

WORLD MUSIC

JAMAICA

WD-JM1 United Kingdom 1990

BLACK BAT

WD – Reggae – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp:

**Perf: LEE “SCRATCH” PERRY
& THE UPSETTERS**

Lee Perry (vocal)

Prod: Lee Perry

Prod Co: Attack Records

Rec. Co: Black Art Studio; Kingston, Jamaica

Time: (A1, A2, & A4) 2:56 & (A3 & B) 3:09

A. Jamaican Releases:

1. Single **45:** Black Bat (as by Upsetters)
Upsetter 117 or 118
Flip Sd: Leo GRAHAM – Doctor Demand
7” 45rpm
2. **LP:** PUBLIC JESTERING (1990)
Attack ATLP 108
12” 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)
3. **CD:** PUBLIC JESTERING (1990)
Attack CDAT 108 (Tk 13)
4. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** HEAVY MANNERS: REGGAE BEST (1993)
Lagoon 3001 (Tk 11)
5. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** DUB: ORIGINAL BASS CULTURE – METRO #1 (2001)
Metro 46 (Tk 16)

B. French Compilation **CD:** HEAVY MANNERS: REGGAE BEST (1993)

Esoldun RB 3001 (Tk 11)

Notes: Lee Perry was at one time one of the best and biggest producers of reggae music in Jamaica. After the 1960s and his work in ska and sound-systems, he went on his own and did experiments in instrumental reggae music, “dub,” and different electronic experiments. He created his mythical group, The Upsetters, to accompany several singers that became well known. (Anon. 1986)

The Upsetters were a true “floating” band. Perry would pickup the best musicians he could find at the moment. One critic said – “Who can resist any album that includes the deranged ‘Black Bat’ by The Upsetters.” (Anon. n.d.) Lee Perry also recorded a reggae number entitled “Vampire,” so, without having understood all the lyrics on this piece, it is difficult to tell if this “black bat” song is referring to the mammal or to some batman-type.

Included together here are the original release and the slightly longer reissue version. The complete audio clip (3:00) has a slow-paced, light-hearted reggae with little rhythmic, screechy, wha-wha guitar chords, which sound like a bat, interspersed with some night “owl” sounds and short enigmatic lyrics.

At select intervals, Perry sings short two-line verses –

You could [send] black bat little more, Papa Demon, you can

Two of these couplets were very hard to make out, then the fourth one is –



You can't do that – You can't do that
You just can't do that – You can't do that.
At the end, he seems to say –
You could send black [pu] little more, Pompa Judas

Ref: Lee Perry, Heavy Manners, [Allmusic](#)

Anon. 1986, Lee Perry, *The Record Roundup*, n. 45, Jan.-Feb. 1986, p. 28

Anon. n.d., Guest Reviews, [Reggae Reviews](#)

Lee Perry, Heavy Manners, French CD, [Discogs](#)

Lee Perry, Public Jesting, [Discogs](#)

Lee "Scratch" Perry, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

Lee "Scratch" Perry, Black Bat, (3:00) [YouTube](#) (◀**COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)

WD-JM3 Jamaica 1972

CAVEMAN SHANK

WD – Reggae – Experimental – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Lee PERRY

Perf: **LEE "SCRATCH" PERRY & THE UPSETTERS**

Lee Perry (vocal)

Prod: Bunny Lee

Prod Co:

Rec. Co: Black Art Studio; Kingston, Jamaica

Time: (A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, & D) 2:40 & (A3 & C) 2:27

A. Jamaican Releases:

1. **EP:** CLOAK AND DAGGER + 3 (as by Upsetters)
Turntable 1420

2. **LP:** CLOAK AND DAGGER
Black Art BE-06005 (Sd 2 – Bd 5)

3. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** HEAVY MANNERS:
REGGAE BEST (1993)
Lagoon 3001 (Tk 7)

4. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** DUB – TRIPTYCH (2004)
BGM 06076-80463-2 (2XCDs) (Disc 1 – Tk 11)

B. British Releases:

1. **LP:** CLOAK AND DAGGER (1973) (Title: Cave Man Shank)
Rhino 8002 (Sd 2 – Bd 3)

2. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** DUB – TRIPTYCH – CLOAK AND DAGGER (2004)
Trojan (Sanctuary) TJBDD 172 (2XCDs) (Disc 1 – Tk 11)

C. French Compilation **CD:** HEAVY MANNERS: REGGAE BEST
Esoldun RB 3001 (Tk 7)

D. Reissue on Italian **LP:** CLOAK AND DAGGER (2004)
Earmark 43031 (Sd 2 – Bd 4)

Notes: Included together here are the original uncut version of this experimental reggae piece and the shorter reissue version. " 'Caveman Shank' stands as a sign post for Perry's eclectic choice of ingredients for his heady brew as it opens with a Native American Chief reading from the Bible in Cherokee and includes the sounds of running water, crashing cars and voices reportedly taken from a sound effects LP: sampling had arrived!" (Anon. 2004) One critic called this "highly experimental weirdness." (Greene n.d.) Yet another critic had this to say – "'Caveman Shank' with Perry in full experimental attitude. Putting together his own vocals, running water, crashing cars sounds and an American Native reading in his own language some lines from the Bible, Perry created one of his first statements about his own musical grown up visions." (Anon. n.d.)

It starts out with a short comment by Perry "...to the ocean at night..." and the sound of a glass being filled with liquid. Then an easy reggae beat is set down and throughout Perry makes short comments, some of which were hard to make out –

I've been hurt – I could get drunk ...
Don't be [trappin' ?] with me, Uh-hun...
Chika waka, chika waka...
Crash it...



and we hear sound effects like screeching tires and a car crash, ice cubes dropping in a glass, car horns, and then – I've been around...
Crush it!...
Chika waka, chika waka...

It ends with the sound of a man on the street saying into a megaphone, "Come on..."

Ref: Anon. 2004, Liner notes for Italian Reissue LP
Anon. n.d., Lee Perry, Cloak & Dagger LP, [Yardie Reggae](#)
Greene, Jo-Ann n.d., Review, [Allmusic](#)

WD-JM6 Jamaica 1977

CAVE MAN SHANK

WD – Reggae – Dancehall – Ska – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: (I. ROY ?)

Perf: **RANKING TREVOR** (vocal)
(with guitar & synthesizer)

Prod. Co: Channel One Records; Kingston, Jamaica

Time: 3:51

1. Original single **45**: Disco Mix (?)

Flip Sd: Version

2. **45**: Well Charge (?)

Flip Sd: Version

3. Reissue on **45**: Hit Bound JJ 3963 (as by I. Roy)

Flip Sd: Revolutionaries – Version

Specs: (Both) 7" 45rpm

Notes: In the fine tradition of great reggae. Starts out with typical reggae rhythm and the lyric – “Caveman, come and give a...” Several verses start with “Caveman, under, under...” then the lyrics became indistinct and not comprehensible to this listener. It ends with – “Caveman, under, under, under, underground.”

There is however considerable confusion as to who is the actual performing artist here. Two 45 releases of this reggae song were issued as by two different artists on two different labels: Ranking Trevor on Well Charge and I. Roy on Hit Bound. Both records sound identical and both have the same running time. The YouTube audio sample shows the photo of Ranking Trevor [aka. Trevor Grant] (see above), so it is safe to assume that the true performing artist here is Ranking Trevor. Regarding the I. Roy [aka. Roy Samuel Reid] single, one Website showed a photo of the Hit Bound 45 where his name, as composer & performer, had been blotted out completely, implying that there was a mistake when Channel One Records (Hit Bound) printed up the labels. The matter seems to have been resolved by Jo-Ann Greene who, in writing about Ranking Trevor, says – “By 1977, the teen star was shaking up the British reggae chart as well, with “Cave Man Skank.” (Greene n.d.)

This song is not related in any way to Lee “Scratch” Perry’s experimental piece of the same title.

Ref: I. Roy/ Revolutionaries, [Irieties](#)
Greene, Jo-Ann n.d., Ranking Trevor, Biography, All Music Guide, [artistdirect](#)
Ranking Trevor – Biography, [Artist Direct](#)
Ranking Trevor, Caveman Shank, (3:51), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)



WD-JM8 United States 1978

DE BAT (FLY IN ME FACE)

WD – Calypso – Humorous – Children's – Vocal

Comp: (Jamaican folk song)

[Song credited to Carly Simon] ([LY-WD3](#))

Rts: C'est Music (ASCAP)

Perf: **Carly SIMON** (vocal)
(with band)

Prod: Arif Mardin

Prod. Co: Elektra/Asylum Records; Los Angeles, CA

Rec. Co: Atlantic Studios; New York, NY

Liner Notes: (Lyrics on inner LP sleeve)

Time: 2:28

1. **LP:** BOYS IN THE TREES

Elektra 6E-128 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 5)

2. **CD:** BOYS IN THE TREES (1990)

Elektra 960 522-2 (Tk 5)

Notes: A truly charming Calypso song of five stanzas performed by Carly Simon in Caribbean English dialect. She tells how a bat came down the chimney and flew in her face when she was preparing a snack.

The chorus is – Fly in me face (4X)

Well, I hope de bat

He don't come out

And fly in me face tonight.

The lyrics fortunately avoid the usual bit about bats "getting into your hair." They do mention the old nonsense that "bat he rat got wings." It also goes a bit overboard saying that a bat's got radar "he can fly through a fan." The final stanza sums it up –

One thing I forgot to tell you

About the human race

Everybody get a little upset

When a bat fly in they face.

While caving in the Jamaican Cockpit (karst) Country, Mike Taylor sang this song, which he had come across while researching the island. The lyrics he provided are slightly different, but all this seems to clearly show that this is a Jamaican folk song, one that Carly Simon adapted, but that she didn't write herself.

This song was used for the "Cavers' Hop" at the Old Timers' Reunion in 1995 and again for the "Bal Spéléo" which followed the banquet at the 2000 National Congress of the Fédération Française de Spéléologie.

(For a similar song about bats in the kitchen see also "The Bat in the Kitchen" – [WD-IE1](#))

Ref: Carly Simon, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

Carly Simon, Boys in the Trees (Album), [Wikipedia](#)

Carly Simon, Boys in the Trees, Stanza 2, Chorus, & St. 3, [Allmusic](#) (◀**AUDIO SAMPLE**)

De Bat (Fly in Me Face), Full Lyrics, [Lyrics Keeper](#)

Taylor, Michael Ray 1996, *Cave Passages*, Vintage Books, N.Y., p. 149



Photo by D. Turberville

WD-JM9 Spain 1999

LA INCREDIBLE TRAVESIA DE PUERTO HURRACO

A CUEVA DE DR. FREUD

WD – Reggae – Ska – Instrumental & Vocal

Comp: Dr. Calypso

Perf: **DR. CALYPSO**

Sergi Monileó & Luis Lòpez (vocals)

Jordi Ramiro (trumpet)

Raül Làzaro (sax)

Enric Grau (trombone)

Jordi Manyà & Fernando Poza (guitars)

Iñaki Alvarez (bass)

Eric Herrera or Alcides Trindade (drums)

Prod. Co: K-Indústria Cultural; Barcelona

Rec. Co: Music & Arts Club, Cologne, Germany

Rec. Date: March 1999

Time: 2:11

A. Spanish **CD:** BARBAROSSAPLATZ

K-Indústria K-020 (Tk 15)

B. German Releases:

1. **LP:** BARBAROSSAPLATZ (2000)

Grover GRO-LP 044

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7)

2. **CD:** BARBAROSSAPLATZ (2000)

Grover GRO-CD 044 (Tk 15)

Notes: Dr. Calypso is a ska band from Barcelona founded in 1988.

The title translates as "The Incredible Voyage from Puerto Hurraco to the Cave of Doctor Freud." Puerto Hurraco is south of Castuera in Extremadura of southern Spain.

A 30-second audio clip had a syncopated tick-tock beat on keyboards that hopped around in a jerky way along with unintelligible voices.

Ref: Dr. Calypso, Barbarossaplatz, Spanish CD, [Discogs](#)

Dr. Calypso, Biography (in Spanish), [Wikipedia](#)

Dr. Calypso, Interview, [Derdude](#)



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