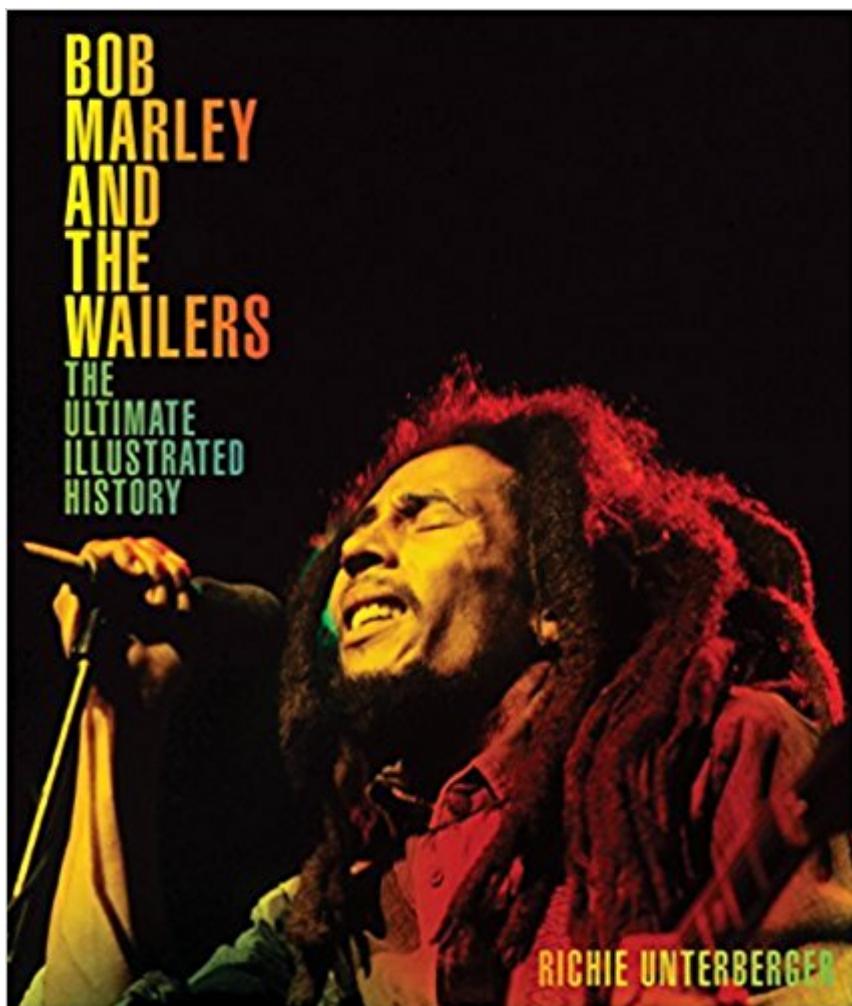


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Bob Marley And The Wailers: The Ultimate Illustrated History



Synopsis

Illustrated with photos and memorabilia from all phases of their journey, Bob Marley and the Wailers illuminates the lives and times of the man and his collaborators. Well over three decades after Marley's death, he and his bandmates remain the most famous reggae artists of all time. Indeed, the Wailers are one of the most famous bands of all time, period. Their evolution from early-60s Jamaican ska act to international superstars was not just improbable, but unprecedented for an act from a third-world nation. The entire, incredible journey of Marley and the Wailers is covered in this visual history. You will see the crucial role they played in establishing reggae as a globally popular form of music, and the influence that the Rastafari movement had on their lives and sound. Plus, how Marley's socially conscious lyrics and actions made him a universal symbol of pride and justice. This tribute takes you through the entire story, right up to Marley's untimely death in 1981, and his enduring legacy beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richie Unterberger is the author of numerous rock history books. The first of these, Unknown Legends of Rock 'n' Roll (1998), profiles underappreciated cult rock artists of all styles and eras; the next, Urban Spacemen & Wayfaring Strangers: Overlooked Innovators & Eccentric Visionaries Of '60s Rock (2000; also available as revised/updated 2013 ebook edition), features in-depth surveys of 20 underrated greats of the era. Turn! Turn! Turn!: The Folk-Rock Revolution (2002) and its sequel, Eight Miles High: Folk-Rock's Flight from Haight-Ashbury to Woodstock (2003) cover the history of the 1960s folk-rock movement. Turn! Turn! Turn! and Eight Miles High

have been combined into the ebook *Jingle Jangle Morning: Folk-Rock in the 1960s*, which adds new and updated material. The *Unreleased Beatles: Music and Film* won a 2007 Association for Recorded Sound Collections Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research in the “Best Discography” division of the “Best Research in Recorded Rock Music” category. His most recent books are *White Light/White Heat: The Velvet Underground Day-By-Day* (2009) and *Won’t Get Fooled Again: The Who from Lifehouse to Quadrophenia* (2011). His most recent book is *Fleetwood Mac: The Ultimate Illustrated History* (2016), published by Voyageur Press. Unterberger is also author of *The Rough Guide to Music USA*, a guidebook to the evolution of regional popular music styles throughout America in the 20th century, and *The Rough Guide to Jimi Hendrix*. He is a frequent contributor to *MOJO* and *Record Collector*, and has written hundreds of liner notes for CD reissues. He teaches courses on rock music history at the College of Marin, the University of San Francisco, and City College of San Francisco. He lives in San Francisco.

The full title of Ritchie Unterberger’s book is “Bob Marley and the Wailers. The Ultimate Illustrated History”. Imagine, for a moment, that you were compiling the ultimate illustrated history of Bob Marley’s life, what photographs would you include? There would doubtless be pictures of Bob Marley’s parents, his birthplace and other places that meant a lot to him, as well as pictures of “Bunny” Livingston, Peter Tosh, Joe Higgs, Desmond Dekker, Rita Anderson, Haile Selassie, Johnny Nash, Lee “Scratch” Perry, Chris Blackwell and all the other people who played an important part in his life, topped off with pictures of the man himself at all stages of his life, both in private and in performance. This book scores very well on most of these fronts, supplemented by plentiful photographs of records, posters and other memorabilia but is remiss in including no photograph of Marley’s manager Danny Sims. There are also no photographs of Bob in Zimbabwe or playing football. In addition, some photographs could have been better chosen. For example, there is a picture of Bob on stage with Michael Manley and Edward Seaga at the One Love Peace concert in Kingston on 22 April 1978, but it’s not a photograph of the two politicians shaking hands or a more iconic one of Bob hand-in-hand with the two men. The text, which includes brief album reviews and a selected discography, is generally very good, although here too, in one or two places, there’s scope for improvement. For example, it states that, “if his mixed racial background was the possible source of some teasing from his peers as he grew up in black Jamaican society, Marley never let it hold him back”, when Kevin Macdonald’s excellent documentary “Marley” (one

of the sources used in the text) makes it crystal clear that there's no question but that this was a source of teasing, or even bullying, of Bob in his youth. I don't wish, however, to end on a negative note. If *Bob Marley and the Wailers. The Ultimate Illustrated History* is not pictorially definitive or literally word perfect it is nevertheless a very enjoyable book indeed, which is lavishly illustrated throughout and much better researched and written than most such books. Any Marley fan would be very pleased to have it grace their shelves.

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