

Franz Fanon and Bob Marley: exploring story, metaphor and myth. 30
minute exposition of Marley's two songs, 'Mr Brown' and 'I Shot the
Sheriff'.

Presented by John Thornley

c/o 15 Oriana Place, Palmerston North, New Zealand

This session opens with a Prologue of slides and song. If a 'good picture is worth
1000 words' then 'good slides and songs' must be worth a lot more! The presenter's
'reconstruction' of the two selected songs follows.

'Mr Brown'

*Mr Brown is a clown
who rides through town
in a coffin*

*Where he be found?
in the coffin*

*where there is
three crows on top
and two is laughing*

*O what a confusion
what a botheration!*

*Who is Mr Brown?
I want to know now
He is nowhere
to be found*

*From Mandeville
to Slygenville
coffin running around
upsetting the town
asking for Mr Brown*

*Who is Mr Brown?
Is Mr Brown
controlled by remote?
Calling duppy conqueror
and the ghost catcher
this is your chance*

*take your chance
prove yourself*

*Down in Parade
people running like a masquerade
the police made a raid
they think it failed*

*What a thing in town!
Crow, chauffeur-driven around
skanking as if
they have never known
the man they call
Mr Brown*

1969
(skanking = dancing, boasting or
joking)

<p style="text-align: center;">'I Shot the Sheriff'</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I shot the sheriff but I didn't shoot no deputy, oh no I shot the sheriff but I didn't shoot no deputy</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All around in my home town they're trying to track me down they say they want to bring me in guilty for the killing of a deputy for the life of a deputy</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>But I say I shot the sheriff but I swear it was in self-defence I shot the sheriff and they say it is a capital offence</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sheriff John Brown always hated me for what, I do not know every time I plant a seed he said, kill it before it grow he said, kill them before they grow (read it in the news) I shot the sheriff</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>but I swear it was in self-defence (where was the deputy?) I shot the sheriff (but I swear it was in self-defence)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Freedom came my way one day and I started out of town, yeah all of a sudden I saw Sheriff John Brown aiming to shoot me down so I shot I shot him down and I say If I'm guilty I will pay</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>repeat chorus</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reflexes got the better of me and what is to be must be every day the bucket goes a well one day the bottom a go drop out one day the bottom a go drop out</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1972</p>
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There are a few limited copies of the first issue of 'Music in the Air' featuring John's essay, 'Politics and Religion in the Music of Bob Marley', and also Lisa Beech's 'Dare to Struggle, Dare to Sing' on the work of Street Art Aotearoa including Sue Bradford and the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre, on sale for \$5.00. See John if you are interested.