

Jackie Robinson

A Pioneer Still Going Strong

One of the featured entertainers on this year's Caribbean Lifestyle showcase, "Models Moods and Music" will be Jackie Robinson. The name Jackie Robinson may not sound familiar, but, when you say "Pioneers" and talk about songs like "Long Shot" (Kick The Bucket), you are into the history of Jamaican popular music from the early rocksteady and reggae days.

Around 1966, Jackie Robinson, who was 16 years old formed the Pioneers vocal group with his neighborhood friend, Sydney Crooks. Their first three recordings went on the Jamaican top 10 chart. After the initial success, The Pioneers decided to add a third member to the group, George Agard. The first song that the new Pioneers did for Beverley's Records was



"Easy Come Easy Go" which went to the No. 1 position on the Jamaican chart. Their follow up release was "Long Shot Kick The Bucket," that entered the top 10 chart in Jamaica and went on to the Top 20 on the British National charts.

Jackie Robinson did some solo recordings and, it was during that time he did the

lead vocals for a soul band "The Checkers" and they released a single entitled, "Hey Miss Payne," that took off and hit the charts in England. However, his association with this band was not long and he continued to tour with the Pioneers until the early eighties when they disbanded.

Since then, Jackie has been living in South Florida where he is pursuing a solo career. He has released singles such as "I Forgot To Be Your Lover", "Julie", and "In The Rain". Also, he has performed at Bicentennial Park, the Stinger Lounge and other popular Miami venues. Jackie is now compiling material for the release of a solo album. Jackie toured with the Pioneers, countries like Japan (first reggae group to tour Japan), England, Canada, East and West Germany, Trinidad, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Holland, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Thailand, throughout the 1960's, 70's and 80's. Jackie Robinson and The Pioneers help introduced reggae music to the world.

Danny Breakenridge