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The Expendables light up Tallahassee

Drummer talks sound, tours and legalization

Eric Jaffe • Staff Writer • February 21, 2011

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Adam Patterson is your typical guy. His favorite movie is The Big Lebowski, if he had a bowl for two, he'd smoke it with Snoop Dogg and his favorite album is Simon & Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water. If he was a rapper, his stage name would be Two Pump Chump, and he finds an avatar in Winnie the Pooh (cuddly and enjoys honey). What separates Patterson from the rest of the guys at Florida State, however, is that he's not a student.

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Patterson is the drummer for reggae/rock sensation The Expendables, and he'll be performing at Floyd's Music Store on Feb. 23.

"When we did our first real album, we were fresh out of high school," Patterson said. "I think, at that point, we were still just really learning to play. I think we kind of mimicked bands that we liked more than we created our own style. We weren't really as creative because we just didn't

have the talent yet to be as creative. I think with each album after the first we got into our own style more and more."

Creative is a word that can be used to describe The Expendables' sound as whole. After 10 years of making music with the band, Patterson still hasn't found a distinct genre for the group to fit into.

"I used to say we sounded as if reggae had sex with metal, punk joined in for a three-way, then ska taped it all and pooped out The Expendables," Patterson said.

In the words of a "very nice man," the band met in Germany. "[The Expendables] are the band that doesn't know if [they] are Eek-a-Mouse or Iron Maiden."

Putting this band in a box is really that difficult. The diversity of the group's style is mirrored by their associated acts. Over the course of their work as band, The Expendables have been on tour with everyone from reggae acts Slightly Stoopid, Pepper and 311, to underground hip-hop mainstay The Kottonmouth Kings.

When asked which group had the greatest influence on the band, Patterson responded with the utmost certainty: "Slightly Stoopid. When we first got [Slightly Stoopid's second album] The Longest Barrel Ride, it never left our CD player. They were the first band to really incorporate metal and reggae.

"We were really fortunate when they took us under their wing and became kind of our big brother band. We really looked up to them-we still do."

In particular, Patterson finds inspiration in fellow drummer Ryan Moran, otherwise known as RyMo.

"RyMo, Slightly Stoopid's drummer, is just incredible," Patterson said. "There's no other word to describe it. I've learned a lot from just watching him play and talking drums with him. I really feel like he's one of the best drummers out there today."

Like Slightly Stoopid before them, The Expendables are commonly pigeonholed as a group that makes music primarily aimed at "stoners." Not one to lie about his partaking of substances, Patterson responds to the stereotypes with the brutal honesty of a true artist.

"Everyone smokes pot," Patterson said. "You go to almost any concert, party, or get-together, and people are smoking pot. It doesn't matter what genre or group of people. But, I have to admit reggae concerts do seem to have the biggest cloud. Just f***ing legalize it already."

Adam Patterson and The Expendables will be at Floyd's Music Store on Wednesday, Feb. 23. Doors open at 8 p.m.

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- Great article, I love how The Expendables give recognition to other artist, like Slightly Stoopid. Most people arent sure what type of music their genre is, but after reading this I like how they talk about the two mixes, rock and reggae. I know they are gonna kill it on Feb 23.

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- Expendables album is amazing, and the show was so alive and a a great experience!!

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Stephanie Morgan 2 weeks ago

- These guys seriously rock it every time they get on stage. One of the most amazing live bands currently touring!! I love you guys!! Thanks for making such amazing music I can jam out to everyday

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- This is a sick article, much love to Adam Patterson the Expendables and the whole SS crew

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Reggae Dave 2 weeks ago

- This article's pretty bad ass. Good to see that it doesn't go to peoples heads and they stay true with their fans, friends, and themselves. Stoked they're on warped tour they're killing it right now.

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Reggae rockers The Expendables will perform at Floyd's Music Store on Feb. 23. (artistdata.com)

IF You go

When

Wednesday, Feb. 23, doors at 8 p.m.

Where

Floyd's Music Store

lineup

The Expendables, Big B, Ila Mawana, B-Liminal

Admission

Advance \$13, \$15 day of

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