

Interview with The Expendables



This is my interview with Ryan DeMars, bassist, of The Expendables from Warped Tour 2011 in Cuyahoga Falls, OH on July 20th. Ryan is an incredibly nice guy and it was awesome to meet with him. Here is a link to the band's songs "Sacrifice": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPyCINoZ1I4&feature=related> and "Wells (feat. G. Love)": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCIGVyljFM&feature=related>. A list of the shows on their upcoming tour with Pepper is available here: <http://theexpendables.net/shows/>.

First off, how are you?

I'm doing good.

Are you enjoying Warped so far?

Yeah, we're like three weeks in. I'm enjoying the air conditioning, it is so hot outside right now.

Who you hoping to see play?

I'll probably go check out Paramore again. But other than that, I'll probably stay on the bus (*Laughs*) I've got some more weeks of being able to see bands so I might just see two or three a day and five minutes of some others and then I'm out. You have to get out of the heat.

Do you have a favorite song or place to perform live?

I really like playing new songs because I get really tired of some songs, it's weird. I always just want to keep on going and playing new stuff and writing new stuff. I get really burnt out on playing the same songs over and over. My favorite place to play is probably The Catalyst back home in Santa Cruz. It's like our hometown venue. It has a lot of history with our band and where we started our career so it's definitely a special place.

Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

Find your friends that play music and stay with them and don't ever change band members. It's really gnarly, you just have to do and it give it your 110%. You have to sacrifice everything else if you want to be successful. If you don't care about making it a career then just have fun.

If you could give yourself advice 5 years ago, what would you say?

Jump ship! (*Laughs*) No, not at all. I wouldn't change anything. Maybe a silly bit of advice would be to wait for a tour bus. Take a van one more tour because it is expensive to take a bus. We waited and waited and toured for so many years in an RV and a van. I think you should take those until you are absolutely about to snap and then get a bus. You will appreciate it so much more and save a lot of money.

If you could co-write an album with anyone, who would it be and why?

I would say Anthony Kiedis from Red Hot Chili Peppers, that's kind of an easy answer I guess. I was trying to think of something good and deep. I really would just love to write with anyone who's just crazy and out of their mind because it's unpredictable. Anyone can write a song that rhymes bay and hay but to get someone who's out of this dimension and just out of this world would give you the best co-writing material.

What bands or artists have influenced you the most?

As far as when I was trying to learn to play myself, when I was in high school, Sublime was definitely my biggest influence as far as style and I think that we connect with that band, a little surf community band, it just screams at us. I think I connected to that and was inspired off that style for sure. Bob Marley, of course. My mom used to put the speakers on her belly when she was pregnant with me and just played Bob Marley all day long. That has somehow probably influenced me (*Laughs*).

What's the craziest experience you've had after a show?

Everything is crazy, just being out on the road and not being home is crazy. It's like one adventure after next whether it's involving girl or alcohol. The thing about being on the road is that it is kind of like

groundhog's day, you do whatever you can to break that. We do whatever we can to keep the monotony from making us f**king kill each other. To sum it up, we had a girl poop in our van once like in a Cup O' Noodles. I don't know what exactly happened but it could have reached the point where she freaked out and that was all that was there, I don't know. To this day, we are still trying to figure it out but we know it was her because us band guys are really honest with each other and would tell the rest of the guys everything. Unless somebody, broke into our van, not to steal but to poop in a Cup O' Noodles. That's not really exciting, it's just kind of gross. I could make something up but s**t really happens. (*Laughs*)

Who is your favorite band that you've toured with?

I think at the time of our career, when we toured with Slightly Stoopid for the first time, it was really cool and special because that was a band we looked up to and they really influenced our music a lot and they are one of our just favorite bands in general. I don't think people realize the influence they had on us. Slightly Stoopid's style definitely pointed our music in our direction. Going on tour with them was our first big tour and we got to hear their music and we are really good friends with them so that alone, was an experience as far as touring. Another thing is, we tour with our friends and that's the best. Everyone is friends with everyone and there is no rock ego bulls**t or some weird s**t from a different band. We've all played in front of five people and we've all played in front of 2,000 people or whatever. The people that you do it with over the ten years, you're friends are the ones you want to do it with.

What are your plans for the future?

Probably going to go on the bus, hang out in the a/c before our set. We're going on tour with Pepper as a follow up tour to this in the fall for five weeks. It's going to be Pepper, The Expendables, and Ballyhoo. We're doing five weeks in major cities and it's going to be awesome because you aren't getting the half hour of each of us like today, you will get full of both of us and hopefully we'll be combining some stuff. We've already been attacking the issue so usually it's something that we pull out of our a** halfway through the tour but we are actually having meetings and stuff, it's the real deal.

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