October 2013

Tribal Seeds: Getting Back to their Roots

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Tribal Seeds

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2014/iss1/7

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Hands and bodies sway to the mellow, feel-good music as Tribal Seeds steers the atmosphere in a slow swell to Rastafarian bliss. Infusing crowd favorites with new songs, the set starts with their laid-back roots reggae tunes and ends on a high-energy jam, which brings in vocals from HIRIE and Fortunate Youth while sending the crowd into a hypnotic dance frenzy. Dreaded hair flies through the air as the band and crowd alike move to the beat.

With an energized rock-infused reggae sound, Tribal Seeds climbed as high as number two on the Billboard Reggae Charts with their EP “Soundwaves” in 2011. After more than two years since the release of their last EP, they have their newest full-length album in the works. With both upbeat and mellow tunes, the band not only pushes their roots vibe to new limits, they explore laid-back love songs with a roots foundation. “This album is going to be an improvement from anything we've done,” Tony-Ray Jacobo says.

Brothers Steven Rene Jacobo and Tony-Ray Jacobo birthed Tribal Seeds in San Diego as a natural evolution from their musical upbringing. “We started recording music and playing out of the garage, like most bands do, and along the way we just picked up band members,” Tony-Ray says. The band now has six members who he calls a "solid
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"In a this ya life you got to strive all the time/ Strive to do good works and achieve peace of mind/Spreading the truth in a positive vibe/ Educate the youth and tell them no lie." Their soulful melodies take fans through an upbeat and psychedelic journey to self-awareness.

Influenced by roots reggae bands Steel Pulse and Midnite, as well as Bob Marley, Tribal Seed’s passion for music inspires them to keep writing. The bands they have shared the stage with have also had an impact on their music. “We’ve toured almost half the year with Slightly Stoopid, during the spring and summer,” Tony-Ray says. “That was really cool to share the stage with them. We’ve looked up to those guys and their music for a lot of years now.”

They are now on tour with Fortunate Youth, a six-piece roots reggae band with a tonal, raspy sound, and HIRIE, a new artist who blends roots reggae with pop. Though this isn’t Tribal Seed’s first time sharing the stage with Fortunate Youth, this is HIRIE’s first tour. “She’s part of our family now and we’re excited to share the stage with [her and Fortunate Youth] every night for a couple months,” Tony-Ray says.

“[Our goal] is to put out a lot of energy and good vibes and just try to share that with the crowd,” he says. “We just hope to, you know, give the love back to you guys.”

Their tour spreads through several states across the U.S. and even includes some tour dates on the Atlantic. Tribal Seeds joined a cruise festival from Miami to the Bahamas November 1 through 5. Rombello—the music festival cruise—offered non-stop, live music for adventurous music lovers during the cruise and fun in the sun when in the Bahamas on their own private island.

With their newest album on the way, Tony-Ray reflects on their enviable career. “We’re stoked every time we see that [one of our songs] hits top ten on the Billboard Reggae Charts or iTunes,” he says. “It’s an amazing thing. We just try to make music that we love. People receive [our message], and we are able to be successful at it.”

Marijuana is a key topic in their songs, providing peace of mind and inspiration in their tunes. “It just puts you in that state of mind where you can relax yourself,” Tony-Ray says. “It’s a form of meditation where you can be to yourself and just have a mellow moment.” This meditation inspires their melodies and lyrics.

Above all else, sending a positive message to their fans is the essence of what Tribal Seeds embodies. In “The Harvest,” Steven reflects, “We’re stoked every time we see that [one of our songs] hits top ten on the Billboard Reggae Charts or iTunes,” he says. “It’s an amazing thing. We just try to make music that we love. People receive [our message], and we are able to be successful at it.”

crew.” Lead vocalist Steven writes most of the lyrics while brother Tony-Ray produces most of the music along with the band.

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