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## Mishka @ The Roxy

LIVE AND DIRECT — MARCH 24, 2010 11:34 PM

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WRITTEN BY: **VICTORIA HILL (URBAN/POP EDITOR)**

I never go out on Tuesday nights... "Lost" is on Tuesday and I never miss an episode (I know... I'm a weird nerd) but I broke my own rule to see Reggae artist Mishka. To be honest, I didn't know much about Mishka. I heard a few songs on iTunes and I thought he had a cool, laid back sound. I knew he was a Reggae artist that's getting some buzz, and that he's signed to Matthew McConaughey's record label (j.k. livin' records), but after that, I couldn't tell you anything else.

After some research, I learned some cool facts about Mishka. Mishka was born in Bermuda, and raised on a 40-foot boat built by his parents. He was named 2009's Best New Artist by iTunes and he is releasing his newest album "Talk About." The album is now available as an exclusive on iTunes and will be available everywhere on March 30th. Mishka said that "this is an album of movement- of stepping outside the box of traditional folk-reggae and adding a real mainstream rock influence."

I arrived at the Roxy in West Hollywood, and I saw what I could only describe as a mix of characters from Disneyland's "A Small World" ride. The crowd was very diverse...all races and ages with dreadlocks and wearing their best pair of hippie attire and Birkenstocks. Walking through the crowd, I heard someone ask "where's the weed." For a moment it reminded me of college and the sounds of Bob Marley, the smell of weed and guys in sandals playing hacky-sack in the quad.

At 10:05pm, the dark Roxy was transformed by the warm, sunny sounds of the islands. As the tropical bass echoed through the small club, the crowd swayed in unison like a gentle wave hitting the shore.

Performing songs from his new album, Mishka captured me with his beautiful voice and message. Mishka sings with a relaxed confidence that just puts you at ease. His music touches on the problems of the world, but spreads the message that through love, hope and unity we can come together and rise above the problems and in these times like these, we need more music like Mishka's.

Mishka has had a cult following since 1999, but now the secret of his enormous talent is out and personally, I am glad I am in on the secret. Seeing Mishka was worth breaking my no going out on Tuesday rule and I was able to watch "Lost" the next day (and it was a great episode, if you are a "Lost" fan.)



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