

Pauline Black

Performer, singer, artist, band leader and songwriter, Pauline Black has dedicated four decades to the music scene. Supporting and campaigning for racial equality throughout her work, she describes herself as first and foremost, a singer.

A lifelong love of music inspired by punk and reggae artists from the 1970s led Pauline to join The Selecter and a career that has seen her travel across the world to share her passion and artistry with hundreds of thousands of fans. The Selecter went on to become a platinum-selling band and one of the most influential within the 2 Tone music scene, alongside others including The Beat, The Specials and Madness. Pauline Black is one of very few women in the 2-Tone scene – she is often referred to as the Queen of Ska.

After releasing their first album, *Too Much Pressure*, in 1980, the band went on to release 5 top 40 singles in the UK, and to this day continue to write new music and inspire new audiences. 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of 2 Tone and The Selecter and in 2021 the 40th Anniversary of the release of *Too Much Pressure* was celebrated with a Deluxe Edition which reached #1 in the Official UK Vinyl Album Charts and #1 in the Official UK Independent Album Charts.

Pauline played a pivotal role in the Coventry 2021 City of Culture bid and has been heavily involved in the celebrations this year including performing in the Opening Ceremony and contributing to the 2-Tone exhibition at the Herbert Museum. She has been asked to present the 2021 Turner Prize, one of the best-known prizes for visual arts in the world, at an award ceremony at Coventry Cathedral in December.

Pauline has previously worked as an actress and presenter, performing on stage and on screen and has presented a number of radio shows on BBC 6 Music and TV music documentaries on BBC 4. She has also collaborated with other artists including Damon Albarn's Gorillaz and Africa Express and released her autobiography 'Black by Design' in 2011.

The Selecter is led by Pauline Black and co-fronted by original member Arthur 'Gaps' Hendrickson. They have been touring all over the world in recent years and returned to the stage in later Summer 2021 to play festivals before touring this Autumn/Winter with *From the Jam*. In between live dates the band are working on a new studio album for release in 2022.

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