. Albums released by Afari include *Dance Hall Baptism*, *Mental Assassin*, *Honour: Crown Him*, *Gift of Vision - Yasus Afari and Friends*, *AncientFuture* and *Revolution Chapter 1*.

Afari has received numerous awards and unprecedented accolades throughout his career. He has produced music for himself and other artists, has promoted

several ground-breaking and successful stage shows, and has written his internationally-acclaimed book, *Overstanding Rastafari - Jamaica's Gift to the World*.

More recently, Afari has been travelling the world to share his world views through his poetry, working in schools, colleges, community groups, universities and prisons, exploring ways to share a better 'overstanding' of black history, while supporting ways for communities to live and work together in our increasingly plural societies.

Afari is currently working on his upcoming studio album titled *Public Secret*, slated for a summer 2013 release. The lead single from the album is "Wine Pon Paper," a stimulating, catchy track that will be available worldwide on April 16, 2013 from all major digital retailers. For more information on Yasus Afari, including album news and tour dates, log on to **[yasusafari.com](http://yasusafari.com)**.