

THE  
**ONEMOVIE**  
THAT EXPLAINS IT ALL!



Lee Scratch Perry's  
**VISION OF PARADISE**

a film by Volker Schaner



## FILM INFORMATION

### Title

Lee Scratch Perry's Vision Of Paradise

### Production state

Completed

### Contact

Fufoo Film GmbH  
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### Technical

Format: HD / 16:9  
Shooting format: HD, SD PAL 4:3/16:9  
Language: English  
Running time theatrical / online version: 94 min.  
Running time TV-version: 52 min.  
Year of production: 1999-2015  
Filmed in: Jamaica, Switzerland, England, Germany, Ethiopia  
Produced in: Berlin, Augsburg, Germany

"ADDICTION"  
Arch-Demon



## CREDITS

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & WRITER ..... Volker Schaner / Fufoo Film GmbH  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ..... Daniela Schmid / Schmid KoDeX GmbH  
CAST ..... Lee Perry, The Orb, Adrian Sherwood, Mad Professor, Thomas Lautenbacher, Peter Harris, Jomo Charles, David Katz, Steve Marshall, Martin 'Youth' Glover, Nick Manasseh, Dennis Bovell, Irmin Schmidt, Jonathan Scratchchley  
CAMERA ..... Volker Schaner, Lee Perry, Josef Zafar, Kevin Merz, Guy Leder, Thomas Janze, Daniela Schmid  
SOUND RECORDING ..... Christoph Riethmaier  
EDITOR ..... Volker Schaner, Adriana Villanueva, Kashi Grobe  
MUSIC ..... Lee Scratch Perry, Adrian Sherwood, The Orb, Mad Professor, The White Belly Rats, Richard Wagner  
SOUND DESIGN ..... Lee Scratch Perry, Thomas Lautenbacher, Christopher Fröhlich, Max Hussel  
RERECORDING MIXER ..... Dominik Rätz  
ANIMATION CHARACTER DESIGN .... Maria Sargarodschi  
& PAINTING  
SUPERVISING ANIMATOR ..... Normann Petkau  
& CHARACTER RIGGING  
COMPOSITING ..... Patxi Aguirre, Normann Petkau  
ANIMATORS ..... Patxi Aguirre, Kiana Naghshineh  
ADDITIONAL ANIMATION ..... Peter Harris, Llyr Williams  
POST-PRODUCTION ..... Fufoo Film GmbH, Normann Petkau



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ZDF in collaboration with arte

## ABOUT THE FILM

A spectacular morning in the Swiss Alps. The sun emerges from behind white clouds and shines from a steely blue sky onto the lush green meadows where cows graze contentedly before the breath taking panorama of endless icy mountain peaks. In this idyllic European scene we want to meet the man who is responsible for the creation of Reggae and Dub, the Jamaican legend Lee Scratch Perry.



Strange objects hang in front of his garage: numerous mirrors, buckets full of water, painted stones, enigmatic sentences in large letters on the walls and windows. His beard is dyed violet, his hair red, green and yellow. The legendary miraculous cap rests on his head: it is covered with stars of David, the Lion of Judah, portraits of Haile Selassie and himself, irritatingly similar... He shows us the lion: "The lion run things. The Queen of England steals the African lion to give her power, to devour."

At a postcard-perfect beach in Jamaica: sunshine, blue skies, blue sea, the paradise on earth. Lee Perry grew up in utter poverty during a time when Jamaica was still a colony of the British Empire. He left school early, unwilling to deal with a Victorian school system and discipline and went to Kingston to be part of the music scene.



In 1962, Jamaica formally gained its independence and the island, in its enthusiasm, searched for cultural identification. The revolutionary movement of the Rastafari emerged, strongly influenced by Marcus Garvey and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia who prophesied the liberation of the black race.

"I don't know who has sent him to me," Lee

Perry tells the camera about his encounter with Bob Marley, "but what we did was a revolution, not a revolution to kill people, it was a spiritual revolution, against parasites and vampires, against the heads of governments and council of churches." Lee Perry combined African rhythms and feelings with modern pop song structures, a mixture that exploded when Bob Marley presented them to the world.

Lee Perry continues: "I had the order to build my studio in my own backyard. The Black Ark had the duty to protect the original Jah soundtrack, music that came from far beyond, from a time without problems, a time when men and animals lived in peace, a time without greed and jealousy, before the original sin was committed." Perry was virtually creating a theology of music: "Music as the Holy Ghost can do anything."

The Black Ark Studio became the creative and spiritual centre of Jamaica. What happened there really does enter the realm of the legendary and fabulous. Though many have attempted, the way the unique sound was produced at the Black Ark cannot be explained.





The extensive, previous unheard use of effects like delay, flanger and reverb delivered a psychedelic sound that opened new sonic worlds and inspired generations of musicians, even initiated new music genres.

But one morning, everything changed: the legendary Black Ark Studio was set ablaze and Perry found himself alone, without a studio,

without a family, and without friends. The movement has been sold out, the music commercialized, the temple dirtied... there was no other chance, either the studio had burnt him or he burnt the studio...

Desperate, he fled to London, the London of the Eighties into the heart of boundless capitalism. "I am a Madman", he sings, "to come to cool the bad ones..." In order for the good to win, he had to understand the "ways of evil". In front of the Buckingham Palace, there is a lion of Judah, the symbol of the House of David, and crest of Haile Selassie. Are the British royalties the heirs of the throne of King Salomon? Are they selected from God and therefore legitimate to rule or even own the world?

Back in Jamaica, Lee Perry leads us to the burnt out recording room which no-one is allowed to enter any more. "When the Lion humble, all dragons stumble! I came here to fulfil the prophecy..."

For the past 15 years I've been visiting Lee Perry, equipped with my camera and microphone. We now have a collection of intimate footage full of surprises, excitement and poetry. We reveal a shy and extravagant artist who is commonly regarded as a genius. New generations are becoming interested in discovering this strange man and we ask: Is he a magician? An actor? A musician? A poet? A prophecy?



A thrilling, poetic narration with the legendary Lee Scratch Perry, this movie is a unique project in many ways: it's not a biography but rather a fairy tale documentary! The director followed Lee Perry for 15 years and discovered a story that is almost impossible to believe: a revelation, told about and with one of the major protagonists of contemporary music. It is a mind-blowing encounter with "the" inventor of reggae and dub, the mentor of Bob Marley and as such one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. The movie is a humorous adventure of epic dimensions and can be seen as a guide for how to change the world with music – with a positive attitude, mind set or, as Lee Perry calls it: "vibration".





## **VOLKER SCHANER**

### **DIRECTOR**

Born 1968 in Augsburg, Germany, he started his career at the age of 19 as director's assistant to Peter Fleischmann for the science-fiction movie „Hard To Be A God“, followed by several award-winning documentaries including „Deutschland, Deutschland“, about the reunification of Germany. After finishing university studies in history, literature and linguistics he founded his own production and postproduction studio in Berlin. From here emerged a series of productions such as the childrens animation series „Odyssey“, documentaries for ARTE/ZDF and short movies and commercials of all kinds.

In 2011, he was the German co-producer of „Hajnal Nemeth – Crash/Passive Interview“, the official Hungarian contribution to the Venice art biennale.

His first documentary „Prague – stage of the unexplainable“ is a unique portrait of the Czech art and theater scene of the late 20th century. Currently Volker Schaner is working on the movie „Vision Of Paradise“ and on the documentary „Resurrection in Aksum“ about the Ethiopian Orthodox Church as a unique form of a Judeo-Christian church.

## **DANIELA SCHMID**

### **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Born 1968 in Augsburg, Germany, she finished art school in 1986, followed by attending several photo studios in Paris. She finished the renowned photo school in Munich and volunteered at the famous Gaertner Platz opera in Munich. Between 1991 und 2001 she worked as a photographer in Los Angeles for clients like „LA Times“, „Wired Magazine“, „Marie Claire“, „Conde Nast“, „Forbes“. „ADAC“ and „Triple A“.

She was rewarded the „Corporate Gold“ prize of the „National Photo Magazine USA“ and produced a „Schmid-Ekecs“ commercial for Absolute Vodka. Since 2001 she works as an independent designer in Hawaii for her own fashion label „Chilidee“. 2006 she moved to Berlin and has been working since then as an independent film producer.





## PRESS VOICES

*„Lee ‘Scratch’ Perry has always been revered as one of Reggae’s most talented and unique products. But with the help of a popular German filmmaker, fans will not only have the opportunity to see the traits responsible for his creativity but participate in bringing this highly-anticipated documentary to the masses.“*

**jamrockvybz.com**

*“Volker has charted a story that is almost impossible to believe: a revelation, told in the own words of one of the world’s major protagonists of contemporary music.“*

**uk.ihouseu.com**

*„Kevin MacDonald’s film Marley perhaps is a profound demonstration of the value of such films to the preservation of the legacy of Jamaican music. For Schaner, “The movie can be seen as a guide for how to change the world with music – with a positive attitude, mind set or, as Lee Perry calls it: ‘vibration’ .“*

**jamaicansmusic.com**

*“We’re extremely confident that upon completion Lee Scratch Perry’s Vision Of Paradise will rival or even eclipse the likes of The Devil and Daniel Johnston, Dig, Oil City Confidential, The Filth And The Fury, Marley, Maestro, High Tech Soul or Paris Is Burning.“*

**Duncan Clark, 9PR, London**

*„Rolling Stone Magazine featured Perry in their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time and his recent collaborative album The Orb featuring Lee Scratch Perry present THE ORBSERVER in the star house, was met with widespread critical acclaim.*

**altsounds.com**

*„Rather than a strict documentary, Vision Of Paradise seems to be many things – a platform for Lee Perry’s message, a guide on how to change the world through music, and above all, a film that gives us a unique insight into the mind and work of Lee Perry.“*

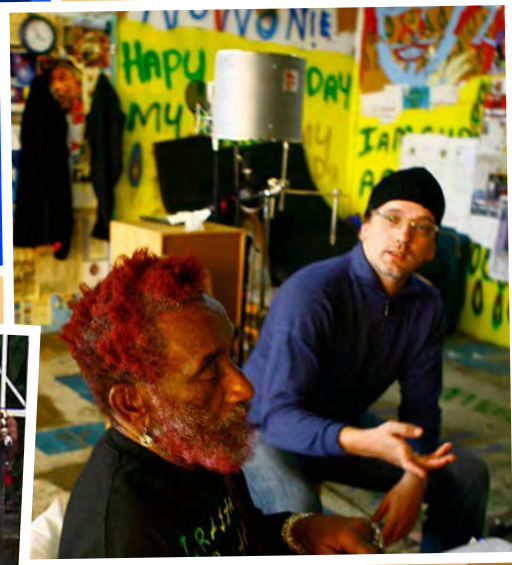
**upsetter.net**

*„If nothing else – nothing else besides a musical genius, that is – Scratch is an extravagantly unique character, and time in his company is time well spent.“*

**musicfilmweb.com**

**“GREED”  
Arch-Demon**









FILMED OVER 15 YEARS, THIS IS THE STORY OF THE LEGENDARY  
**LEE SCRATCH PERRY**, THE INVENTOR OF REGGAE AND DUB, AND  
A GUIDE HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH ART AND MUSIC.

