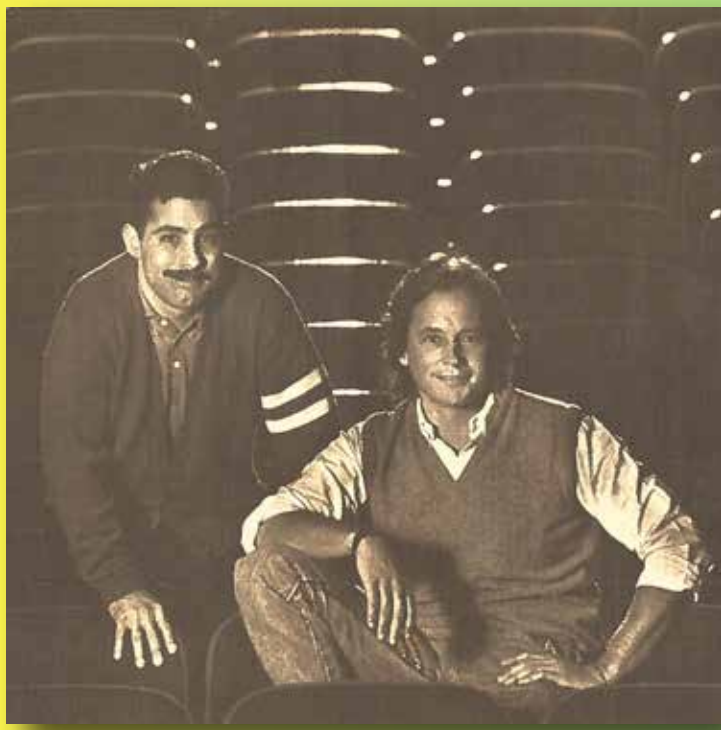


# The Story of Reggae in Ithaca, NY



Emanating from Jamaica in the years following its independence from the colonial subjugation from England in 1962, an abandoned slave plantation electrified its folk music and church hymnals to begin the story that is reggae music.



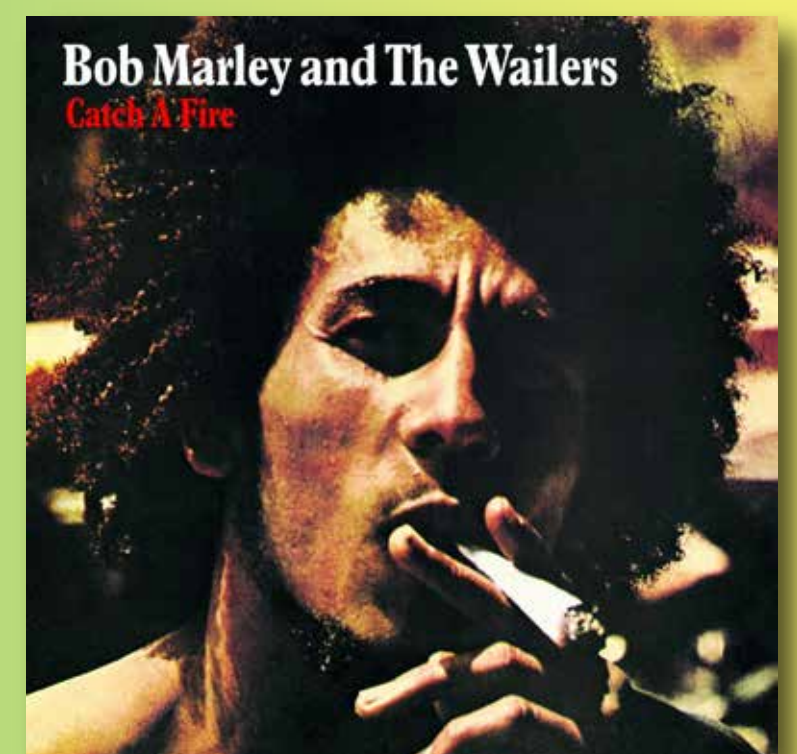


Gary Bucci (left) and John Peterson.

The Haunt was opened by Bob Shannon and Brian Dewart on Halloween in 1969 and in 1973 Peterson becomes a part owner.



1972 - *The Harder They Come* starring Jimmy Cliff is released putting reggae on the international stage.



1973 - Bob Marley and the Wailers release *Catch A Fire*, their debut album on Island Records with Chris Blackwell, ultimately regarded as one of the top reggae albums of all time. The band supports the album with a tour through the UK and United States that puts them, and reggae, on the international stage.

# 1970's



1977 - Peterson sees Rochester-based reggae band Bahama Mama, pictured above, (who would become The Majestics and tour with Jamaican legends Peter Tosh, Burning Spear and Lee Perry) at The Rongovian Embassy in Trumansburg, NY and immediately books them to play The Haunt making them possibly the first reggae act to play Ithaca.

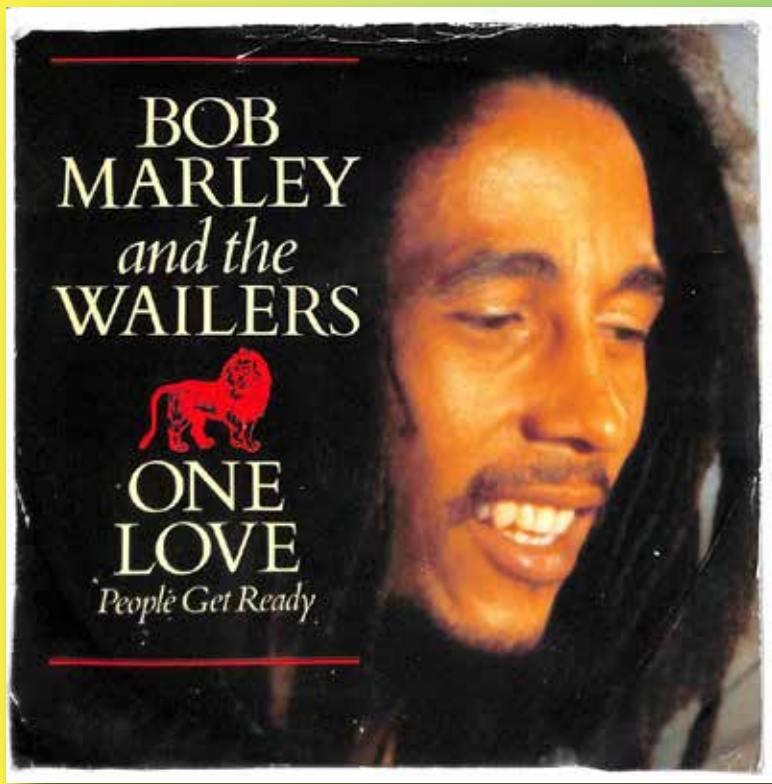


1979 - Ithaca College radio station WICB starts their weekly "Reggae Explosions" program which is still airs each Thursday from 10 AM to Noon.



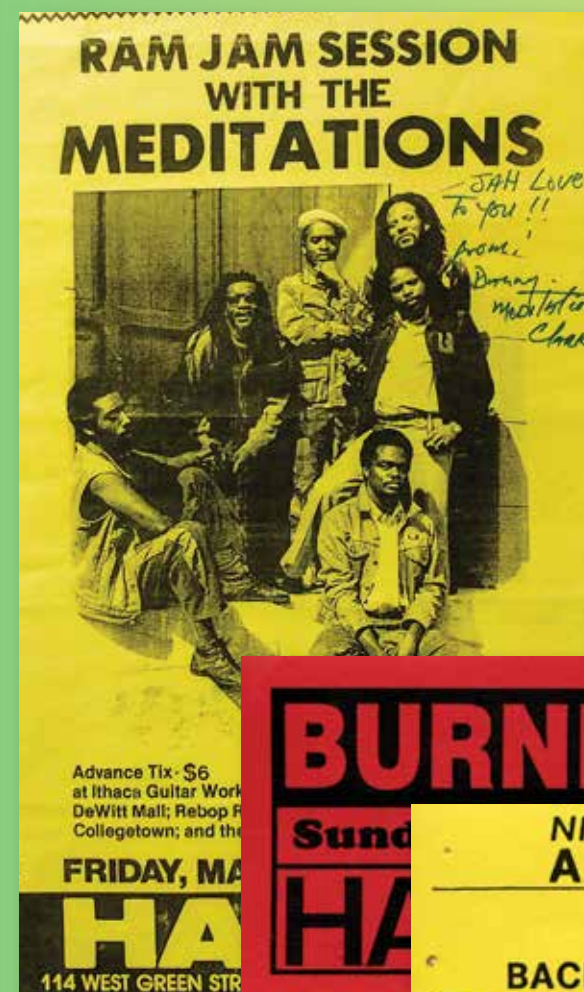
Live music begins to flourish at The Haunt as Peterson focuses on developing the market by broadening the range of music brought through the club. Local bands like Boffalongo and Orleans help to drive the market as they begin to become popular while guys like John Mooney and Duke Robilard begin to spark the blues scene and Peterson starts to attract international reggae acts.





1983- 12 year old Kevin Kinsella, while living in Ireland and riding in a car with his father, hears "One Love / People Get Ready" off the album Legend by Bob Marley and is blown away. He returns to Ithaca, NY to live with his mother and immediately dives

deep into the library studying everything he can find about reggae and rastafarianism.



1984- Upon returning to Ithaca, Kinsella begins to see international reggae legends at The Haunt as Peterson brings through acts like The Meditations, The Gladiators, Burning Spear, Culture, The Itals and more to packed out shows in the 150 capacity space that was usually much more attended than that.

Photos courtesy of DJ aRt-V



# 1980's

## Grammy winner Johnson fills the Haunt with blues

*Reviewer: Jeremy Warbin*  
Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson and his Magic Rockers took The Haunt by storm Monday night, providing a textbook performance on that American art form known as rhythm and blues. Johnson, best known for his eight years with the legendary Muddy Waters, and more recently as winner of the Grammy award for the best traditional blues album of 1984, proved himself a true showman, gyrating, playing and screaming himself through a wealth of material that spanned every conceivable variation on the blues. It is interesting to note that Johnson's Grammy is for the year 1984, for his music is the very opposite of the scenario depicted in the infamous Orwellian vision of that same year. Johnson's performance is, in

1985-Golden years as The Haunt is considered the best place to see blues and reggae in all of upstate New York. Touring bands begin to return to The Haunt on their tours due to the warm

reception often received from the crowd that Peterson had groomed to enjoy a diverse range of music.

## Governor signs bill raising drinking age to 21 on Dec. 1

Courtesy of The Ithaca Journal, June 8, 1985.

1985 - the drinking age increases to 21 from 18 making it more challenging to get enough people into the room to earn the revenue needed through bar sales thus increasing Peterson's focus and creativity on bringing quality touring acts through The Haunt.



1986- Together with Ithaca High School classmate Josh Neuman on the bass, Kevin Kinsella forms The Tribulations in 1986. The band plays gigs around Ithaca before opening up for Jamaican international legends Toots & the Maytals and beginning to break out on the national scene.



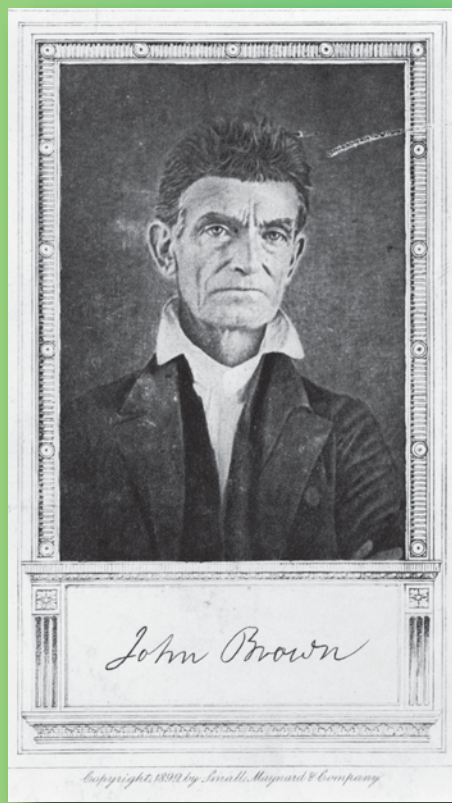
## The Tribulations win big

Locally grown reggae band, **The Tribulations**, won a national competition sponsored by Yamaha.



**1992-** Kinsella and the Tribulations win the Yamaha Soundcheck Competition out of 4,000 bands from around the world garnering international publicity, a performance in Los Angeles and tour of Japan.

Courtesy of *The Ithaca Journal*, September 17, 1992



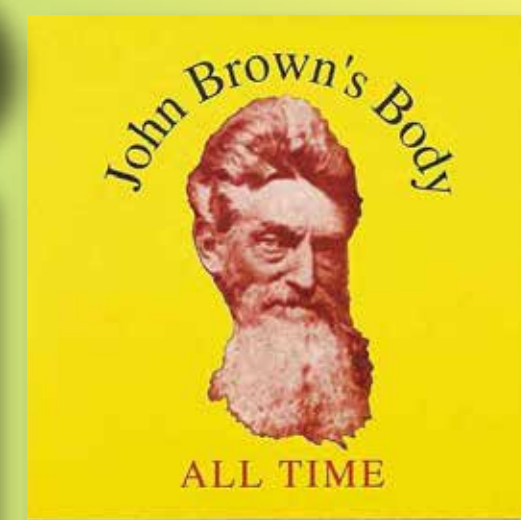
Abolitionist, John Brown c. 1899. Photograph courtesy of The Library of Congress. <https://ccn.loc.gov/93500813>

**1995 -** After taking a break for the birth of his daughter, Kinsella begins an open jam (Finger Clown) which ultimately becomes **John Brown's Body** that debuts at Ithaca Festival.



**I-TOWN**

**RECORDS**



**1996 -** John Brown's Body releases debut album *All Time* on the groundbreaking Ithaca-based co-operative record label, **I-Town Records** founded by Kevin Kinsella. The band subsequently releases *Among Them* which gets picked up by internationally-renowned Shanachie Records and then releases *This Day and Spirits All Around Us* all to critical acclaim.

# 1990's

## Ithaca's Haunt is on the move



Courtesy of *The Ithaca Journal*.

**1997 -** The Haunt sells to new owner Jay Harmon and moves from Green Street to its current location on Willow Ave.

EPIPHANY ARTISTS PRESENTS THE FIFTH ANNUAL  
**SIERRA NEVADA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
 JUNE 19, 20, 21, 1998  
 SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION and WORLD PEACE DAY  
 at RIVERFRONT PARK along the banks of the Feather River  
 MARYSVILLE, CA. - 40 MILES N.W. OF SACRAMENTO  
 3 DAYS OF MUSIC CAMPING FOOD CRAFTS  
 MUSIC: 8 PM - 3 AM - FRI / 11 AM - MIDNIGHT - SAT / 11 AM - 10 PM - SUN

<b>FRIDAY - JUNE 19</b> AFRICA FÊTE featuring SALIF KEITA & THE WANDA BAND CHEIKH LÔ PAPA WEMBA & MOLOKAI MARYAM MURSAL LATE NIGHT SOUND SYSTEM JAH SHAKA FROM THE B.L.E. SOUND ENGINEER - THE SCIENTIST - HONESTY BROWN U.K. DJ'S TIPPA IRIE & LEVI ROOTS	<b>Saturday - June 20</b> TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS CULTURE AUGUSTUS PABLO THE MYSTIC REVEALERS JUNIOR BYLES JOHNNY CLARKE HIGH TIMES PLAYERS JOHN BROWN'S BODY EARL ZERO	<b>Sunday - June 21</b> LINTON 'KWESI' JOHNSON AND THE DENNIS BOVELL DUB BAND SPEARHEAD ANTHONY 'B' HEPCAT NASIO FONTAINE DUB NATION BUSHIQUE CORNERSTONE TAMARA	FESTIVAL MC - MUTABARUKA <b>THREE DAY PASS</b> \$60 ADVANCE \$65 AT THE DOOR ONE DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE \$25 PER VEHICLE ON SITE CAMPING FESTIVAL HOTLINE (415) 472-5550 MAIL ORDER TICKETS: SIERRA NEVADA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL, PO BOX 151512, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94915-1512 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL BASS FISH OUTLETS NO DOGS!
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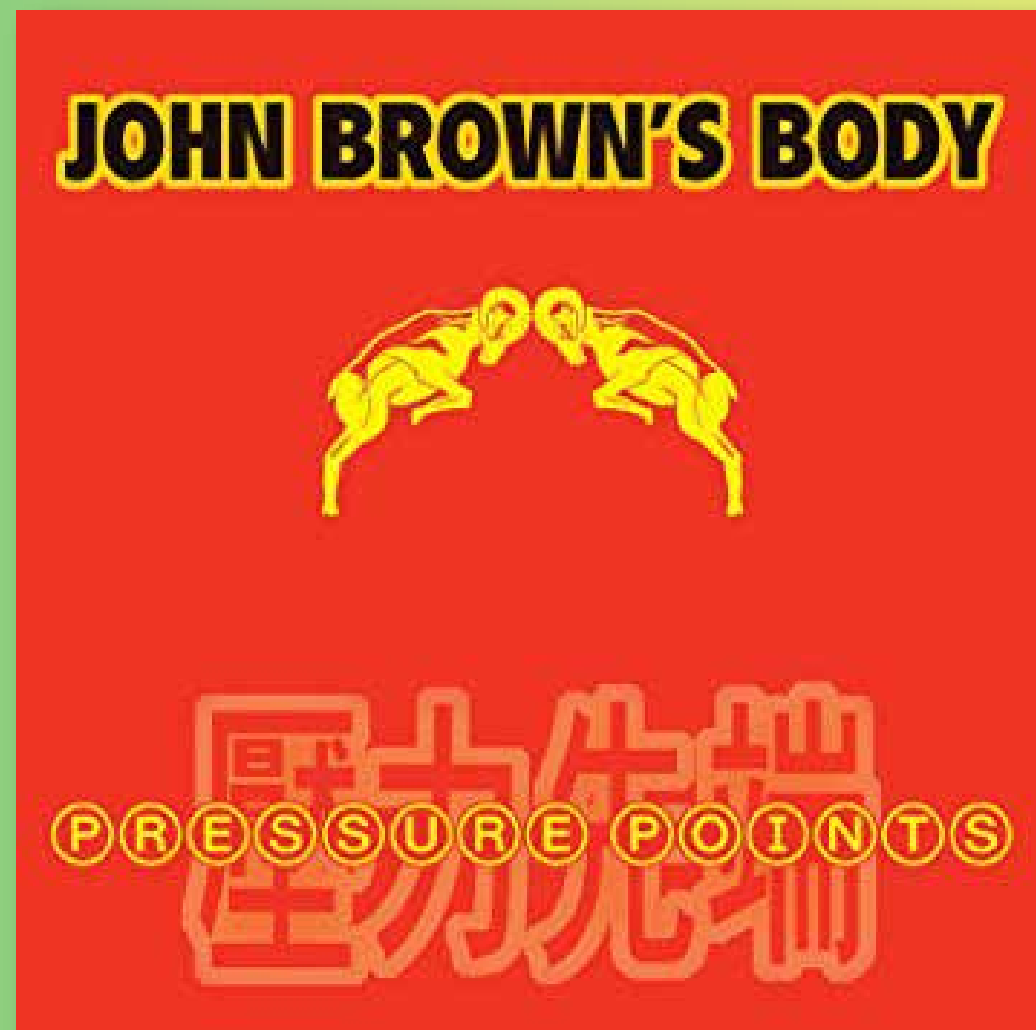
Photograph courtesy of [www.snowf.com](http://www.snowf.com)

**1998 -** John Brown's Body is invited to appear at the world famous Sierra Nevada World Music Festival in northern California.

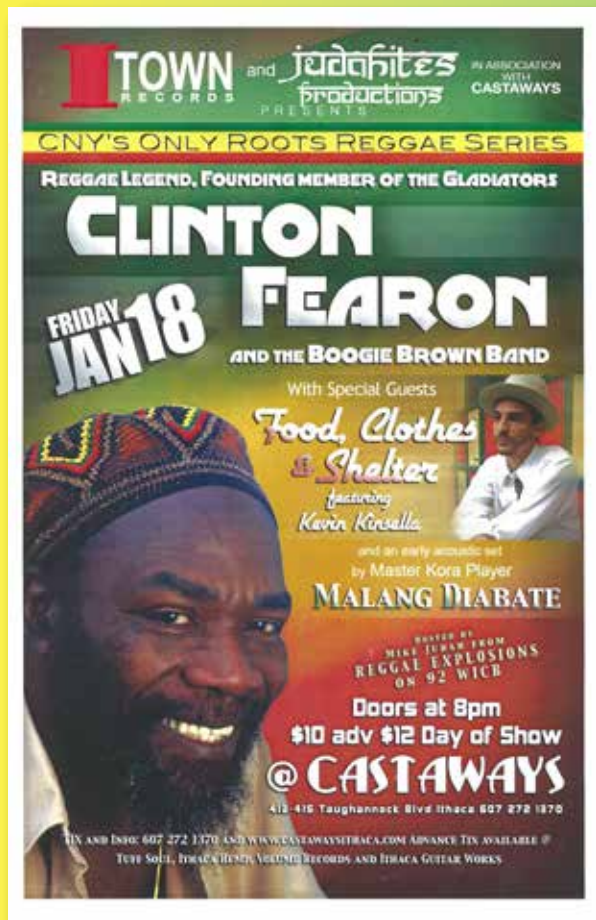




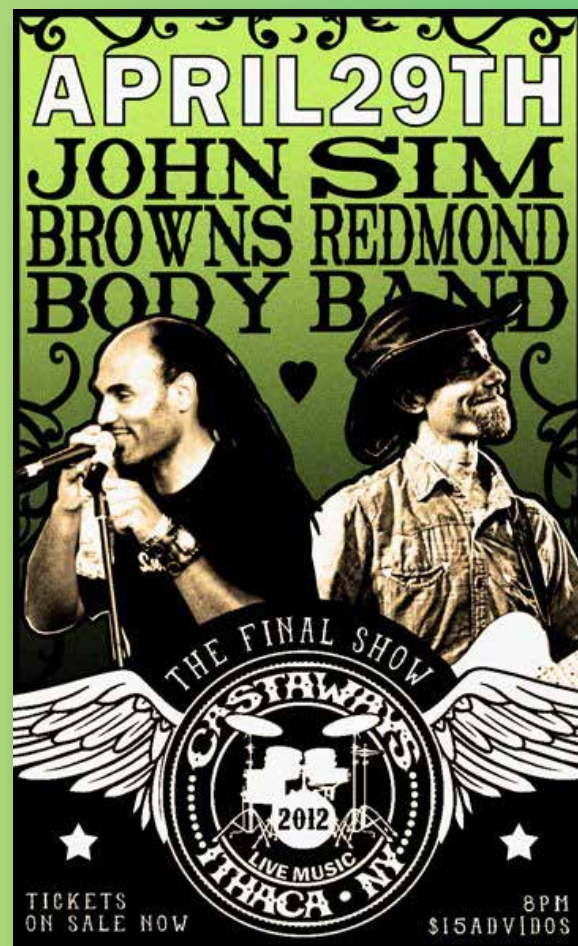
2005- John Brown's Body signs with Easy Star Records releasing their fifth studio album *Pressure Points*, evolving from a traditional roots approach to a twist on reggae and dub they titled "future roots."



# 2000's



Clinton Fearon show at Castaway's as that venue was also integral in the Ithaca music scene hosting Reggae Tuesdays and many international reggae shows while it was open.



2012- John Browns Body and Sim Redmond Band perform a final show at Castaways.



2014 - Angelo Peters of Big Mean Sound Machine needs to fill the calendar at The Dock (formerly Castaways, Key West, etc.) and starts Reggae Night on Wednesdays featuring members of the numerous nationally-touring bands living in Ithaca. After 3 and ½ years strong Reggae Night with the Crucial Reggae Social Club moves from The Dock to The Haunt where it will celebrate its 4 year anniversary this August performing some of reggae's greatest songs every Wednesday night. Visit <https://www.crucialreggaesocialclub.com/> for more information.



**I-TOWN RECORDS PRESENTS**  
**REGGAE DANCE REGGAE DANCE**  
 FEATURING LIVE  
**JOHN BROWN'S BODY**  
 3 BANDS ROOTS DJ - ADM. \$8  
 WITH **THE MATCHALL-STARS**  
 PLUS HOT AFRICAN SOUNDS WITH **DJ D & IBA**  
**SAT. JUN. 6 @ 8 PM**  
**EUROPA**

**NO ALCOHOL SHOW**  
**IN BIGHT**  
**THE TRIBULATIONS**  
**ROCKERS**  
**SAT., FEB. 27TH 8pm**  
 DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM \$6 AT THE DOOR  
 10PM - 92-WICB NEW MUSIC DANCE BLAST II  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y. 607-273-3355

**TOP RANKING REGGAE!!**  
**THE TRIBULATIONS**  
 TWO SHOWS  
 7:30-11:00 PM  
 ALL AGES WELCOME  
 AKHOL SERVED  
**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y.

**LIVE REGGAE**  
**MOJA NYA**  
 Playing their hit smash 'A We Really Roots'  
**FRIDAY MARCH 11TH**  
 with special guest **THE TRIBULATIONS**  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y.

..live reggae.....live reggae.....live reggae..  
**IPHORIA**  
 with special guest **THE TRIBULATIONS**  
**JUNE 20TH 9:30 PM**  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y. 607-273-3355

**THE TRIBULATIONS**  
**DANCING IN THE RAIN**  
**CITY**

**REGGAE TRIBULATIONS**  
**ROCKERS**  
**AFRICAN SOUNDS!**  
**SAMITE**  
**SUN., DEC. 27TH**  
 Two shows - 8pm, all ages, no alcohol  
 10:30pm - over 18, alcohol served  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y. 607-273-3355

**Local Reggae Memorabilia**

international reggae superstars  
**WIGGY DIAMONDS**  
 thursday, march 8, 1990 9:30 pm  
 114 W. Green St., Ithaca, NY  
 24 Hour Hotline 607-273-3355  
**HAUNT**

**NIGHTHAWK RECORDS PRESENTS**  
**A REGGAE SPECTACULAR**  
**THE TRIBULATIONS**  
 BACKED BY **ROOTS RALPH**  
**FRI., FEB. 19TH 9:30 PM**  
**HAUNT**  
 114 WEST GREEN STREET ITHACA, N.Y. (607)273-3355

**BLACK UHURU**  
 ITHACA MUSIC HALL  
 ITHACA, NY  
 MONDAY  
 DOORS OPEN 8 PM  
**HAUNT**

**UB40**  
 With SPECIAL GUEST  
**BARTON HALL-CORNELL UNIVERSITY**  
**18**  
**HAUNT**  
 \$15.00 PUBLIC SEAT  
 \$17.50 ADV. SEAT  
 \$10.41 GEN. ADM.

**WEDNESDAY, May 3rd. 8pm**  
**ROOTS REGGAE SERIES** presents  
**CULTURE**  
 feat. Joseph Hill with Songs of Solomon,  
 Topp Rank Sound on the Wheels of Steel  
 and DJ Mystic  
 \$12 Advance • \$15 Day of Show  
 Ticket available at Small World Music and online (www.thehaunt.com)  
**THE HAUNT**  
 702 Willow Av • 275-3447 • www.thehaunt.com/www.myspace.com/thehauntithaca

**LOUNGE & COACH PROUDLY PRESENTS**  
**TOOTS & THE MAYTALS**  
 ★ ★ PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS ★ ★  
**THE TRIBULATIONS**  
**MON. - OCT. 26**  
**2 Shows: 8:00 & 11:00 P. M.**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**ADVANCED TICKETS \$8.50**  
 —AVAILABLE AT—  
 Rebob Records, Collegetown Slipped Disc Record Co-op,  
 Ithaca Guitar Works, S. U. N. Y. - Binghamton  
 Dewitt Building The Haunt  
**HAUNT**  
 114 W. GREEN STREET  
 ITHACA, NEW YORK  
 (607) 273-3355 (607) 273-7677  
 Rope In Early, Security Rambo Tight, Tapeman Extra

Wheel and Come Again...  
**TWO JUST MEN PROUDLY PRESENT**  
**TOOTS and the MAYTALS**  
 with special youthful guests: Les Chantiments  
**THE CORNELL CONCERT COMMISSION**  
 PRESENTS  
**JIMMY CLIFF**  
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**BAILEY HALL - CORNELL UNIVERSITY**  
**NOV 6**  
**FRIDAY**  
 8:00 PM  
**HAUNT**  
 ITHACA (607)273-3355

**BURNING SPEAR**  
 Sunday, Oct. 15 - 9:30 pm • \$17.50  
**THE HAUNT**  
 \$15.00 ADV. SEAT  
 \$10.41 GEN. ADM.  
**THE HAUNT**  
 702 Willow Av • 275-3447 • www.thehaunt.com/www.myspace.com/thehauntithaca

Posters and ticket stubs courtesy of Dj aRt-V.