53 Years of Reggae Excellence

Third World is one of the longest-lived Reggae bands of all time, and one of Jamaica's most consistently popular crossover acts among international audiences. Mixing in elements of R&B, funk, pop, and rock and, later on, dancehall and rap, **Third World's** style has been described as "reggae-fusion." Singer **Bunny Rugs** described the band's sound: *"Strictly a reggae band, no. Definitely a reggae band, yes."* Guitarist **Stephen "Cat" Coore, OD** said of their music: *"The hybrid of various types of music is a natural thing because, by growing up in Jamaica, we know the direct roots of reggae and ska. At the same time, we live in a country where you get to hear Chuck Berry, Fats Domino and all the R&B artists."* Bassist **Richard Daley** said, *"We took roots reggae music and put branches on top of it."*

Third World in 2026 brings together an exceptional collection of musicians: foundation member and honorary bassist **Richard Daley**, who has been part of the band's DNA since 1973; **Tony "Ruption" Williams**, the heartbeat of Third World for the past 29 years, driving the band with his masterful command of the drums & djembe; keyboardists and vocalists **Norris "Noriega" Webb** and **Maurice Gregory**, adding rich layers of harmony; the commanding lead vocals of **AJ Brown**; the groove-anchoring bass of **Richie Barr**; and guitarist **Richard "Wiggz" Walters**, honoring the legacy of the legendary **Stephen "Cat" Coore**. Together they bring decades of combined excellence to every performance.

Together, this extraordinary ensemble carries forward a tradition of musical excellence that has earned Third World 9 **Grammy** nominations, a 1986 **United Nations Peace Medal**, the Keys to multiple American cities, and on Jamaican Independence Day 2025, the **Jamaican Music Icon Award** — presented by Prime Minister Andrew Holness before more than 35,000 people at the Grand Gala. **Rolling Stone** named founding guitarist Stephen "Cat" Coore #92 on their list of the 200 Greatest Guitarists of all time.

Third World are also proud **"Goodwill Ambassadors"** for the **Issa Trust Foundation**, supporting pediatric care in rural Jamaica, and **"Oceans Ambassadors"** for the **Alligator Head Foundation**'s Clean Ocean initiatives in Portland, Jamaica.

A Legacy Five Decades in the Making

Third World was founded in Kingston in 1973 by guitarist/cellist **Stephen "Cat" Coore**, keyboardist **Michael "Ibo" Cooper**, and bassist **Richard Daley**, growing out of Jamaica's vibrant club and hotel scene as one of the few fully self-contained bands on the island. Percussionist **Irvin "Carrot" Jarrett** joined in 1974, and in 1975 the band made a bold leap — traveling to England with no confirmed bookings — and landed a deal with **Chris Blackwell**'s Island Records, going out as the opening act for **Bob Marley & the Wailers'** 1975 World Tour.

Their self-titled debut followed in 1976. Then came **96° in the Shade** (1977), introducing lead singer **William "Bunny Rugs" Clarke** and **William Stewart** on drums, becoming a massive critical hit in the UK and Europe. The commercial breakthrough arrived with **Journey to Addis**

(1978) and a funky reggae cover of the **O'Jays' "Now That We've Found Love,"** which cracked the American R&B Top Ten and the British pop Top Ten, making Third World international stars. **"Cool Meditation"** followed into the UK Top 20.

The hits continued: **"Dancing on the Floor (Hooked on Love)"** went UK Top 10 in 1981, and that same year **Stevie Wonder** joined them onstage at **Reggae Sunsplash**, then wrote and produced two tracks for **You've Got the Power (1982),** including the near-R&B Top 20 smash **"Try Jah Love."** Through the '80s, Grammy-nominated **Hold On to Love (1987)**, produced with legendary songwriters Gamble and Huff, deepened their legacy. Their 1989 Mercury debut **Serious Business** introduced multi-instrumentalist **Rupert "Gypsy" Bent III** to the line up and produced **"Forbidden Love"** — one of the first commercially successful fusions of reggae and rap — reaching the R&B Top 20.

Further **Grammy** nominations followed with **Generation Coming (1999), Ain't Givin' Up (2003), Black, Gold & Green (2005), Patriots (2011)** and the Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley-produced **More Work to Be Done (2019)** , featuring **Tessanne Chin, Chronixx, Tarrus Riley, Busy Signal** and **Damian Marley** himself.

After 53 years, through every evolution and every era, Third World remains exactly what it has always been: one of Jamaica's greatest gifts to the world.