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DJ Stout

The new kid on the block, **DJ Stout** rips and cuts on the wheels of steel like a savvy veteran of old school hip-hop. Slurring hip-hop into rap into funk with the slight of hand not seen since Houdini, Stout will have you shakin' what ya mamma gave ya. Come back to the days of shell-tops, fat laces and nylon running suits DJ Stout style.

PabstBlueRibbon.com

music BY DAVE CONSTANTIN



Far from Dreadful

John Brown's Body: reggae, roots and all

The all-American members of the all-reggae band John Brown's Body are proof that you don't need to come from Jamaica to lay down solid reggae — not that their fans ever had any doubt.

Among the faithful, the East Coast band has enjoyed a decade-long, nearly unchallenged reign as one of the top reggae bands in the U.S. That's because, unlike many contemporary reggae acts, JBB's music is utterly without pretense. A song like "New Blood" for instance, with its vaguely disco feel and insanely catchy vocals probably would have ended up a watery crossover disaster in the hands of lesser talent. But not here.

The band shows a strong devotion to the classic '70s era roots sound and instrumentation, while always maintaining a current feel. "Pressure Points [their latest release] is a contemporary modern album," says trombonist Alex Beram. "We don't really play roots reggae per se. Our last two records were a very modern take on roots music. The four-part vocal harmony is based on the Motown sound."

Sure, the harmonies ring of Motown, but

they just as easily evoke images of Bob Marley at his peak. Especially on songs like "Heart and Soul" and "Not Enough," which showcase not only backup vocal artistry, but also the devastatingly tight, mid-tempo rhythmic control of bassist Scott Palmer and drummer Tommy Benedetti.

Pressure

Points has been on Billboard's reggae charts for almost 20 straight weeks since its release. Some of the credit for that has to go to Easy Star Records — a year ago the band signed with the label to produce *Pressure Points*. Their tour is named the "Easy Star Pacific Jam Down," and will see JBB sharing the bill with Easy Star Record's own pet outfit, the Easy Star All-Stars. This is the band, in case you don't know, who made it big with *Dub Side of the Moon*, a true crossover success story that featured the All-Stars reinventing Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* as a reggae album.

"This is a tour featuring two cutting edge Reggae bands, who have played with everyone from Dave Matthews to Jurassic 5 to Moby," says Beram. "There's not a lot of bands nationally that do what we do." And the simple truth is, there's not a lot of bands that can. **EW**

**John Brown's Body,
The Easy Star All-Stars**
9 pm, Thur., 10/6
The Jungle, \$13 adv/\$15 dos

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Mon 10/17 **THE POSIES**

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Wed 10/26 **THE RED ELVISES**