

Memories from Wally Badarou – Musician

NIGHT NURSE ALBUM

My involvement was one of those iconic fully un-planned involvements I have experienced throughout my trajectory. Coming back from Europe one night, I had just landed in Nassau, Bahamas, and my suitcase was still unpacked. I decided to go down to the (Compass Point) studio nearby, just to say hello and let the staff know of my return. Producer-engineer Godwin Logie just stepped out of one of the control rooms, recognising my voice and went 'Hey Prophet!' - that was my nickname - 'Prophet, so glad you're here!' Please come over and add your magic touch to this!' By the time I was struggling to let him understand I was too jet-lagged and much too tired to perform, he already had the Prophet 5 synthesizer set up and warmed up. I just could not refuse. The understanding was I was going to play on just one song.

RECORDING

Back then, I knew nothing of either Gregory Isaacs or the Roots Radics. All I knew was I really liked what I was hearing in the studio even before I added anything to the tape. And as I was laying down a couple tracks on "Night Nurse", Godwin already had a second song ready, then a third, then a fourth ... Before we knew it, we had the whole of the album overdubbed in less than two hours, adding one or two tracks at the most to each song.

As a matter of fact, the album was already in the mixing stage when Godwin got me involved, so there were very few tracks left for ultimate overdubs anyway, and I had no desire nor strength to spend more time than needed. So all my contributions were quickly improvised right on the spot, with not much looking back nor fixing.

FIRST MEETING

I met Gregory months later, still in Nassau, just crossing each other in the studio's corridors one day. I believe the album was already a hit back then. We expressed huge mutual respect, for then I had realised who he was, and the magnitude of his fan base, none of which I had the faintest idea when I worked on that album.

LEGACY

Probably one of the very few I'm really proud I had contributed to, with just one album, one that ended up reaching legendary status, one that never stopped growing in dictating my own playlist, one I can still listen to, from end to end tirelessly, and a good lesson as to how to remain concise and focused in one's work, and yet let it go nevertheless, all at the same time.