



The Expendables perform at this year's Warped Tour.

All like it hot at Vans Warped Tour

BY DAVID BURGER

The Salt Lake Tribune

First published Aug 02 2011 02:17PM

Updated Aug 7, 2011 05:33PM

KUTV is forecasting that the hottest day of this week will be Saturday, with a high of 93.

That's also the day the Vans Warped Tour visits Utah. As past years have shown, the alt-rock and extreme sports festival always — always — happens on one of the hottest days of the summer, if not the hottest. You can't have one without the other.

The 17th annual Warped Tour festival has given exposure to up-and-coming indie talent as well as showcasing major established artists since 1995. While Warped bills initially featured punk bands, now the tour bill features an eclectic array of artists, including metal, rock, hip-hop, rap, electronica, reggae and pop. (Katy Perry performed on the 2008 Warped tour.)

One of the new features this year is the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, which will have local students on

board recording and producing their own music.

While well-known bands such as Less Than Jake and Relient K are appearing on the tour, the Tribune interviewed musicians from two talented, yet lesser-known bands. We asked Alex Reed from Go Radio (and a Tallahassee, Fla.-based rock band formed by former Mayday Parade frontman Jason Lancaster), Geoff Weers and Adam Patterson of The Expendables (a veteran ska-rock band from Santa Cruz, Calif.) about their opinions of John Lennon, what they do to stay cool, and some of the unusual things they've seen on this year's tour.

The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus is touring with the Vans Warped Tour all summer. Are you a fan of John Lennon?

Geoff Weers » I know John Lennon's contribution to music is huge, and I am a fan of that.

Adam Reed • Absolutely! I feel like even if you aren't a fan of the music he created — which is ridiculous — you still have to have a great amount of respect for what he did for the industry. He truly was the epitome of a rock 'n' roll icon that became something even greater over the years.

Adam Patterson • I think that as a person who enjoys modern music you have to at least respect John Lennon and what he did. I really like a lot of his songs, and what he did in the studio changed how bands record stereo music.

The Vans Warped Tour typically happens on the hottest day of the year in Utah. How do you keep hydrated?

Weers » It is hot every day on Warped. I usually sleep and stay in the bus to stay cool. Going outside is almost ridiculous sometimes when it gets too hot. Drink lots of water. It's the only way to go.

Reed • Don't underestimate how much water you need. I probably go through 10 bottles of water a day and try to drink at least two before I step outside in the morning. It really is unlike any other tour, and you have to adapt to the extreme conditions or you're going to find yourself in a hospital. I try to wash my hands as much as humanly possible and always carry hand sanitizer for those days we are just in a massive field. As far as sanity, I think the smartest thing you can do is just accept the heat, seldom showers and inconvenience. Once you do that, you kind of go on auto-pilot and it affects you a lot less.

Patterson • Water, water, water. I drink probably three times the daily recommended amount of water. It's crazy. I'll even throw a Gatorade in the mix, too, just because it's so, so hot. A lot of dudes work out in the morning or night. We probably walk five miles at least a day just going to catering and the stage.

Which fellow bands do you most want to see, and which bands have you seen that you believe Utahns just have to see, no matter what?

Weers » Passafire, Yelawolf, Less Than Jake, Lionize, The Aggrolites, Black Veil Brides, Big Chocolate, illScarlett, Tomorrows Bad Seeds — the list goes on and on.

Reed • I've really enjoyed reuniting with a lot of the bands we've toured with this past year, like A Day To Remember, August Burns Red, Enter Shikari, and The Dangerous Summer. Relient K and Against Me! have probably been my most-watched bands of the summer. They are so freaking good! I think it's also super important to seek out new music, and that for me was Moving Mountains. They are playing the same stage as us the whole summer and that band is doing some really cool stuff, very Thrice meets Brand New.

Patterson • You have to see ... Passafire and Less than Jake. They all put on great shows, and they are our friends so they'd be mad if I didn't give 'em a plug.

There are numerous bands playing at any one time during the festival. Why should a Utah music fan make a point of seeing your show?

Weers » Go see our show because you can dance, mosh and smoke weed all during our ripping 30-minute set. What more can you ask for?

Reed • Well, first of all, our stage is usually in a shaded amphitheater, and on Warped Tour finding shade and a place to sit down can really be a day-changer. We take our craft very seriously, though — not to say other bands don't — but we leave it all out there on the stage and give it 110 percent every day, whether it's 113 degrees or raining. I think that really shows. There are also a lot of heavier bands on the tour this year and I think we bring something a little different to the table — kind of refreshing, in my opinion.

Patterson • Because we play good-time party music and there isn't a whole lot of that on the tour. We'll make you dance, mosh, and smile. Why wouldn't you want to do all that? Plus our guitar player Raul [Bianchi] has been working out all summer and looks real, real good.

What is the most unusual thing you have seen happen on the tour this year?

Weers » I see unusual things every morning when I go to the Porta-Potty.

Reed • Dustin Diamond [Screech from "Saved by the Bell"] came out to one of the dates. He's pretty darn unusual. Warped Tour, in general, is pretty unusual. Everything around you is so outrageous all day that you almost become desensitized to it.

Patterson • In Minnesota, Raul, our guitar player, went out and danced in only a pair of Flash Gordon underwear onstage while Pepper was playing the main stage. It was amazing.

Did you ever go to the Warped Tour when you were younger?

Weers » I went to Warped in '98 or '99 and took a Vicodin just before AFI's set. I was in the pit when the Vicodin kicked in and turned my stomach upside down. I frantically ran to the bathroom and puked my guts out. Not a very sweet story, but I learned to eat before I pop pills.

Reed • Yes, definitely. It's really kinda crazy to think back to that excitement and eagerness to see all your favorite bands. I see that in a lot of these kids and it's really a dream come true to be standing on that stage every day. I remember being rebellious and telling my mother that I didn't need to wear sunscreen. To this day I remember exactly what I was wearing, because I burned so severely that I had those tan lines for like 6 months.

Patterson • I went a bunch of times when I was a wee lad. I saw Long Beach Dub Allstars, NOFX, Green Day, 311. Lagwagon, so many awesome bands. I had a band about 12 years ago that played the Battle of the Bands in Fresno. We got sneaky and got ahold of backstage passes. I remember being on the side of the main stage standing next to Billie Joe from Green Day and El Hefe of NOFX and saying, "Yeah, this is what I want to be doing for the rest of my life." I was 18, and it is my best Warped Tour memory by far.

Is the Warped Tour still relevant?

Weers » Warped is still one of the largest tours out there, and I think that is what has made it so special throughout the years. Sure, the music styles on the tour have changed, but I feel it is still the same at its core. [It is] a bunch of kick-ass bands getting together and exposing their music to fans [who] wouldn't normally go see their show outside the Warped Tour.

Reed • I would say it absolutely is, and I think it's super important for it to stay relevant. It's a place where kids can escape all day and hear all their favorite bands. It's so cool because you get exposed to a lot of new music as well, which in my opinion is what Warped Tour is all about. Warped Tour is my youth and it's incredible to say that it is now a part of my career.

Patterson • I'm guessing it is because there are a bunch of kids coming out to the shows. If it wasn't, why would they come stand in the heat?

[Next Page »](#)

Copyright 2011 The Salt Lake Tribune. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Music » Florida band Go Radio and California band The Expendables chat up the alt-rock festival.

Article Tools



- » [Comments \(0 \)](#)
- » [E-mail this story](#)
- » [Printer-friendly version](#)

Photos



At A Glance

—

Vans Warped Tour '11

Acts include Against Me!, Black Veil Brides, Dance Gavin Dance, Family Force Five, Go Radio, The Expendables, Gym Class Heroes, Less Than Jake, Passafire, Relient K, The Acacia Strain, The Aggrolites, The Devil Wears Prada, The Ready Set and more.

When » Saturday, Aug. 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Where » Utah State Fairpark, 155 N. 1000 West, Salt Lake City

Tickets » \$28.03 in advance, \$35 day of, at SmithsTix

