

# NEW TIMES



## Caribbean Carnivale

**Marijah and the Reggae  
Allstars bring roots  
rock to Lake Worth**

Purveyors of reggae culture are all over the world. The genre may have gotten its start in the Caribbean, but these days, you're just as likely to hear the one-drop sound of reggae in Newark as you are on the island of Jamaica. Just ask local singer **Marijah**, an Italian-American reggae artist from New Jersey who brings a unique style of foundation reggae to the stage every time she and her band perform. She's playing the Ninth Annual Reggae Fest/Caribbean Carnivale this weekend and singing songs from her newest album, *Mystic Angel*. Since she's one of the few women picked to play the festival, we thought we'd try to pick her brain about the future of reggae and the lack of feminine energy within the genre.

**Outtakes:** *As a female artist, what peeves you about the reggae industry?*

**Marijah:** I don't feel like women get the recognition that we deserve. And some of the artists need to give women more respect in reggae as well. It's as if reggae is only a man's world. There used to be more female artists, but lately it's getting worse.

*What can be done about that?*

Radio DJs should play more women artists. They need to seek out more women to perform at reggae shows as well. When you see women perform reggae, quite often it's powerful, but women need more exposure. There's an imbalance on the Earth between the masculine and the feminine, and it carries over into reggae as well. If there were more women artists, there would be more harmony.

*Is reggae in general headed in the wrong direction?*

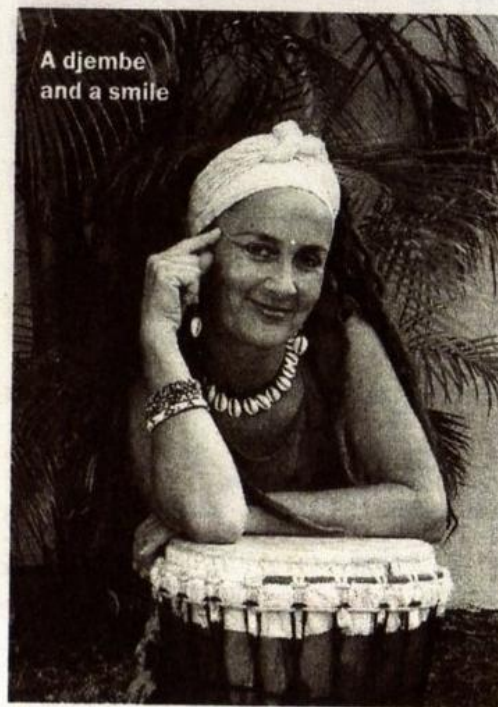
There are two different crowds in reggae. There's the conscious crowd and the dancehall "bling bling" crowd. Most dancehall songs aren't talking about anything on a deep level — it's all about the booty shaking. All the Sean Paul stuff and what's on the radio. And people don't always want to see booties and BET, but that's what's thrown at them. So it's hard to say. Roots music isn't about bling bling, it's about truth and love.

*Did you grow up among a lot of reggae culture? Where does that come from?*

I'm from Newark. I lived in Jamaica off

and on for five years, though. I became a part of the whole Jamaican lifestyle. I was hustling like everyone else. I had a singing group. Shoot, nobody was sending me MoneyGram. — **Jonathan Cunningham**

**Marijah and the Reggae Allstars perform at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, as part of the Ninth Annual Reggae Fest/Caribbean Carnivale. All performances are at Bryant Park, 7 N. Dixie Hwy., Lake Worth. Tickets cost \$5. Call 561-582-4401, or visit [www.lwchamber.com/reggaefest](http://www.lwchamber.com/reggaefest).**



A djembe  
and a smile