



Who is Dee Rail?

Dee Rail, whose real name is Derryl Johnson, was a key figure in the Boston underground music scene in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He was a slim, compact Black musician known for his intense passion for reggae and punk, characterized by a fast, manic, and dogmatic style with heavy dub influence. Dee was a founding member of the band 007 (later Dub7), where he contributed as a frontman alongside Larry LaFerla. Before 007, he co-founded The Slaves and was active in Boston College's underground music scene, playing live shows and collaborating with other local musicians. Dee and Larry shared close ties, including living together and sharing musical influences such as Yellowman and King Tubby, blending reggae, ska, and post-punk sounds.^[1]

Dee's presence was pivotal in shaping the band's sound and scene presence, contributing original fast-paced ska/bluebeat songs like "Betcha By Golly Wow," which gained traction on Boston college radio stations. Despite being described as sometimes irresponsible or self-destructive, he was integral to the band's creative chemistry and underground success.^[1]

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1. <https://007-boston-dub7.com/007-Dub7-timeline/>
2. https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_fAgEAAAAMBAJ/bub_gb_fAgEAAAAMBAJ_djvu.txt
3. <https://www.worldradiohistory.com/Archive-All-Music/Billboard/90s/1999/BB-1999-11-13.pdf>
4. https://archive.org/stream/record-collector-april-2021/Record_Collector_April_2021_djvu.txt
5. https://www.reggaerecord.com/jp/discography/index.php?search_type=fuzzy&narrow_down_3=36
6. <https://www.robertluis.com/previous-unfold-radio-playlists>
7. <https://www.vinyldestination.com.au/new-releases/>
8. <https://tilos.hu/feed/show/dawn-tempo>