

# OBEYJAH

## Ras Otis “Obeyjah” White

From the earliest days, he knew he was a man of destiny. Born one of eleven children, the son of a share cropper in Mississippi. Ras Otis “Obeyjah” White Knew at the early age of six He was called to lift our spirits from disharmony in the Valley of Dry Bone toward One Love in the Realm of Jehovah.

He began working in the fields when he was about six years old, picking cotton and learning how to cultivate the crops. In the cotton fields he sang Gospel and Blues songs and danced as he worked. His family laughed at him but appreciated his dancing and his voice with its wide-ranged pitches. Born the son of a share cropper and his mother a healer practicing root medicine, learned stories of the Bible and the ways of the Path of Righteousness through her eyes. At the age of fifteen, Obeyjah and his cousin ran away from the slavery of the plantation which still existed in the south (during the 50’s and 60’s) to Texas.

Ras Otis “Obeyjah” White is now the lead singer and founder of the Obeyjah Reggae Band. In the early 1970’s Otis came to San Francisco where he fell in with the great Afro-Cuban musicians of the time: Mongo Santa Maria, Amando Paraza, Potito Bonzo, Francisco Aguabella and others, and became a master of Afro-Cuban drumming. After a period of 25 years as a musician – a drummer, he began to sing and became the lead singer of his own band, “Obeyjah”, which was formed in California in 1995-96.

Over a period of years, Otis has become a first –class Reggae Artist and has performed with many great artist such as: Mike Henderson, Jefferson Airplane, The Neveles Brothers, Santana, Mingo Lewis and Coke and Pete Escoveto. He has opened shows for artists such as Johnny Taylor, Little Milton, Bobby Blue Bland, the blues legendary Sam Myers and Big Youth from Jamaica.

His most recent accomplishment is his latest album recording **“Let Jah Rise”**. This Album was recorded in December 1997 in Jamaica at Bob and Rita Marley’s tuff Going Studio. Obeyjah was invited by Hugh Malcolm, the former drummer for Bob to sing with his newly formed Hurricane Band at Roots Bamboo in Negril. At that time Obeyjah recorded his CD with some of Jamaica’s finest musicians: The High Times Players (Ziggy Marley’s Band), Earl “Chinna” Smith on guitar, Wilbur “Squidley” Cole on drum, Chris Meredith on Bass, Dean Fraser On Saxophone, Nambo Robinson on trombone and dub master Scientist. This album uses no drum machine. It is strictly roots.

Ras Otis “Obeyjah” White has performed in many venues in the S.F. Bay area. Maritime Hall in San Francisco where he opened up for Israel Vibrations, The Ashkenez in Berkley, Modesto Festival “The X-Clamation Fest”, Smiley’s, Pt., Reyes Old West Saloon Station, Petaluma Theatre, New Georges in San Rafael, Amsterdam Café in Fairfax, Sweetwater in Sausalito, Mancucio’s and a benefit show for Sickle Cell Anemia just to name a few.

Ras Otis “Obeyjah” White can be reached for bookings at (510) 927-0395 or email: [Obeyjah@yahoo.com](mailto:Obeyjah@yahoo.com). His CD can be purchased from the artist, <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/obeyjah>.