

## Actor found Mishka perfect for his new label

By Leo Smith

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About of insomnia generally isn't a positive development. But for Matthew McConaughey, one such sleepless run proved quite rewarding.

It was during a wide-awake three-day period several years ago that the actor discovered the music of Mishka.

The Caribbean artist's soothing sounds reportedly lulled him to sleep and McConaughey was so impressed with Mishka's tunes that he signed him as the first artist on his j.k. livin record label.

Mishka's debut album for j.k. livin, "Above the Bones," was released Tuesday.

Whether Mishka's music will have the same sedating effects on his audiences as it did on McConaughey remains to be seen. But you can find out for yourself tonight, when Mishka plays Saint Rocke in Hermosa Beach.

"It's kind of acoustic, roots reggae," Mishka said, describing his music. "I have endless influences. When I do interviews, people ask me my influences and I've realized I always have different answers. It's very eclectic. I go through phases."

Those musical influences include Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley, Burning Spear, the Beatles and Jimmy Buffett, whom Mishka met as a youth while sailing the Caribbean with his parents.

His new album, Mishka said, offers a good clue as to what his music is all about.

"To me, it's the best representation of what I've been trying to create since I started recording music," he said. "It's a very organic kind of acoustic song ... The feeling is something like natural elements, like the earth, the ocean, the sun and the rain."

The album's title song refers to one's ancestors.

"It's honoring the suffering that people have been through and are going through," Mishka said. "But at the same time, it's honoring the brighter side of life and trying to live it in the spirit of recognition."

Another of the album's songs, "Higher Heights," is a roots reggae number promoting empowerment; while "Peace and Love" relates the positive values of the title pair.

Though his new album and his newfound Hollywood connection may launch Mishka domestically, he already has a sizable following abroad.

"I have a good fan base in Japan, Portugal and New Zealand," he said. "My music has been out there for awhile, so there are places in the world where I'm probably a lot more well-known than

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in the States."

Mishka is opening tonight for The Dirty Heads, beginning at 8. Cover charge is \$10. Saint Rocke is at 142 Pacific Coast Highway, (310) 372-0035, [www.saintrocke.com](http://www.saintrocke.com).

>Leo Smith, Staff Writer

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