

# JAB JAB

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## Do you remember Jab Jab?

### Discovery of long lost tapes spurs band reunion, gig and first album: “Keep On Smiling”

Jab Jab, one of Britain’s first critically acclaimed rock reggae bands are to give a reunion concert after 35 years apart, celebrating the release of their album, “Keep On Smiling”. Lost reel-to-reel recordings from the ‘70s were discovered in an attic last year and have been digitised, re-mastered and heard for the first time. Now that their music can finally be shared again, Jab Jab are on a mission to reach their fans from the ‘70s and ‘80s and would love to hear from them.

The much-anticipated album, will be released to coincide with their reunion concert, supporting The Beat at the Picturedrome’s Summer Ska Splash in Holmfirth, Yorkshire on Saturday July 18, 2015. The album features original Jab Jab music recorded between 1975-1980 with their unique fusion of rock, reggae, calypso, soca, punk, funk and Afro beats. Future albums will include live concert recordings.

A documentary film is also in production about the story, music and reformation of Jab Jab. A Crowdfunder Campaign, launched this month -- “Jab Jab band reunion - the film” -- seeks public support to help make an hour-long version for broadcast.

Jab Jab, a mixed-race band from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, were critically acclaimed in the music press for their high-energy music and concerts. By the mid to late ‘70s they were playing over 200 gigs a year across Britain and Europe, amassing thousands of loyal fans. They played with bands including The Jam, Chic, Dire Straights, Steel Pulse, The Clash, The Boomtown Rats, Heatwave and Toya Wilcox. They often featured in the music press and on television and radio at home and abroad.

Like many bands, Jab Jab’s story is bittersweet. Despite their success on the live circuit and being one of the highest paid non-recording bands in the UK, they remained unsigned and their music never became available outside of concerts. The music press was positive that Jab Jab was going to be a big name, but despite much A&R and major record company interest, no recording deal was struck.

#### ***“I would have loved to produce them” – Mickie Most, 1978***

Record producers said they were unsure of where to fit Jab Jab’s unique style of cross genres into the categories of the day. In 1978, Mickie Most, one of the most successful popular music producers in the UK, (he died in 2003), said he would have loved to produce them had he not retired. Had the technology, social media and Internet been around, there is no doubt many fans would have Jab Jab in their playlists today. The band are calling on the media, and reaching out through social media, to help spread the news that they’re back.

*On hearing the recordings for the first time, Jab Jab lead singer and bassist Joe Augustine said: “Hearing the lost recordings after all these years made me feel very emotional. I never realised that the band sounded that good and thought was it really me playing that? Our philosophy was always to ‘make the bad times good and the good times better’ and we’re really excited to finally share our music.”*

*“Although we’re older now, the passion and energy is still there and we can’t wait to get back on stage together. Mike Whittington (27) will be bringing some young blood to the band, playing bass, so I can focus on singing and rhythm guitar.”*

Keep on Smiling will be available to order from July 12, 2015 from Jab Jab's website: [www.jabjab.co](http://www.jabjab.co). Fans and booking enquiries: [jabjabband@gmail.com](mailto:jabjabband@gmail.com). Concert tickets are available from the Picturedrome: [www.picturedrome.net](http://www.picturedrome.net).

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## Notes to Editors

### Media enquiries about Jab Jab

For more information on this story and Jab Jab, please contact Amanda Whittington on 07816 163886, [amandarwhittington@gmail.com](mailto:amandarwhittington@gmail.com) / [jabjabband@gmail.com](mailto:jabjabband@gmail.com), or Matt Joiner on 07916 297792, [mattpwjoiner@hotmail.com](mailto:mattpwjoiner@hotmail.com) or visit [www.jabjab.co](http://www.jabjab.co) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/jabjabband](http://www.facebook.com/jabjabband) Twitter: [@jabjabband](https://twitter.com/jabjabband) Youtube: [jabjabband](https://www.youtube.com/jabjabband) Crowdfunder: [Jab Jab Band Reunion – The Film](https://www.crowdfunder.com/jabjabband)

### Promo MP3s for press

Private Soundcloud link to [promo tracks](#) from Jab Jab, Keep on Smiling. Copyright Jab Jab 2015

### Photography attached

1) Jab Jab at their first reunion rehearsal after 35 years, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. From left to right: Joe Augustine, Robert 'Rombozo de Jab' Whittington, 'Skinhead Dick' Augustine, Charlie Augustine  
2) Jab Jab playing at a BBC Studio in the 1970s. From left to right: Robert 'Rombozo de Jab' Whittington, Joe Augustine, 'Skinhead Dick' Augustine, Charlie Augustine  
Additional photography available for journalistic use on request

### Background information about Jab Jab

Jab Jab were one of the first British Rock Reggae bands, playing around 200 gigs a year throughout the UK and Europe throughout the 70s. Their music was raw and energetic, breaking boundaries with a previously unheard fusion of rock, reggae, calypso, punk, soca music and Afro beats.

Founded by brothers, Charlie and Joe Augustine who had emigrated from the West Indian island of Carriacou, Jab Jab formed in 1970 in Huddersfield, Yorkshire where there was a thriving music scene. See Guardian article [here](#). Charlie had been a founding member of The Hightimers, the five-piece funk and soul band with Root and Jenny Jackson, which later formed into Jab Jab. Their music influences reflect Carriacou's rich cultural roots combined with fresh ideas formed in the British music scene at that time. One of the first bands to fuse many world influences, Jab Jab helped pave the way for bands that came later.

Jab Jab were soon playing original material full time professionally, as well as backing most of the Trojan Records artists visiting the UK. By the mid-late '70s, Jab Jab were in continual demand for the main concert venues of the era and performed with many famous bands to critical acclaim including Chic, The Jam, Dire Straits, Steel Pulse, Toya Wilcox and The Clash. They were so popular at one point that their agent formed a doppelganger band so that they could be double-booked. Extensive tours of Holland also saw them playing at the Melkweg and on Dutch radio. Jab Jab featured on TV and radio including Peter Cook's [Revolver](#) and [TOTP](#) (backing Dave and Ansell Collins). They had a large following and at one time were cited as the UK's highest paid non-recording band. They were particularly known for their high energy and feel good vibe. They received rave reviews in the music press including NME, Sounds Magazine, Record Mirror, Melody Maker and Time Out. Fans included notable musicians such as Paul Weller, who personally requested Jab Jab for his party gigs.

Despite a high profile in the UK and abroad (they were a 'household name' in Holland), recording deals did not materialise due to inflexible management contracts and music producers struggling to find a category for their music. Fans could not access their music outside the live performances.

The original Jab Jab line-up in 1970: Charlie Augustine (previously of The Hightimers) on lead guitar and vocals, Joe Augustine (of The Groovers) on vocals, percussion and bass, 'Fingers' on bass and percussion, John Phillips on keyboards and Roy 'Crunch' Silvester on drums. Later members included: 'Skinhead Dick' Augustine – Drums 1971-1979, Rob 'Rombozo de Jab' Whittington – Hammond Organ and Strings 1975-1980, and Lenny Lawrence – Integral roadie and crowd-warmer.

Today - Joe plays rhythm guitar in a Huddersfield reggae band despite living with prostate cancer, Skinhead Dick is a soca radio DJ and HGV driver, Rob is an hotelier in the Lake District and plays the cello in an orchestra, Charlie is retired and plays guitar. Now, after 35 years, Jab Jab are reforming...

## About the film

“Jab Jab the film” will be the first to document the story and music of Jab Jab, who broke boundaries with their previously unheard fusion of rock, reggae, calypso, punk, soca music and Afro beats. It charts the Augustine brothers’ journey from the Caribbean island of Carriacou to the mills of the UK, their early days as the backing band for Trojan Record artists, and musical influences from their distant African roots to the rock, funk and punk scene of the day, the Huddersfield music scene and political landscape. Central to the film is the finding of the tapes - their restoration, the band's reactions to hearing them and rehearsals for the reunion gig and the live concert. See here for short video clip from Jab Jab's first rehearsals: [Keep On Smiling](#)

Directed by Amanda Whittington, working with co producer, Matt Joiner. Their experience spans the BBC, Twofour, Community Channel, MTV and EMI. A short version of Jab Jab the film has been commissioned and funded by Exeter Phoenix and Colourburn and will be screened at Exeter Phoenix's Two Short Nights Film Festival 2015 and film festivals throughout the UK including the Picturedrome, Yorkshire. The team are seeking more funding to make an hour long film for broadcast and have launched a Crowdfunder campaign, “[Jab Jab band reunion - the film](#)”.