

ILL SYSTEM

"THE ONLY AFRICAN REGGAE METAL BAND ON THE PLANET"

GROOVE METAL

REGGAE

HIP-HOP

ELECTRONICA

AFRICAN PERCUSSION

EST. 2001



ABOUT

Ill System are a Cape Town-based ragga-infused groove metal unit — a hard-hitting, politically charged collision of Groove Metal, Rock, Reggae, Hip-Hop and Electronica, with a deep-rooted African identity expressed through Djembe and Bongo percussion. Often described as "Linkin Park with bongos," the band has carved out a genuinely original space in the South African metal scene since forming in 2001.

After relocating to the UK in 2003, recording their debut album with members of international reggae-metal act Skindred, and winning the UK Emergenza battle of bands, the band returned to Cape Town. Since reforming in 2014/2015, Ill System have built a reputation for raw, unrelenting live performances that have placed them on the same stage as some of metal's biggest international touring acts.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Sean Olsen

Vocals · Guitar · Percussion

Gareth Howard

Guitar

Mike Cubic

Bass

Art Pereira

Drums

DISCOGRAPHY

International Assassins

2005 · Notting Pill Studios, Newport, Wales
Produced by Skindred's Jeff & Ginge

ALBUM

Holy War

2017

SINGLE

King For A Day

2020 · Official Music Video available

SINGLE

Sleeping Giant

2020 · Official Music Video available

SINGLE

Ego Check

2020 · Official Music Video available

SINGLE

Rock Bottom

2021 · Official Music Video available

SINGLE

Warning

2024 · Official Music Video available

SINGLE

The Flood

2025

SINGLE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2005

Debut Album: International Assassins

Recorded with Jeff & Ginge of Skindred at Notting Pill Studios, NEWPORT, WALES

2006

Won UK Emergenza Battle of Bands

1st place from ~1,000 UK acts · 18th position globally EUROPE

2006

Taubertal Festival

Played alongside Bloodhound Gang at the international festival GERMANY

2015+

Supported Protest The Hero & Fear Factory

Post-reformation support slots SOUTH AFRICA

2018

Supported Attila: SA Tour

Metal4Africa Summerfest appearance FULL SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR SUPPORT

2019

Ramfest: same bill as Black Dahlia Murder

One of South Africa's premier heavy music festivals SOUTH AFRICA

2023

Ramfest: same bill as Enter: Shikari & The Ocean Collective

SOUTH AFRICA

2024

Strab Fest

MOZAMBIQUE

2025-26

Slam Fest

Two consecutive years SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS

"ONE OF THE MOST ORIGINAL ACTS YOU'LL EVER HEAR... THEIR LIVE SHOWS ARE ENERGETIC, AUTHENTIC, AND SO MUCH FUN THEY USUALLY PASS WAY TOO QUICKLY."

— V13.NET

"A HARD-HITTING POLITICALLY CHARGED MIX OF GROOVE METAL, ROCK, REGGAE AND MORE RECENTLY HIP-HOP & ELECTRONICA. A PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORT."

— SA MUSIC NEWS MAGAZINE

"CAPE TOWN'S ILL SYSTEM IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS LINKIN PARK WITH BONGOS. THEY'RE BENDING THE GENRE AND EXPLORING AN INTERESTING CROSSOVER FEEL."

— SLUDGE UNDERGROUND PODCAST

LISTEN & CONNECT

SPOTIFY

APPLE MUSIC

YOUTUBE

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

Booking: **Jason Ling** — Music Mode Agency · jason.musicmodeagency@gmail.com

Direct contacts: **Mike Cubic** +27 71 365 8072 — **Gareth Howard** +27 82 554 2867

Cape Town, South Africa
ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT · 2026