

## Rebelution's Winter Greens Tour at the Roseland

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by John Leslie

On Thursday January 20th, Santa Barbara reggae-rockers [Rebelution](#) brought their bouncing rhythms and feel-good melodies to at the [Roseland Theater](#), and the reggae chart-topping quartet easily got the nearly sold-out venue grooving to their funky, upbeat, easygoing jams.

The *Winter Greens Tour* featured support from funk band [Orgone](#) and fellow reggae rockers [Iration](#), who both succeeded in getting the crowd pumped up. Rebelution took the stage surrounded by fake potted fern plants, a vintage California Sensimilla potato sack hung from the keyboard stand, and several green lasers cutting through the smoke created both on stage and off. The band went straight into the distinctive synthesizer hook of the fan favorite "Green to Black," which set the crowd off dancing, singing along and throwing balloons around to create a very energetic atmosphere. The band seamlessly transitioned into "Lazy Afternoon," a song whose lyrics invoke pleasant memories of wasted time



with a loved one. Bassist Marley D. Williams kept the crowd engaged with hand waving prompts and dancing while lead singer and guitarist Eric Rachmany put his many effect pedals to good use on extended dub sections on several songs, one that included a slight nod to the Marley classic "Jammin'."

Rebelution, started in 2004 by four college friends with a mutual love for Bob Marley and Sublime, first gained recognition playing crowd-pleasing local shows to thousands in their beach community of Isla Vista. Their debut album *Courage To Grow* was selected as the iTunes Editor's Choice for "Best Reggae Album of 2007," and San Francisco's Live 105 soon put their single "Safe and Sound" in heavy rotation followed by KROQ and San Diego's 91X. Their sophomore album, 2009's *Bright Side of Life*, reached number one on the iTunes' reggae chart and number three on the overall albums chart soon after its release. With nonstop touring and plenty of word-of-mouth praise, all of this was accomplished with support only from their own record label, 87 Music. Thursday night's show was a continuation of the band's relentless tour schedule in support of their 2009 album.

The 90-minute set included nearly the entirety of *Bright Side of Life* including the catchy, hip hop influenced "Outta Control," the slow acoustic ballad-esque "Moonlight," and the album's title track, urging listeners with sincerity to "be calm, take a breath and don't cry, look on the bright side of life." Many favorites from their debut album were included in the set, such as the hit single "Safe and Sound," the cautionary tale "Nightcrawler," and "Attention Span," which describes the quiet personal embarrassment of forgetting the name of a new female acquaintance. The band also performed three new songs from their forthcoming third full-length, which the band announced they had just finished recording. The youthful Portland crowd seemed especially receptive to the new song "So High."

The band returned at the end of the show with an encore that included an invitation for members of the opening bands to join them onstage for a "brodeo" collaborative—an amusing rendition of 2Pac's party anthem "California Love." The show was best summarized by the initial set closing choice of "Feeling Alright" (below)—a song which best evoked the positive, laid back nature of Rebelution's self-described "California-reggae" that was enjoyed by the Portland crowd all evening long.



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