



Album Review: The Expendables' "Prove It"

Written by Jesse Vanpoucke



"Blending Reggae, Punk Rock, and 80s style dueling guitar solos, The Expendables have been turning heads for years." I found this quote on their website, and honestly I've never come across a band that can describe themselves better than The Expendables. From Santa Cruz, Calif., their new album *Prove It* is a testament to their self-aware style that continues to deliver. If you already like The Expendables or if you're

just curious, be sure to check them out March 24th at the Orpheum Theater here in Flagstaff.

Prove It starts off high in energy with “How Many Times”, offering up spot on punk rock riffs, pleasant harmonies, and impressive guitar solos from lead guitarist Raul Bianchi. But I believe the album really takes off with its second track “Get What I Need”, which is a return to classic Expendables style with a solid SoCal reggae feel, and rhythm guitarist and vocalist Geoff Weers laying down creative lyrics about riding in the barrels of waves while surfing in Santa Cruz.

“Positive Mind” is also an extremely satisfying experience hearing The Expendables doing what they do best, with drummer and vocalist Adam Patterson taking his turn to shine with well executed melodies and syncopated reggae drum beats, with added hand percussion from Slightly Stoopid’s Oguer (OG) Ocon.

One of the most unique tracks on *Prove It*, “I Ain’t Ready” is predominately a mellow reggae tune with a sustained guitar, but in the middle takes a turn for the awesome and The Expendables deliver some really amazing funk. It reminded me oddly of some Daft Punk funk songs. But in *Prove It*, The Expendables saved the best for last.

Second to last, “Wells” is by far the best cut on *Prove It*. It starts mellow with an acoustic guitar melody with vocalists Geoff Weers and Adam Patterson spot on with their harmonies. The lyrics speak metaphorically, and then more literally about love and desire. But what I think really ties this song together is the guest musician G. Love. A SoCal reggae band studio regular, G. Love has been featured by many musicians such as Slightly Stoopid, Jack Johnson, and Dave Matthews just to name a few, and G. Love really comes through for The Expendables in “Wells”. His harmonica playing adds exactly the finishing touch “Wells” needed, and his vocal verse in the middle of the song is some of the best G. Love I’ve ever heard. All in all, “Wells” is a killer track.

If you liked The Expendables before, you’ll most certainly love *Prove It*, and if you’re not sure, take a listen. If you like anything ranging from Sublime to Rage Against The Machine, then you’ll most likely dig The Expendables and *Prove It*.