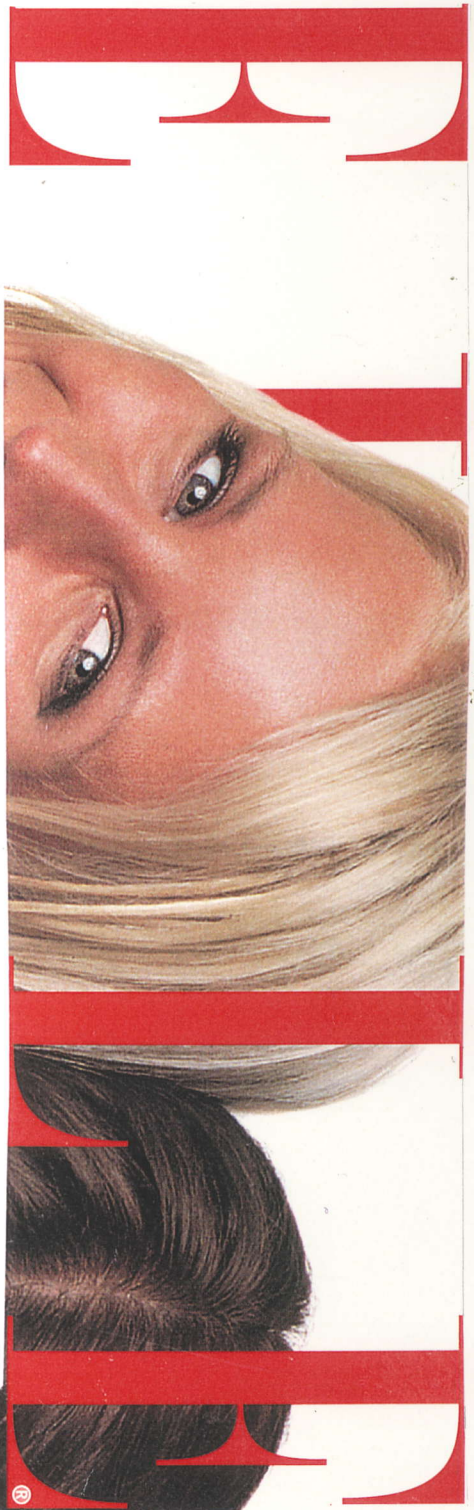


# first word



## Totally tropical

He never listens to the radio and doesn't own a record player. Meet Mishka, reggae's new star

### Your childhood in the Caribbean sounds pretty unconventional...

Although I lived on a boat, it didn't seem odd to me because that's all I've ever known. I didn't even go to school – my parents taught me everything.

### So what did you do all day? Swim, sunbathe...?

I painted, played my guitar and wrote songs. Some days we'd pull up at some bay on a deserted island and I wouldn't even go up on deck. I'd just stay on the boat and do my thing.

### Sounds idyllic.

We had tough times, too. Once when I was a kid we were way out at sea when a storm came. We just had to sit and wait until it passed.

The waves were 40ft high. I just went below and cried. I was really scared.

### Is it true you got your record deal after Creation boss Alan McGee heard you playing your guitar on the beach?

It wasn't quite like that. My sister, Heather Nova, is a singer, too. She knows Alan and gave him a demo tape. He liked it and asked me to come to England to check out the scene. But he did come and listen to me on the beach... that bit's true.

### So what are all your songs about? Swimming, sunbathing...?

inspires me – the wind rattling the sails or a car going by – but I do get a lot of inspiration from the sea. My single *Give You All The Love* was just a simple love song. It's about this one person I used to know...

### Oooh, tell me more.

There's nothing to tell. Y'know, I never really understood girls when I was a kid. Because we were travelling all the time, I never had any friends of my own age. My friends were my parents' friends.

'Living on a boat didn't seem odd to me – it's all I've ever known'

### How have you found living in London?

Well, I'm not really living here – I'm just kind of passing through. It's cool, I like London. I don't like

the clubs, though. Too smoky. I prefer the festival kinda vibe... outdoors.

### Bet you miss home...

I have to go back to the islands because I miss the space. And the sea. I just went out on the sea a few weeks ago and I really got my sea legs back. I could never be away from it.

### Is reggae going to be big this year?

Don't ask me. I never listen to the radio. I don't even own a record player. I don't think about labels or fashions. My music is my music... it's as simple as that. Danny Scott

*Mishka's album, Mishka, is released*

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