

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT — 2026

TIPPA IRIE

UK reggae & dancehall legend. Fast-chat pioneer of **Saxon Sound System**. GRAMMY®-nominated songwriter. #1 UK Reggae Chart hitmaker. Author of the Amazon UK bestseller '**Stick to My Roots.**'

- REGGAE
- DANCEHALL
- FAST-CHAT / MC
- LIVE BAND & PA SETS
- LONDON / JAMAICA



Tippa Irie live on stage — photo: Robert Hegenauer

40+ YEARS IN THE GAME	18 STUDIO ALBUMS	1 GRAMMY® NOMINATION
5 UK CHART HITS	37K FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	25K INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
8.2K X / TWITTER FOLLOWERS	935K SPOTIFY LISTENERS / YEAR	3.5M SPOTIFY STREAMS / YEAR

GRAMMY NOMINATED MC AND REGGAE LEGEND

Few artists have shaped the identity of UK reggae and dancehall as profoundly as Tippa Irie. Rising to prominence in the 1980s as a leading MC on the legendary Saxon Sound system, Tippa Irie became synonymous with fast-chatting — a rapid, rhythmic vocal style demanding lyrical skill, breath control, and sharp wit. His voice, delivery, and personality quickly made him a standout figure on sound systems and recordings alike, helping establish a distinctly British chapter in reggae and dancehall history.

Born Anthony Henry in Brixton to Jamaican parents from Trelawny, Tippa was raised inside the UK's vibrant sound system culture, cutting his teeth on his father's system, Musical Messiah, before joining King Tubby's Sound and then Saxon — the crew that helped launch Maxi Priest, Papa Levi, Smiley Culture, Daddy Colonel, and Tippa's late sister Miss Irie.

His 1986 debut album *'Is It Really Happening to Me'* produced the UK Reggae Chart No. 1 **'Hello Darling,'** which crossed over to No. 22 on the UK Singles Chart — a breakthrough performance on *Top of the Pops* included. Further hits followed with **'Raggamuffin Girl'** and **'Superwoman,'** plus the Mad Professor collaboration *'Rebel on the Roots Corner'* and the UK Top 30 hit **'Shouting for the Gunners.'**

In 2005, Tippa earned a **GRAMMY® nomination for Best Rap Song** for **'Hey Mama,'** co-written and performed with will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas — leading to major stages worldwide and a run touring with the Peas. He's since shared stages and studios with Maxi Priest, Pato Banton, Jurassic 5, UB40, Aswad, and Congo Natty.

His **18th studio album, 'I'm An African'** (2022), paired socio-political depth with dancehall joy across a major European tour that included headline sets at Edinburgh Jazz Fest, Lewisham People's Day, and Rototom. In 2023 he became a published author, releasing his autobiography **'Stick to My Roots'** — named for his 2010 hit single — which claimed #1 spots on multiple Amazon UK bestseller lists.

Across more than four decades, Tippa Irie has stayed consistent in both output and integrity — balancing humor with insight, entertainment with message, and tradition with innovation, whether on the mic at a sound clash or fronting a full band on a festival main stage. In 2026 he returns to Jamaica to record new material with the legendary **King Jammy**, ahead of a full international tour schedule. Tippa splits his time between London and Jamaica.



Studio portrait



Off-mic, on-brand

FOUR DECADES ON THE MIC

Late 1970s-80s

From Musical Messiah to Saxon Sound

Cuts his teeth on his father's sound system before joining King Tubby's Sound, then Saxon Sound System, at the heart of the UK's fast-chat MC movement.

1986

Debut Album & a UK Chart Breakthrough

'*Is It Really Happening To Me*' (Greensleeves Records) delivers '**Hello Darling**,' #1 on the UK Reggae Chart and No. 22 on the UK Singles Chart, plus a *Top of the Pops* appearance.

1990s

Rebel on the Roots Corner

Teams with Mad Professor for a fan-favorite classic; charts in the UK Top 30 with '**Shouting for the Gunners**' and hits #1 UK Reggae Chart with Lloyd Brown on '**It's a Love Thing**.'

2005

GRAMMY® Nomination

Co-writes and performs '**Hey Mama**' with will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas — nominated for Best Rap Song, and tours the world's biggest stages with the Peas.

2010s

Stick to My Roots & Lockdown Productions

Releases '*Stick to My Roots*' on his own Lockdown Productions label; produces the compilation *UK Flu* (2012); drops '*Living the Dream*' (2016) blending reggae, dancehall, soca, hip-hop, pop and afrobeat.

2022-23

I'm An African & Published Author

18th studio album '*I'm An African*' headlines a major European tour; autobiography '*Stick to My Roots*' hits #1 on multiple Amazon UK bestseller lists.

King Jammy

Back to Jamaica with King Jammy

Records a new full-length album in Jamaica with legendary producer King Jammy, alongside an international tour bringing full-band and PA sets to multiple countries.

GALLERY

Official press photography, courtesy of Tipapa Irie / March Forth Management. High-resolution originals available on request.



Studio session — headphones on



Live — full stage energy



Live at ReggaeLand UK, 2023 — photo: Gemma Parker

“Music is my life. It's my love, my energy, my peace — my go-to in times of stress, and my never-ending happiness.”

— Tipapa Irie

18 ALBUMS, COUNTLESS ANTHEMS

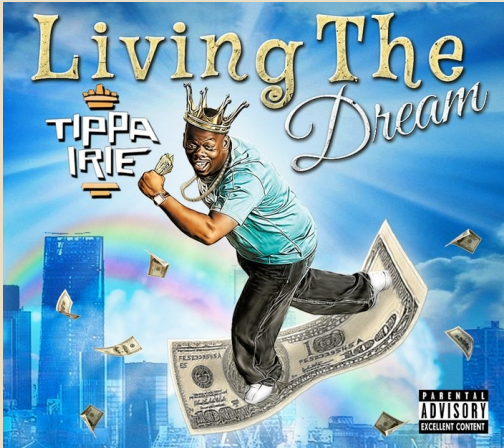
1986	Is It Really Happening To Me	DEBUT ALBUM	Ft. 'Hello Darling' — #1 UK Reggae Chart
1990s	Rebel on the Roots Corner	W/ MAD PROFESSOR	Fan-favorite classic
2005	Hey Mama	W/ WILL.I.AM	GRAMMY® nom. — Best Rap Song
2010	Stick to My Roots	LOCKDOWN PRODUCTIONS	Title track of 2023 memoir
2012	UK Flu (Compilation)	PRODUCER	Ft. Maxi Priest, JC Lodge, Nadirah X
2016	Living the Dream	STUDIO ALBUM	Ft. Peter Hunnigale, General Levy
2022	I'm An African	18TH STUDIO ALBUM	Headlined Edinburgh Jazz Fest, Rototom & more
2026	Untitled — with King Jammy	FORTHCOMING	Recorded in Jamaica



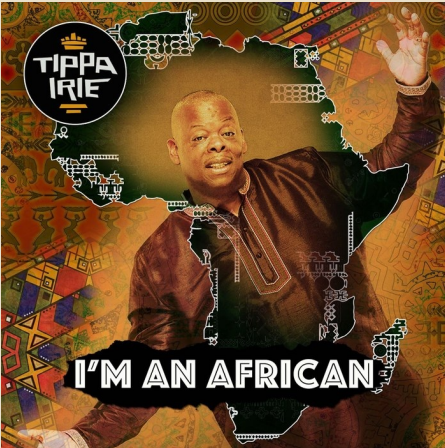
'Is It Really Happening To Me' — 1986 debut LP



'Hello Darling' — chart-topping single



'Living the Dream' — 2016



'I'm An African' — 2022

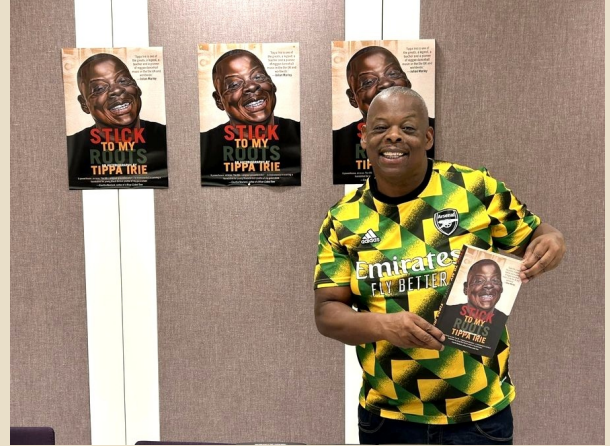
Stream & Listen

- SPOTIFY
- BANDCAMP
- AMAZON MUSIC
- STREAM "I'M AN AFRICAN"

STICK TO MY ROOTS



'Stick to My Roots' — cover art



At a book signing

Named after his 2010 hit single, Tippa's autobiography claimed #1 spots on multiple Amazon UK bestseller lists and continues to be highly acclaimed. The paperback edition released September 2024.

"A legend, a teacher and a pioneer of reggae dancehall music worldwide."

— JULIAN MARLEY

"His autobiography is engaging, enlightening, honest, accessible, and at times poetic."

— BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

"A powerhouse, an icon — instrumental in carving a foundation for young Black British youths."

— COURTIA NEWLAND, AUTHOR OF A RIVER CALLED TIME

MEDIA DOCUMENTS

DOWNLOADS

Official Biography (PDF) — [download](#)

Press Release — "I'm An African" (PDF) — [download](#)

Digital Booklet — "I'm An African" (PDF) — [download](#)

Tour Poster 2024 (image) — [download](#)

Tour Poster 2023 (image) — [download](#)

'Stick to My Roots' — The Autobiography (Book) — [view on Amazon](#)

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Author 2 Author Podcast — [listen](#)

The Invincible Podcast — [watch](#)

TV Sound System — [watch](#)

BOOKING & MANAGEMENT

BRING TIPPA TO YOUR STAGE



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