

UB40

RELEASE LONG AWAITED ALBUM “TWENTYFOURSEVEN”

16-06-08

On Monday 16th June 2008, UB40 will release their long awaited and much anticipated 25th album - “TWENTYFOURSEVEN”. The album will be the bands final recording with former member and lead singer ALI CAMPBELL.

“TWENTYFOURSEVEN” represents UB40 at their creative and musical best which takes strength and inspiration from their political and social conscience, arguably producing one of their finest albums to date of original material, cover versions and collaborations. The new album features seventeen tracks with collaborations from reggae stalwart MAXI PRIEST, 1 LOVE & RASA DON from ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, MARVIN PRIEST and HUNTERZ. The album was recorded in Birmingham, London, Sweden, New York & Fayetteville, Georgia, USA. The “TWENTYFOURSEVEN” full track listing is;

1. End Of War
2. Lost And Found
3. Dance Until The Morning Light
4. This Is How It Is
5. Rainbow Nation
6. Here We Go Again
7. I Shot The Sheriff
8. Oh America! (Extended version)
9. Once Around
10. Slow Down
11. I'll Be Back
12. Instant Radical Change Of Perception
13. It's All In The Game
14. I'll Be There
15. Middle Of The Night
16. Securing The Peace
17. The Road

Highlights of the album include; “Lost And Found” a soulful duet between Ali Campbell and Astro, taken from the bands recent musical “Promises & Lies” a song about self realisation, from lonely desperation to redemption. “Dance Until The Morning Light” (the double a-sided single) features a groovy sample loop taken from Desmond Dekker and the Aces’ groundbreaking 1968 hit 'Israelites' featuring Maxi Priest on vocals with rapper 'Truth'. “Rainbow Nation” a poignant and haunting song that the band wrote 30 years on as a follow up to the original song 'Tyler' taken from UB40's first album 'Signing Off'. The song is about Gary Tyler, a black Southern Louisiana prisoner, incarcerated 35 years ago for a crime he didn't commit. Today after numerous appeals he remains on Death Row as one of the world's longest serving prisoners. “I'll Be Back”, a cover of the BEATLES classic from the album 'A Hard Days Night' originally sang by John Lennon and performed this time by UB40's Robin Campbell. “End Of War” An anti war song, the title of which was taken and inspired by President John F Kennedy's September 25th speech in 1961 to the UN General Assembly.

The title says it all ' Mankind must put an end to war or war will end mankind'. A lyric that talks about the futility of war, its endless repetition, despite the experience of our past mistakes. “**I Shot The Sheriff**” a collaboration between UB40 and Maxi Priest paying homage to Marley’s timeless classic.

UB40 are without doubt the world’s biggest, most popular, well loved reggae band and one of the UK’s finest musical exports. Their combined single and album sales are in excess of **70 million** with a staggering **41 Top 40 singles!** A list of UB40’s best-known songs reads like a litany of alternative national anthems: “*One In Ten*”, “*King*”, “*Tyler*”, “*Many Rivers To Cross*”, “*Cherry Oh Baby*”, “*If It Happens Again*”, “*I Got You Babe*”, “*Don’t Break My Heart*”, “*Rat In Mi Kitchen*”, “*Homely Girl*”, “*Kingston Town*”, “*Higher Ground*”, “*Red Red Wine*” “*Can’t Help Falling In Love*.”

Their phenomenal success has earned them a rightful place alongside such great British artists as the **BEATLES**, the **ROLLING STONES**, **LED ZEPPELIN** and **U2**. They’ve had Number 1 smash hits in virtually every chart on the planet, including the notoriously hard-to-crack American market, a feat to which even British superstars Robbie Williams and Oasis have yet to conquer. **UB40’s** celebrity following includes the likes of **GWEN STEFANI**, **SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY** and **KEITH ALLEN**, while Hollywood A list big hitters **KIEFER SUTHERLAND** and **SHARON STONE** are fully-paid-up members of the UB40 fan-club. Their musical collaborations over the past three decades have included such esteemed company as the late **Robert Palmer**, **Chrissie Hynde**, **Afrika Bambaataa**, **808 State**, **The Mighty Diamonds**, **Freddie McGregor**, **John Holt**, **Toots Hibbert**, **Gregory Isaacs**, **Max Romeo**, and **Beenie Man** to name but a few

Commenting on the new album band member **James Brown** said; “*We are really pleased with the new album, it’s a good reflection of what UB40 are all about and probably one of our best albums. There are some songs which are politically influenced, such as **Rainbow Nation**, highlighting the plight and injustice of Gary Tyler, a black southern Louisiana prisoner, who was incarcerated for a crime he didn’t commit. Today, thirty five years later, he is the longest serving prisoner on Death Row. **The Road** is a mythical road as a means of escape from the injustices of the world but the safe road doesn’t exist, every road is blocked by something else, another horror. The road from Darfur runs red with denial, waterless mile after waterless mile. The album also features more upbeat and up-tempo tracks such as **This Is How It Is** - a song about the inevitability of life; we come into this world alone and leave it the same way...alone! It’s a happy song about getting old and accepting the inevitable.” “**Dance Until The Morning Light**” is just one of those songs that lifts your spirit, makes you smile and you cant help but dance to this song”*

The band have also announced that they will be collaborating with **MAXI PRIEST** and **DUNCAN CAMPBELL**, brother of Robin and Ali, both on further recorded material and future live concerts this year. The band are also keeping tight lipped about future collaborations with other artists.

Commenting on the collaborations **Brian Travers** said; “*UB40 have had a long tradition of working and collaborating with various artists over the years, Maxi Priest came out on tour with us last year and after his performance of “I Shot The Sheriff” it was a natural and logical progression to work together, Maxi has worked on two tracks for the new album with us. Duncan who is the third Campbell brother, also has a gifted voice like his two brothers. He came into the studio one day and started singing over some tracks with Robin and we were just struck by his voice, the relationship just evolved very naturally.*”

UB40’s new album “**TWENTYFOURSEVEN**” will be released on the 16-06-08

For further press information on UB40

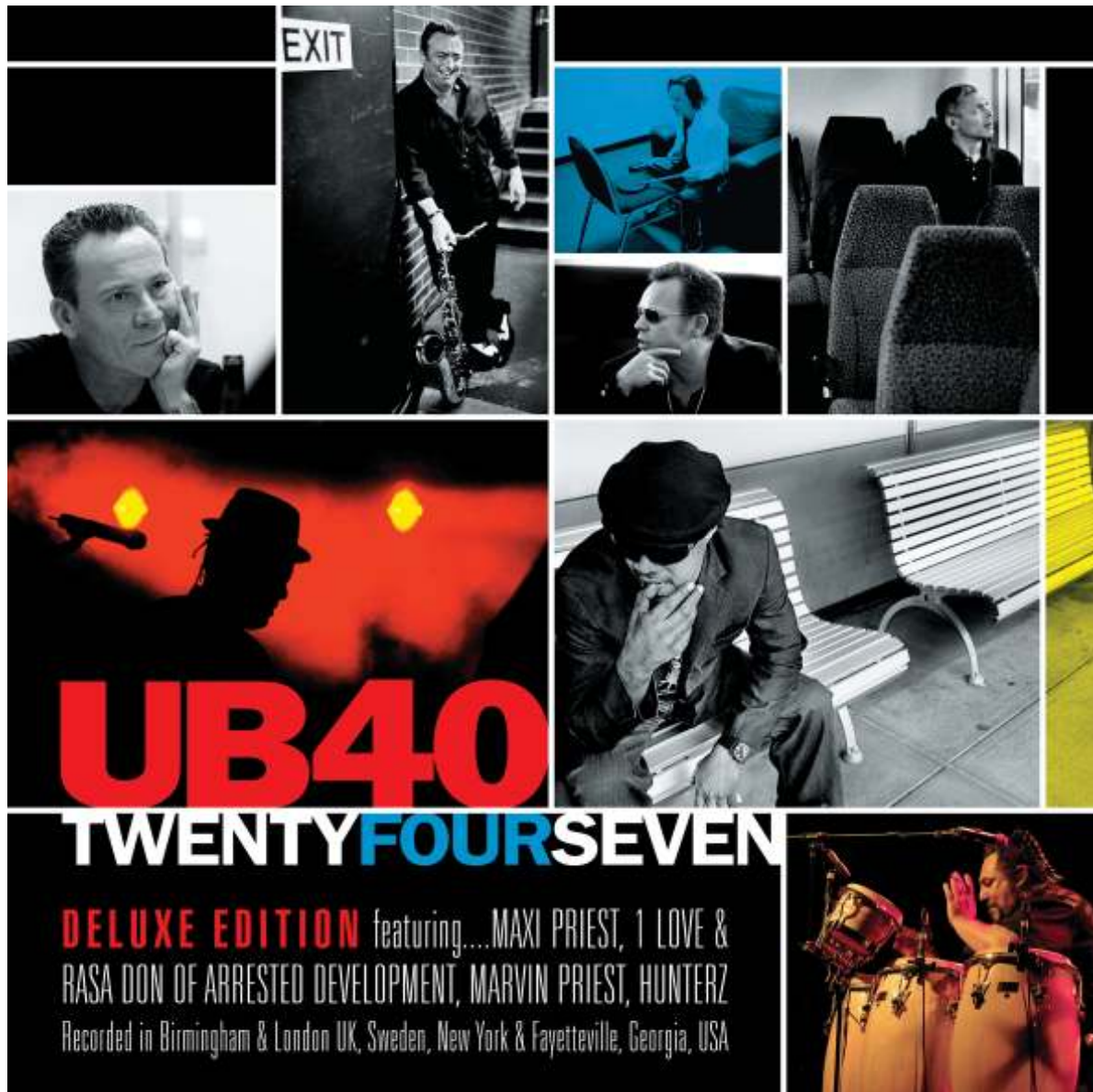
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End Of War - Lost And Found - Dance Until The Morning Light - This Is How It Is - Rainbow Nation - Here We Go Again - I Shot The Sheriff - Oh America! (Extended Version) - Once Around - Slow Down - I'll Be Back - Instant Radical Change Of Perception - It's All In The Game - I'll Be There - Middle Of The Night - Securing The Peace - The Road

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“TWENTYFOURSEVEN” Tracklisting

1) END OF WAR

An anti war song, the title of which was taken and inspired by President John F Kennedy's September 25th speech in 1961 to the UN General Assembly. The title says it all 'Mankind must put an end to war or war will end mankind'. A lyric that talks about the futility of war, its endless repetition despite the experience of our past mistakes.

2) LOST AND FOUND

A soulful duet (sung and MC'd by Ali and Astro) taken from UB40's stage musical 'Promises & Lies' a song about self realisation, from lonely desperation to redemption; 'I was lost - now I'm found'.

3) DANCE UNTIL THE MORNING LIGHT

A wonderful record that raises the spirits makes you smile and you can't help but dance to this tune. It's collaboration between UB40 & Maxi Priest, based around a sample loop taken from Desmond Dekker and the Aces groundbreaking 1968 hit 'Israelites', reworked with new lyrics and an ensemble vocal performance from UB40 supporting Maxi's lead vocal performance and featuring rapper 'Truth'

4) THIS IS HOW IT IS

A song about the inevitability of life; we come into this world alone and leave it the same way...alone! It's a happy song about getting old and accepting the inevitable.

5) RAINBOW NATION

Thirty years after the original song 'Tyler' from UB40's first album 'Signing Off', Rainbow Nation was conceived as a haunting update that Gary Tyler, a black Southern Louisiana prisoner, remains incarcerated 35 years on for a crime he didn't commit. A prisoner on Death Row, he is one of the longest serving prisoners in the world. Gary was wrongly convicted on flawed evidence and amidst a cover up. The song resolves into an extended dub mix with a reprise of the original saxophone riff that opened the original song about Gary 'Tyler'.

6) HERE WE GO AGAIN

Astro leads the way with this sweet melodic reggae performance that has a sting in its tail. Up tempo with a stepping bass line, Astro's vocal ad-libs weave perfectly against the counter melody hooks of the horn section.

7) I SHOT THE SHERIFF

A timeless Bob Marley & The Wailers classic record reworked by UB40, Maxi Priest and his band after performing it as a tribute to Marley every night on their world tour. What started as a mass jam on stage turned into a guaranteed crowd pleaser from its first performance, a worthy homage to the late great Bob Marley.

8) OH AMERICA!

A condemnation of America's foreign policy on Iraq and Afghanistan, performed by bass player Earl Falconer over a 'blue beat' dub backing. Vocal styles vary from Earl's main lead into his dancehall style MC section, joined by ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT'S rappers 1 LOVE and RASA DON who give us an American perspective on the lyric, before another gear change of vocal into a 'singjay' section, which is as up-tempo and relentless as its subject matter.

9) ONCE AROUND

The second song taken from UB40's stage musical, "Promises & Lies". A song declaring undying love for another, using the simile of a fairground Ferris wheel as an interpretation of life's journey, all heard through a dreamlike and mysterious soundscape.

10) SLOW DOWN

UB40 and Marvin Priest (son of Maxi), perform a beautiful soulful melody, set to a dramatic reggae backing track, punctuated by horn section, juxtaposing melody and hard rhythm. The lyric tells the story of a man's perspective as his relationship breaks up, a contemporary lover's rock reggae piece.

11) I'LL BE BACK...

A cover of the BEATLES classic from the album 'A Hard Days Night' originally sung by John Lennon and performed this time by UB40's Robin Campbell. The track has big harmony backing vocals over a stepping, drum and rhythm guitar, rocking up a heavy reggae bassline, while the lead guitar plays a rhythm melody line along with the bass and a big harmony horn section plays the rhythm and lead lines.

12) INSTANT RADICAL CHANGE OF PERCEPTION

A song about changing direction, changing your mind about what you thought was right, before it's too late. Not to take everything said by the ruling classes as "gospel" or even "intelligent." Use your own sense of right and wrong and don't fear of changing your mind - just as the world changes, we must go with it and re-address our beliefs.

13) IT'S ALL IN THE GAME

The only number one to have ever been written by a US Vice President Charles Gates Dawes who served as V.P. under Calvin Coolidge in 1925, he was also a Nobel Prize winner in 1925. UB40's version is sung by Duncan Campbell, Robin's younger brother and a new addition to UB40's lineup. A slow tempo reggae number played with a one drop drum beat washed over by delicate string arrangements supporting the harmony backing vocals.

14) I'LL BE THERE

A classic reggae mid tempo love song about always being there for the one you love. Simple and very effective

15) MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

A song accompanied by the Asian singer Hunterz adding classical Indian vocal motifs and percussion to UB40's reggae. The lyric warns of 'home land security measures', Governments fears of terrorism, heavily armed police squads arresting people in their homes after dark, the fear felt by the citizens. Tabla drums play a classic Indian rhythm on top of another mid tempo Dub reggae track alongside synthesizer sounds designed specifically for a chilling effect to the subject matter.

16) SECURING THE PEACE

Astro's vocal delivers a lyric that poses the question of conflicting argument and opposite reasoning when it comes to war 'Securing the peace, they're preparing for war!

17) THE ROAD

Inspired by Hollywood actor Don Cheadle's campaign for Darfur and performed by UB40's percussionist Norman Hassan, the song uses the idea of a mythical road as a means of escape from the injustices of the world, but the safe road doesn't exist, every road is blocked by something else, another horror. "The road from Darfur runs red with denial, waterless mile after waterless mile" all sung over a crisp reggae rhythm Dub backing.