

ASHA D

SINGER & RIDDIMMAKER

ROOTS · REGGAE · DANCEHALL



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asha-d.com · ARTIKAL MUSIC

■ ABOUT

Asha D was born in Montpellier into a family he long believed to be of Haitian, French and Spanish descent. He would learn much later, after twenty years of reggae, that his grandfather had been born in Kingston. As a child, he dreamed only of drums: his parents remember a little boy who, well before he could play music, already wanted his instrument. He started on the drum around the age of 7, in a marching band. At 13, a friend finally gave him access to a kit, and he taught himself on Bob Marley's records — Carlton Barrett first, then Sly Dunbar, whom he admires as much as a drummer as a producer. This self-taught grounding, held together by tempo above all, would remain the hallmark of his playing.

In 1992, with Dr Vegas and Artikal Fab, he founded the Artikal Dread collective in Montpellier, in a garage lent by Foutamilia, a group well known on the local reggae scene. Their school was the VHS tapes of the legendary Reggae Sunsplash festivals, where they studied the Sagittarius Band backing artist after artist. The collective embraced reggae culture as a whole from the very start. The band learned the craft of being a stage backing band with local artists — Kousi, Netna, Vybrate — and the Ras Muffin collective, with whom it opened for The Wailers, Culture, Buju Banton and Sinsemilia; the Artikal Sound System was born in its wake.

The studio took shape at the same time. As early as 1994-1995, with Dr Vegas, Asha D moved to the machines and produced his first riddims; it was also Dr Vegas, already a sound engineer, who passed the craft on to him — "he's pretty much the one who taught me the trade," he would say in 2017. In 1998 the collective settled in Grabels, on the edge of Montpellier, and built the Blackat Studio there; the following year, the group tried out for the Printemps de Bourges selections.

In April 2000, Asha D made his first recorded steps as a singer on "+ de cœur = soleil," a compilation conceived and produced by Pierpoljak with Jamaican drummer Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace for Barclay/Universal, to promote the young French reggae-ragga scene. He laid his voice on "Ma Lady."

On stage the group was now called Artikal Band — on records and in the press it stayed credited as Artikal Krew until the end of the decade — and entered its years as an international backing band. In 2001 it recorded Rod Taylor's "Blackman History" and Bob Wasa's "Création" in Montpellier; in 2002, Ras Nestar's "Where We Come From." That same year, chosen by the national jury, the Artikal Band represented the Languedoc-Roussillon region at the Découvertes du Printemps de Bourges with Ninjah Shanty, and Midi Libre hailed a backing band "that devours the stage." At festivals across the South — Jamaican Sunrise, Ja'Sound — then throughout Europe, Asha D backed, on drums, Sister Carol, U Brown, Rod Taylor, The Heptones, Ras Shiloh, Jah Mali, Natural Black, Al Campbell, and, around 2003, Queen Omega on several dates in France and Slovenia. In 2006 Reggae Magazine devoted a feature to "drummer Asher Dread's crew" in a piece on reggae's "mercenaries"; that year the group produced Rod Taylor's "Nothing Else To Do." On the French-language scene, he worked with Tiwony, Straïka D, Lyricson, Esy Kennenga, Baby G and MC Janik. In 2008 the studio moved from Grabels to central Montpellier, where the Artikal Music label has its headquarters today. In 2010 came "Step One," the first album credited under the Artikal Band name.





From 2009, the Artikal Band backed Yaniss Odua. Asha D would hold the drum seat for sixteen years, until 2025: more than 380 concerts in some fifteen countries, from the Zénith de Paris in 2014 to the Main Stages of Rototom Sunsplash and Summerjam, from the Paléo Festival in Switzerland to Bogotá, Dakar and Fort-de-France. Over the tours, Yaniss Odua would invite him to sing mid-show, without leaving his kit. From 2010 he also joined the Marseille-based outfit The Handcart, with whom he backed The Abyssinians, Pablo Moses, The Mighty Diamonds, Al Capone and Linval Thompson on several tours. In 2015, "Artikal Band Dub Box" brought together Sizzla, The Congos and Rod Taylor; between 2016 and 2017 the group released a series of 360° video Live Sessions with Volodia, Tiwony and Cali P — Asha D on sound, Dr Vegas on camera — and backed U-Roy at the Abi Reggae Festival in Abidjan in 2017.

Singing, meanwhile, stayed in the background without ever stopping: in those years Asha D recorded many singles he didn't release — only "Hallelujah" came out, in 2017 — with drumming, the studio and the label taking up most of his time. On 22 August 2017 he put his first two riddims on sale, "Jah Kingdom" and "Danger Zone," and has kept a pace of a new instrumental every week ever since; in 2019, with Dr Vegas, he launched riddiminstrumental.com, a platform of original reggae and dancehall instrumentals. The catalogue now holds 480 riddims. Voices such as Sizzla, The Congos, Dean Fraser, Queen Omega, Rod Taylor, U Brown, Mykal Rose, Natural Black, Bobby Hustle, Yaniss Odua, Taïro, Pierpoljak and Tiwony have sung on his productions and those of the Artikal Band.

In 2021, the singer stepped to the fore. March brought "Purpose," seven tracks in a duo with Trinidadian Mark Cupidore, recorded at the Montpellier studio; in November, "The Right Place" with Californian Bobby Hustle. Then, in June 2022, the first fully solo EP: "The Pressure," six tracks written during lockdown, with Queen Omega and Taïro as guests, backed by a Dub Showcase version that brings the whole to twelve tracks. In February 2023, the EP "Roots Meditation" brought together Yaniss Odua, Maylan Manaza, Jamaican saxophonist Dean Fraser, harmonica player Harold Wolters, the Artikal Band musicians and gospel singers Marie-Annick and Ariane Nsilulu. He toured both records opening for Yaniss Odua on the Stay High Tour, thirteen dates from Marseille to Lille between February and October 2023. On 22 March 2024 came the EP "Vivre en Paix," six tracks and five dubs, with Pierpoljak and Uman, and horns by Guillaume "Stepper" Briard and Jeremy Matteo; he presented it at the Berry'Zion Festival in May 2024. Two singles marked 2024-2025: "I Love" with Bobby Hustle and "Sweet Reggae Music" with Guy Al MC. In December 2025, the mixtape "Serious Time" asserted a conscious, modern reggae true to its roots; he gave a taste of it on stage opening for Neg' Marrons, in Saint-Jean-de-Védas, on 28 November 2025. "I love the roots message. I want the message to be useful and to run deep," he says.

For several years now, Asha D has put out a new track every month. That consistency — rare for an artist who produces his own tracks — has built him an audience of 50,000 followers on TikTok, 10,000 on Instagram and nearly 30,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, along with a regular presence in the editorial reggae playlists of Spotify, Deezer and Apple Music. On stage he performs as a sound system, as a hybrid duo with Artikal Fab — bass, drums and an Ableton station — or in full line-up with the Artikal Band. In 2026, with Dr Vegas, he founded the Reggae Sound School, a training program in reggae music composition, recording and mixing, to pass on thirty years of stage and studio experience.

On 23 October 2026 comes "Où va ce monde ?," his new album: six tracks and six dubs, played live by the Artikal Band, unveiled one by one since spring. A roots reggae — urban and authentic — anchored in roots he had chosen long before discovering they were also his own.

■ NEW ALBUM

« Où va ce monde ? »

SIX TRACKS, SIX DUBS. ONE JOURNEY.
ONE SINGLE QUESTION.

ALBUM · ASHA D & ARTIKAL BAND ·
ARTIKAL MUSIC · 23 OCTOBER 2026

"Où va ce monde ?" is built like a journey in six chapters. Through each track, Asha D looks at the tensions of our time without turning away — between confrontation, awakening and the need to escape. From resistance to love, then to warning, every track holds a precise place in a coherent narrative progression, up to a conclusion that closes nothing — but leaves a question open.

Carried by the Artikal Band, the project is rooted in an organic roots reggae, played live, between one drop, rockers and steppa, with central attention paid to the lyrics and the intent.

Conceived as a whole, it unfolds across six tracks and six dubs. For Asha D, the dub does not add on: it extends. Singer, musician and producer alike, he shapes his tracks as much through words as through the riddim. Where the vocal versions set a gaze, the dubs open a more sensory, immersive space. Against the grain of today's formats, a coherent and inhabited body of work, where music becomes both a reflection of the real and a space to step back.

Unveiled single after single since spring 2026, the full album is out on **23 October 2026**. Listen / pre-save: baco.lnk.to/OuVaCeMonde

It's not a verdict. It's a path.



TRACKLIST — 12 TRACKS

1. Ils m'appellent terroriste
2. Qu'est-ce qu'on fait ?
3. Pas de prise de tête
4. Precious Love
5. Le Tonnerre
6. Où va ce monde ?
7. Resistance Dub
8. Decision Dub
9. Escape Dub
10. Precious Dub
11. Thunder Dub
12. World In Dub

MUSIC

ALBUM 2026

Où va ce monde ? — album, 23 October 2026 · baco.lnk.to/OuVaCeMonde

SINGLES 2026 — OÙ VA CE MONDE ?

Precious Love · baco.lnk.to/PreciousLove

Pas de prise de tête · baco.lnk.to/PasDePriseDeTete

Qu'est-ce qu'on fait ? · baco.lnk.to/QuEstCeQuonFait

Ils m'appellent terroriste · baco.lnk.to/IMAT

ALBUMS, EPS & MIXTAPE

Serious Time — mixtape (2025) · [Spotify](#)

Vivre en Paix — EP (2024) · [Spotify](#)

Roots Meditation — EP (2023) · [Spotify](#)

The Pressure — EP + Dub Showcase (2022) · [Spotify](#)

SINGLES & COLLABORATIONS

Never Leave Me Alone — feat. Queen Omega · [Spotify](#)

Le Chemin — feat. Pierpoljak · [Spotify](#)

Bless i Soul — feat. Yaniss Odua · [Spotify](#)

VIDEOS

Asha D — **The Pressure** (Official Video) · [YouTube](#)

Asha D & Artikal Band — **Vivre en Paix** (Official Video) · [YouTube](#)

Asha D & Taïro — **Vivre ma vie** (Official Video) · [YouTube](#)

Asha D — **Roots Warrior** (Official Video) · [YouTube](#)

Asha D — **Pas de prise de tête** (Visualizer) · [YouTube](#)

All videos: youtube.com/@asha-D

RIDDIMS

480 original reggae & dancehall instrumentals, a new one every week · riddiminstrumental.com



LIVE & LINE-UPS

Roots & urban reggae, live energy, conscious writing. Asha D performs in three forms:

Sound System — Asha D selecting, dub-style, with the Artikal Sound System.

Hybrid duo — Asha D & Artikal Fab: bass, drums and an Ableton station. A nimble, hard-hitting format.

Asha D & Artikal Band — the full line-up, all the power of an organic roots reggae live set.

WATCH LIVE



Teaser live 2026 — hybrid duo format · youtube.com/watch?v=ljnVE9mHXlc

UPCOMING

12.11.2026 **Le Saint-Loup Sound**, Saint-Clément-de-Rivière — Artikal Sound

09.01.2027 **Le Molotov**, Marseille — United for Jamaica, live with the Handcart Band

RECENTLY ON STAGE

04.09.2026 **Le Saint-Loup Sound**, Saint-Clément-de-Rivière — Artikal Sound

12.03.2026 **Le Salon des Indépendants**, Montpellier — Dub Massive, Artikal Dub Session

07.03.2026 **Barri Bar**, Montpellier — Dub in Town, Artikal Sound

04.01.2026 **Montpellier** — Reggae Party, Artikal Sound meets Terminal Sound

28.11.2025 **Salle Victoire 2**, Saint-Jean-de-Védas — support for Neg' Marrons

PAST

11.05.2024 **9Cube**, Châteauroux — Berry'Zion Festival #2

20.10.2023 **Pharos**, Arras — support for Yaniss Odua

02–03.2023 **Stay High Tour**, support for Yaniss Odua, 12 dates: Marseille, Bagnols-sur-Cèze, Vauréal, Brainans, Montpellier, Cahors, Riom, Cléon, Blois, Arlon, Lille, Toulouse

■ PRESS

Reggae.fr — « Asha D : batteur, chanteur et producteur » · reggae.fr

Reggae.fr — Interview « Purpose » · reggae.fr

La Grosse Radio — « Asha D, interview sans filtre » · lagrosseradio.com

La Grosse Radio — « Entretien avec Asha D » · lagrosseradio.com

France Bleu Hérault — La Nouvelle Scène Live, Asha D & Artikal Band · ici.fr



HD PRESS PHOTOS



Photos © Leo Htag — HD files available in the press kit (Dropbox).

■ SOCIALS & AUDIENCE

A solid community — 50,000 TikTok followers, 10,000 on Instagram, nearly 30,000 monthly listeners on Spotify — and a regular presence in the major editorial reggae playlists (Spotify, Deezer, Apple Music).

Spotify · open.spotify.com/artist/241TzckH4cW2MAldJa8uG1

YouTube · youtube.com/@asha-D

TikTok · tiktok.com/@asha_d_officiel

Instagram · instagram.com/asha_d_officiel

Facebook · facebook.com/AshaDartistPage

Riddims · riddiminstrumental.com

EPK · asha-d.com/en/epk

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