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The Expendables (Warped Tour)



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Members Interviewed:

Geoff Weers (GW)

Adam Patterson (AP)

Your latest album, *Prove It*, in my opinion seems to be more musically diverse than previous albums, what approach if any did you do different when writing this album?

GW: *I think it's because we had 2 to 2 and half years of a gap between that album release and our previous one. This gave us a lot of time to have a lot of jams and allowed for us to create half songs here and there and then coming back to them and finish them up. We just had a lot of old songs that we were able to work on and tweak to make them what they are now.*
AP: *"It's also fun to meet new bands and playing with bands outside of our genre because it allows us to kind of try and gain new fans."*

AP: *As far as why it seems different is because I think we've always had different sounds on every album but now we're better musicians and our ears are so much better. Now I feel like we can pull off stuff now that we couldn't have done when we were younger. We've never had a style of music that we wouldn't play like on our oldest albums from high school we have several different styles that we still try and play today but I mean we just love music in general.*

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The songs featured on your latest album seem to have deeper lyrics, for example the song "Wells" has such a deep feel to it. Was there anything in particular that was on your mind when you were writing that song?

GW: Well that song is pretty much about breaking up with a girlfriend. It's a metaphor I guess for the emotions that you feel when you don't have a girlfriend any more. I personally was going through a rough break up at the time and so I think it has such a deep feel because that's how I was actually feeling.

Along with the release of Prove It you guys also released a music video for "Wells" which is a first for The Expendables, is there any talk about making any more music videos or maybe releasing a DVD soon?

AP: Well now they have small hand held photography cameras that just shoot crazy high definition/commercial quality stuff and so I think because of that we will be doing a lot more videos in the future. It's just a good thing for the fans and good thing to have plus they're fun to do.

When talking about American reggae The Expendables are one of the first bands that most people talk about. What do you feel like is the biggest reason for the bands success?

GW: We're popular?

AP: Haha yeah I wasn't aware that we were popular but I think it's because we've played with a shit ton of bands of different genres. We've played with reggae bands to punk bands and everything in between so I think that allowed us to reach more fans.

GW: Like you said, our album is pretty diverse so there is kind of a song that can appeal to everybody. I feel sometimes that we're a band that doesn't really have any "hits" but more like having some people liking one song more than another group likes another song.

AP: I feel like some people like our music for different reasons and for different songs.

You mentioned that you play with bands of so many different genres which have allowed you to reach a broader fan base; do you prefer to play with bands similar to you or with bands of a different genre?

AP: I think a little bit of both, I mean you always want to play with your friends because it's something that's familiar and they are people you get along with and can have a good time with. It's also fun to meet new bands and playing with bands outside of our genre because it allows us to kind of try and gain new fans.

You recently played on 311's Caribbean cruise along side with your buddies Pepper, can you describe your experience on the cruise?

GW: It was quite an experience, for one the seas were pretty rough to play on. Playing on a boat that is constantly moving was weird to start.

AP: Yeah it was pretty stormy too so the boat was moving pretty hard. It made me feel like I was wasted but I wasn't.

GW: We got a lot fans I think, we hung out with a lot of different people and everywhere we walked people were trying to buy us drinks. It was just really pretty fun.

AP: We had a blast; it would be something I would definitely want to do every year if we could. Maybe not necessarily with 311 because they would probably want to switch it up. It just seems like an amazing experience for fans in general to just be able to be engulfed in your favorite

bands.

Who reached out to who? Did 311 contact you guys or did you contact them?

AP: They contacted us, they just picked a lot of bands that have opened for them in like the past 5 years and kind of threw them all in one boat.

With The Expendables playing so many shows with so many bands, what is the most memorable show you have played?

AP: My favorite was probably when we played the Queen Mary in Long Beach with Pepper, Fishbone and a whole bunch of other great bands. It was just pure chaos man, they had sold backstage tickets or something to everyone and so when we were playing we were just surrounded by crazy ass fans. I mean there was a mosh pit behind us and in front of us and it was just so crazy so that made it just one our first awesome shows.

You guys got the opportunity of playing in Germany last year, how was the experience of playing in a country that has a whole different language?

GW: It was kind of rough because they didn't really know of us so we were pretty new to them

AP: Mad Caddies joined us on that tour and are little bit more ska/punk compared to us but they had some reggae stuff and the crowd liked it.

GW: Yeah there was a couple crowds that we turned around I thought, you know they were grooving and actually up against the stage bobbing their head instead of just standing in a big half circle.

AP: It was a good response and for sure a fun experience so I think we definitely need to go back.

Well with having such a good experience playing in Germany, is there any other foreign country we can expect The Expendables to play in the near future?

GW: If the opportunity arises to play any new countries we would love to go

AP: Traveling is something that is fun for a band and for me individually, I mean I love to travel and want to go everywhere. Hell I would play Antarctica if I could just to say I've been there haha.

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With this year being The Expendables' first year on Warped Tour, what does the band hope to gain from this one of kind experience? (band relationships, contacts, fans, etc.)

GW: I would really like to just meet new bands and make some new contacts and hopefully do some future tours with them. We definitely want to get some new fans we're really trying to reach out personally to meet new fans I mean we're always at the merchandise table. We're just trying to capitalize on this awesome opportunity and meet as many people as we can.

There are so many bands playing this year's Vans Warped Tour, I know it's only the third show of the tour but are there any bands that have caught your eye so far?

AP: I haven't really been able to look around too much yet because I'm still just trying to get my

schedule down but there are definitely a lot of good bands. I'm not a big fan of a lot of the genres of music on this tour but I'm a fan of music in general and there is just so many good musicians here and hopefully as the tour goes on I can meet some people and make a friendship to last a life time, haha.

GW: *I saw Lionize on the first day and they blew me away, I was really impressed. I met their drummer last night and talked to him a little bit and those guys are really cool.*

With Prove It being released over a year ago is there any plans or talk about releasing a new album?

GW: *Yeah you know we're working on it but we haven't made any decisions on setting a date for getting in the studio or anything.*

AP: *We're actually checking out a studio tomorrow on our day off so we're always thinking about making a new album. We just want to make sure it's good content before we go in the studio and record but there is some things we can do before we release our next album that we're thinking about. We're maybe thinking of releasing a live album or an acoustic album so recordings in our future for sure.*

With your friends Pepper and Passafire joining you guys on the entire tour I imagine you guys will spend a lot of time partying and hanging out together. Can we expect any collaboration with either of them for any future shows on this Warped Tour or maybe for a new album? Or any other bands on the tour for that matter?

AP: *As far as collaborations for Warped Tour you never know but definitely for the album. I've always wanted to get the Pepper guys on our album, I mean we've had guests on our albums before and we just enjoy it and it's fun to record. I think the cool part about being friends with bands is just that the possibilities are endless and you can do so many things.*

What's next for The Expendables after Warped Tour?

GW: *Well after this tour we're going on tour with Pepper and Ballyhoo around September or October time. We will actually be coming back in the area to play Austin, Texas on September 29, 2011 at Stubb's so be sure to check it out.*

AP: *Yeah dates are being announced every day at Warped Tour and that will probably finish the year out. We usually do a headlining tour in the winter/early spring called Winter Blackout Tour and we're just going to try and get a big band to join us and try and just crush it across the U.S. and maybe Canada.*

Interview Conducted by [Tim Castaneda](#)

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