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# GREATEST REGGAE ARTIST SINCE BOB MARLEY?

**D**estiny Blackwood is a Jamaican Reggae artist who is a female hero and inspiration. Her life wasn't always a fairytale but her remarkable talent led her to stardom.

Blackwood disclosed some exciting information that she will be releasing her new album 'Breeze' in May 2023. She has announced that 60% of the money she makes from her album will be invested into her own charity organization called 'Hope To Make Home Happy'. This charity is about improving conditions of slums in Jamaica. She said she wants to do her own charity for this reason because she understands the struggles of the people who live in these conditions. She also announced that she wouldn't simply give her money to any charity as she does not feel assured enough to know her money will end up going to these places. 'If I didn't have my fans to make this life possible, who knows where I would be right now, so it's my chance to give back. This is an opportunity for me to help those who live in fear about not having enough to eat or having to be a criminal to get by. But mostly to give those people a chance to escape, become educated and be free to discover their talent too. I would have never been able to exploit my own talents if I was still living in that slum.' - Destiny Blackwood.

Destiny Blackwood was born in 2000 in Kingston, Jamaica. She grew up in one of the roughest slums in the world called Tivoli Gardens and this district has one of the worst reputations in Jamaica as the center for drug trafficking, in which her father was deeply invested.

Sadly her father was shot and killed when she was 2 years old. This led to no financial support - forcing her mother to have to leave Destiny alone whilst she went to find a job. After no luck her mother turned to prostitution and resulted in falling into a depression and heavily abusing drugs. When Destiny was four years old her uncle who she had never met before came over from the UK for a 'surprise visit'. When he saw the condition his sister and Destiny were living in he agreed with his sister that he would take Destiny to come live with him in Manchester and when he had enough

money his sister would join them both too. Unfortunately her mother never tried to reach out after they left Jamaica and still now Destiny has no idea if her mother is even alive.

Her uncle saw Destiny's mind blowing natural talent for her rhythm and vocals, at age 6 she would come up with her own lyrics on the spot which had very powerful and deeply rooted meanings beyond her years. Her uncle was so astounded by her talent that he sold his TV, couch, etc... and turned his living room into a studio where he began producing music for her. Destiny says her uncle told her, 'He would have sold all of his shoes and rather walk barefoot through Manchester than to fail to grant me this opportunity.' When Destiny was 9 years old a video her and her uncle posted from the year before randomly blew up. They caught attention of the local press in Manchester and gained 500,000 viewers within a month.

By the time Destiny was 14 years old she learnt how to do all the producing for herself as well as learning how to play the bass, drums, guitar, ukulele, keyboard, and trumpet, although she still preferred to play with her uncle as she explains, 'it was how me and my uncle learnt how to connect, at first I was so shy and confused about everything. But his constant goofiness and positive energy really radiated onto me and I looked up to him so much. My uncle was the best thing that had come into my life so the fact he loved reggae made me love reggae because it would remind me of him. My favourite thing to do was jam out with him, because I loved spending time with him.' At 15 her uncle bought her a loop pedal which she used to layer her instruments making her able to be her own band. Finally at 17 she was offered a music contract from a famous music producer called Angie Dupez. Ever since, Destiny's recognition has risen to the level of the Marley brothers and Peter Tosh whom she has done collaborations with.

People describe her as one of the most talented and inspirational reggae artists ever. Not just from her amazing talents and words but by becoming the most famous woman reggae artist who also began from one of the toughest childhoods.



