



Summarize Lawrence LaFerla's role in underground music scenes, including his work with 007, Dub7, and The Kessels.

Lawrence LaFerla played a pivotal role in Boston's underground music scene, especially as the frontman, songwriter, and creative force behind the bands 007, Dub7, and The Kessels during the late 1970s and 1980s.^{[1] [2] [3]}

007 and Dub7

LaFerla—often performing under stage names Larry Williams or Wrence—served as a co-founder, lead vocalist, and guitarist for 007, later known as Dub7. The band was notable for its racially mixed lineup and for blending punk, mod, R&B, 60s pop, ska, and dub influences—mirroring the British 2 Tone ska revival but rooted in Boston's unique music culture. Their genre-blending style, theatrical live performances, and willingness to experiment influenced many younger local bands. They became regulars at key venues (The Rat, Storyville, Cantones, The Channel), shared bills with a wide range of acts from The Specials and The Clash to Boston punk and post-punk innovators, and gained respect for their boundary-pushing sets.^{[2] [3] [1]}

The Kessels

After Dub7, LaFerla led The Kessels, a project that grew out of the evolving Dub7 lineup. The Kessels recorded "Loosen Up with the Kessels" in 1986—a track that was shelved for decades due to its pop leanings but was rediscovered and released in the 2020s, revealing LaFerla's continued influence as a songwriter and the band's adaptability to new musical directions.^[4]

Legacy

LaFerla's work helped define the eclectic character of Boston's underground scene, encouraging other artists to cross stylistic lines. His bands are credited with shaping the sound and energy of the period, not just through recordings but also through live shows that became local legend. Recent efforts to archive and re-release their music are re-centering his contributions in historical accounts of the city's music history.^{[3] [1] [4]}



1. <https://007-boston-dub7.com>
2. <https://lawrencelafer.la/lawrence-laferla.html>
3. <https://www.loosenupwiththekessels.com/larryblog/larry-laferla-links>
4. <https://www.loosenupwiththekessels.com>

5. <https://x.com/lawrencelaferla>

6. <https://lawrencelafer.la>

7. <https://007-boston-dub7.com/007-Dub7-timeline/>