

CRUCIAL VIBES

'First Take'

Norris Man - breaking sound barriers

By Karyl Walker

Kingston, Jamaica - His style is inimitable. There is none in the entire reggae genre that can deliver the stuff the way he does it. Norris Man, the reggae chanter has been breaking barriers with his cutting edge, uncompromising style. He has dared to do something different and like some persons who are gifted with foresight, the move has begun to pay off.

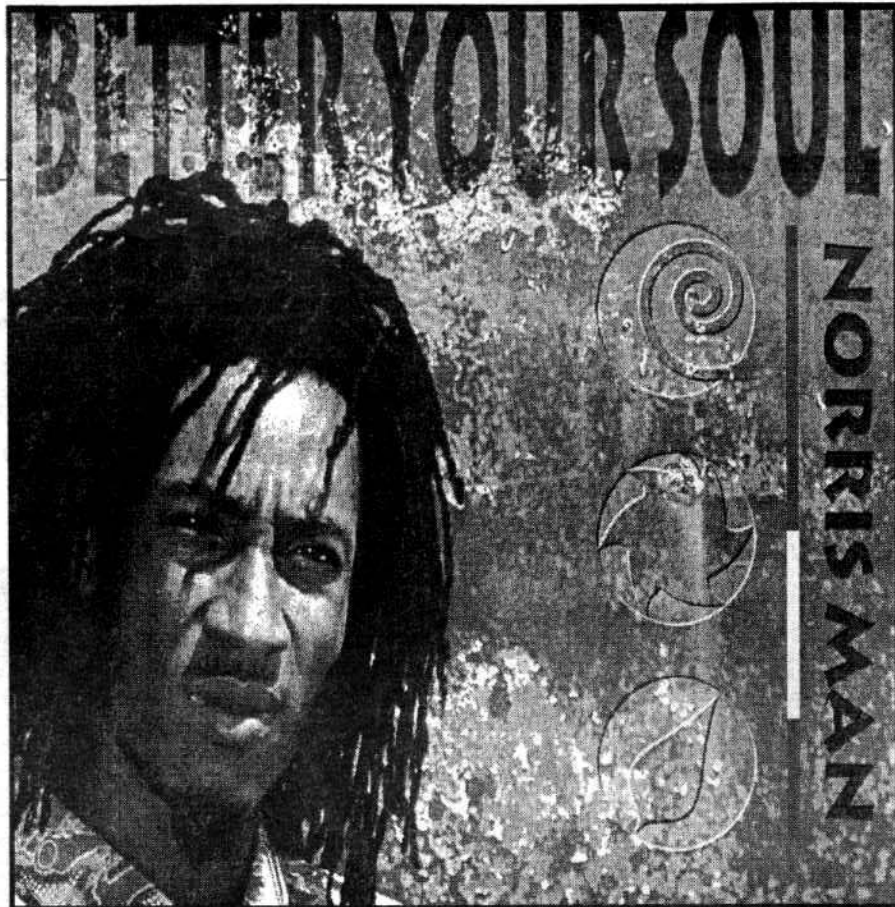
His introduction to the ears of music lovers came in the form of the Kings of Kings produced album Persistence, which yielded the hit song of the same name. His second album, Better Your Soul, is another step in the unorthodox direction.

The thing about Norris Man that makes him different is his penchant for new sounds and vocal styles. Better Your Soul is produced by Jah Scout Records and has been doing reasonably well according to Colin McGregor, head of the California based Jah Scout Records. "Norris Man is an artiste that has demonstrated his willingness to open his mind towards music. As such we are pleased in our association with this talented artiste. Better Your Soul has been experiencing steady sales and we are pleased with the response from the international reggae

market." McGregor commented.

Norris Man has just returned from a 6-week, 30-gig tour of the United States and did an effective job of promoting his new material. He was a hit with audiences in most cities that he played and the way they lapped his cultural message was really heart-warming to the artiste. "I will always treasure the love that I feel from my audience and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have supported me by listening to my music and buying my CD. Your support gives me the drive to keep on doing Jah work."

Presently, Norris Man has no less than 7 songs on the top 20 charts in the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where he is considered to be an icon. He has visited various Caribbean countries, Africa, Switzerland and North America and reports are that his music is a hit in Brazil and other countries on the South American mainland. Currently underway are negotiations for the reggae practitioner to headline a tour of Europe this summer where his arrival is being eagerly awaited. In Japan he has also built up a following among reggae lovers in that country and for now it seems his career is about to



move on to higher ground. This would be well deserved of an artiste that has stood out among his peers because he dared to do different. That trait could well be the stepping-stone to greatness. It is always good for a music form when someone breaks a monotonous trend and changes the scheme of things. It breathes new life into the music.

Norris Man, controversial, opinionated,

zealous and unusual continues to set its own pace seemingly oblivious of what others are doing.

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