

Buju Banton

BAND STORY

"For many years, the name Buju Banton (a.k.a. Gargamel) has become synonymous with modern reggae. Having metamorphosed from a brash teenage phenomenon into a self assured deejay and singer, Buju's fusion of traditional roots rock, contemporary R&B and dancehall DJ'ing have earned him a prophet like status in his Jamaican homeland. Undoubtedly, Buju is one of the most popular musicians in Jamaican history, having hit the charts there suddenly in 1992, with a string of hits including "Bogle", "Love Me Browning" and "Love Black Woman", all three of which were massive hits in Jamaica and less so abroad. Soon afterwards, Banton released one of the more controversial songs in his musical catalogue - "Boom Boom Bye Bye". In his "Unchained Spirit" album, it is said that Buju demonstrates unfettered devotion to his craft by extending his trademark toasting skills into the realms of rock steady, ska, gospel, African highlife and American soul. Among the bevy of guests featured on Unchained Spirit is fellow raga sensation Luciano, Sunsplash luminary Morgan Heritage and punk rock compadres Rancid. Buju Banton was born in Kingston, Jamaica in a poor neighborhood called Salt Lane. Buju is a nickname given to chubby children that means breadfruit and was given to him by his mother as a child. Banton is a Jamaican word that refers to someone who is a respected storyteller, and it was adopted by Myrie in tribute to the deejay Burro Banton, whom Buju admired as a child. It was Burro's rough gravelly vocals that Buju emulated and ultimately made his own. Buju's mother was a higgler, or street vendor, while his father worked as a



STATS

Visits	Plays
180	39
Streams	Downloads
39	0

Featured Songs

- 
Untold Stories
Dance Hall
- 
Destiny
Dance Hall

vendor, while his father worked as a labourer at a tile factory. He was the youngest of fifteen children born into a family that was directly descended from the Maroons of Jamaica. Buju would often watch his favorite artists perform at outdoor shows and local dancehalls in Denham Town. At the age of 12, he picked up the microphone for himself and began toasting under the moniker of Gargamel, working with the Sweet Love and Rambo Mango sound systems. In 1986, he was introduced to producer Robert French by fellow deejay Clement Irie, and his first single, "The Ruler" was released not long afterwards in 1987. This led to recording sessions with producers such as Patrick Roberts, Bunny Lee, Winston Riley, and Digital B, and in 1988, aged 15, he first recorded the controversial song "Boom Bye Bye", which contained homophobic lyrics. The song was written in response to a widely reported man/boy rape case in Jamaica."

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