



Entertainment News

[HOME](#)

Articles



Kenyatta Hill Keeps 'Culture' Alive Article written by Lady Cham

Since 1972 the group 'Culture' led by Joseph Hill preached about love, unity, tolerance, social injustice, politricks and wars. The music was embraced by millions of cultural reggae lovers world wide. So when Joseph Hill passed away suddenly on August 19th, 2006 whilst on tour in Germany, Culture fans, as well as the rest of the group, were at a loss and a huge cry was heard; "What happens next? There is no Culture without Joseph!" Although Joseph's cousin Alfred Walker joined Culture in 1976 and Telford Nelson in 1999, the two could not replace Joseph as lead and everyone in the band turned to Joseph's son Kenyatta, who had been the engineer for Culture for many years, and claimed Kenyatta as the rightful person to take over Joseph's position. Kenyatta told West Indian Times that he had never thought about performing but he knew that it was important to complete the European Tour as a tribute to his father. Kenyatta proved to be a natural, charismatic performer and has been carrying the torch for Culture ever since.



Here in Virginia Beach where I recently saw Kenyatta perform, I was unprepared for the sound of Joseph that emanated from Kenyatta. At one point I turned my back on the group and as Kenyatta sang, it was Joseph I was hearing and the hairs rose on the nape of my neck, it brought me to tears to hear that wonderful sound, a sound I thought had gone. To those that I heard remarking that Kenyatta sounded too much like his father and he must have been trying hard to sound like Joseph, I don't believe that is true. Yes, Kenyatta has been influenced by Joseph, after all Kenyatta spent his entire life around his father as Joseph traveled but more than that, they have the same genetic properties and their vocals whether it be speech or song sound very very similar, and like many of our Reggae greats the talent of the father has been passed down to the son.



So, for 'Culture' lovers around the world don't lose faith, Culture is alive and well and if you get the chance to take in a show, please don't pass it by! Also, Kenyatta's new album entitled '**Pass The Torch**' is now out on Tafari Records and is a must for all 'Culture' lovers. There are tracks featuring Kenyatta on lead vocals and the others are tracks recorded and never released which feature Joseph on lead. On the album be prepared for the track entitled "Daddy" which is Kenyatta's first solo effort, a heart wrenching single which asks 'Daddy why did you go?' the track is backed by master musicians, including Sly Dunbar and Dean Fraser and will blow you away!

For more on Kenyatta: <http://www.myspace.com/kenyattahill>