



music video EPK

**Born free.
He built ships, wealth, and community.
Built the first interracial school house in America.
Protested and changed tax law for free Black men in Massachusetts.
First Black man to meet with a U.S. president**

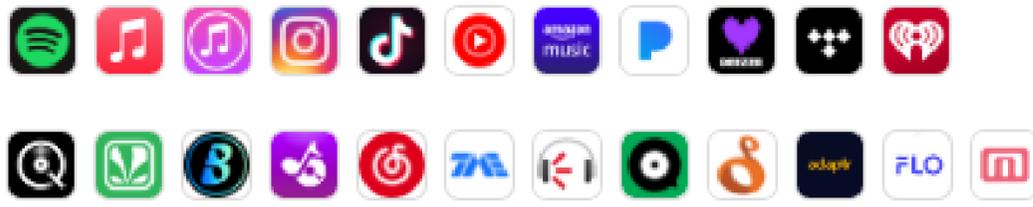
Whaler. Mariner. Revolutionary.

Get to know Paul Cuffe.

Paul Cuffe Is Me is a culturally driven music video designed to spark curiosity, pride, and collective action by reintroducing an erased American hero through modern music and movement.

Watch the music video here.

Released February 1, 2026
Delivered to 23 streaming platforms and stores



DANIEL LAURENT
★ PRODUCED BY ROY \$TUDMIRE

Interview with Daniel Laurent, lyricist



How did you approach writing the lyrics, and what themes or moments from Paul Cuffe's life shaped them?

I took the passion and enthusiasm that Anita [the Director] conveyed and wanted to tell the same story with lyrics that did not feel like a history lessons I am forcing you to attend.

I wanted to include historical points as well as to tie it into modern challenges and struggles today that people will connect to regardless of age and regional upbringings. It was an intentionally coded message though so it is blatant and the King's English but "on coded" language through and through.

What do you hope audiences feel or take away after hearing the song?

I hope that the audience feels inspired and learns something new. This was a real man of intention and purpose and hopefully it inspires the next Paul Cuffe to carve their name in history.

How does Paul Cuffe's legacy connect to your own identity or artistic mission?

I am intentional about the freedom and liberation of my people. I am a man of empathy and optimism but I am no longer wavering for others' comfort who do not see my humanity.

Interview with Roy Studmire, producer

What do you hope audiences feel or take away after hearing the song?

I want people to walk away feeling strengthened, like they just got reminded that purpose is real, and pressure doesn't cancel calling. I'm aiming for conviction and hope at the same time: conviction that you can't keep playing small, and hope that even if your story has been messy, God can still build something meaningful out of it. I want listeners to feel seen as if they've had to fight for stability, if they've had to rebuild, or if they've been underestimated. The takeaway is resilience with integrity, keep moving, keep believing, and don't let hardship rewrite who you are or who God designed you to become.

How does Paul Cuffe's legacy connect to your own identity or artistic mission?

Paul Cuffe connects to me because he wasn't just trying to "make it", he was building lanes. He used entrepreneurship, leadership, and strategic thinking to create access and opportunity, and he did it with a sense of purpose bigger than himself. That's how I see my mission: my music isn't only about expression, it's about impact. I'm called to bridge worlds, faith and culture, artistry and structure, inspiration and real systems that help people win. Cuffe's legacy reflects the kind of blueprint I respect: vision backed by action, success tied to service, and leadership that opens doors for the next person. That aligns with how I'm building, through music, education, and programs that turn creativity into real transformation.

What was your creative process in developing the sound and structure of the track?

My creative process was cinematic on purpose, I wasn't just building a beat, I was building a scene. I started with liberation as the emotional target, so the very first decision was sound design: the ocean waves open the record like an establishing shot, and those subtle textures that feel like hands on rope / sails being worked are there to put the listener inside the moment, not just listening from the outside. That opening is the "time machine", before a single bar really lands, you already know the setting and the mood.



Interview with Roy Studmire, producer

From there, I built the track like a narrative arc:

Intro (roughly the first ~20 seconds): atmosphere first. I let the water and movement do the talking so the song can breathe and create space for imagination. That's where the listener's mind locks into the era and the journey.

First full groove drop (around ~0:20): once the scene is set, I bring in the weight, drums and low end enter in a way that feels like stepping onto the deck after the wide shot. The bounce isn't just for energy; it's the pulse of forward motion.

Section changes / energy management (through the middle): I shaped the arrangement to keep momentum without losing the story. I used dynamic shifts, short transitions, and strategic pockets so it doesn't feel like a loop, it feels like chapters. When the energy lifts, it's intentional; when it pulls back, it's to let the message and imagery land.

Closing stretch: I wanted the ending to feel like a release, like you made it through the waves and you're standing on the other side of it with perspective. Even if the beat stays strong, the arc still has to resolve emotionally.

Production-wise, I was careful to keep the sound effects and textures supportive, not gimmicky. They're mixed as part of the world-building, then the drums and music take over so the track can still hit in a car, on headphones, or on a stage. The goal was always the same: transport the listener, then deliver the message with clarity and impact.



Director Notes

What do you hope audiences feel or take away after hearing the song?

I hope audiences feel energized, surprised, and seen. The song is designed to bring Paul Cuffe out of the dark and into the light, not as a distant historical figure, but as someone whose life and values still shape the world we live in. It invites listeners to feel the strength and confidence of the music first, then realize they are engaging with a history that has been pushed aside or deliberately forgotten.

At its core, the song is about reflection. We are shaped by our histories whether we acknowledge them or not. When those histories are erased or whitewashed, something essential is taken from us. If people leave the song feeling like they want to know more about Paul Cuffe, or are energized by the idea that they are part of a larger movement toward equality, then the song has done its job.

How does Paul Cuffe's legacy connect to your own identity or artistic mission?

Paul Cuffe entered my life at a moment when I was questioning whose stories get preserved and who is allowed to be heroic. Growing up, I rarely saw people like me reflected in American history except as footnotes or tragedies. Cuffe disrupted that narrative. He was brilliant, strategic, deeply principled, and unapologetically ambitious. He did not wait to be granted permission. He built systems, communities, and opportunities where none existed.

My artistic mission is to reclaim erased figures like Paul Cuffe and reintroduce them not as symbols, but as complex protagonists. I am drawn to stories that challenge the dominant version of American history while still being entertaining and alive with humor and contradiction. Like Cuffe, I am interested in the tension between idealism and reality, between believing in a system and recognizing when it fails you.

Paul's legacy is not just historical to me. It is instructive. He believed in collective uplift over individual success, in generosity as strategy, and in education as a radical act. That ethos guides my work. I want audiences, especially those who have never seen themselves centered in history, to feel energized, seen, and invited into the story. Telling Paul Cuffe's story is both an act of remembrance and a declaration of intent. These stories matter, and they belong at the center of our cultural imagination.



credits

Written and Performed by Daniel Laurent

Produced by Roy Studmire

Directed by Anita Allison

A Stinger Films Production

Filmed at Pickerel Pie Entertainment

Producer - Joy Walsh

Cinematographer - Ed David

Editor - Ethan De Aguiar

Choreographer - Kelly Peters

Dancer - Deshon Coit

Dancer - Honeybee Moise

Dancer - Jada Coleman

Dancer - Nicholas Zapata

Dancer - McKinley Alston

Gaffer - Rick Baum

B-Camera Operator - Sofia Paramonov

1st Assistant Camera - Henry Merritt

Colorist - Dan Goldsmith

Hair & Makeup - Rebecca Low

Playback - Jeff Palmer

Catering - Deirdre Kloh

Production Assistant - Jake Ringold

Production Assistant - Ronny Shama

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Social Media Content - Djzia Fratiello

Public Relations - Carrie Hall

Special thanks to:

Chris Torella & Dewey Thompson

Nicole Ouellette, Special Advisor

With Love & Gratitude to:

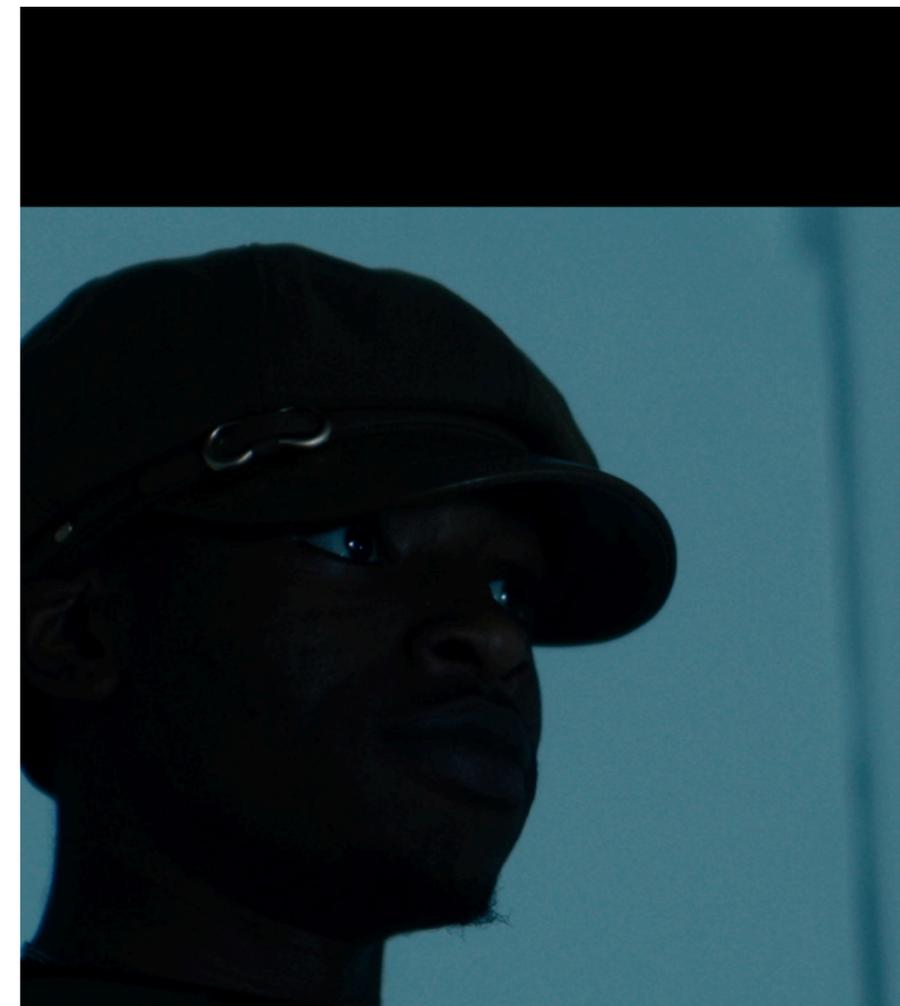
Vivian Shelton

Kristine Briggs

Dedicated to my dad who told me to, "look to history for your art."



PAUL CUFFE IS ME





Social Media

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