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## Heavyweight Dub Champion :: Rise of the Champion Nation

Champion Nation Recordings / IODA

★★★★★

Reviewed on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 by Myisha Cherry

*Rise Of The Champion Nation* is a heavy in bass and drum album with hip-hop, electronica, soul, spoken word, and reggae all wrapped into one project. Unlike the trend in pop and rap music today, the album is not embedded with consistent empty substance nor the negative elements of misogyny and violence. Its heavy and heavy in a good way.

Tracks like "Trouble" is a heart moving and ironically sexy record based on a negro spiritual that takes on several brilliant melodic changes throughout. "Warrior" is a liberation call as spoken word blends with an electronica beat that is both grabbing and intriguing. Killah priest and KRS One are two of the many artists who makes an appearance on the album. On "Rise" KRS One makes a proclamation that seems to echo the theme of the album: *this is not a club/this is a temple that I'm preachin in/ you are not a thug/you've just been hurt by these streets again* With the exception of these two emcees, the lyrics on the album seems archaic and the hooks lack appeal. Although *Rise Of The Champion* is filled with positive messages, it unfortunately lacks the potency of a full album worth listening to.

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*Personally I've been digging on this album a lot and in my opinion it deserves way more than the 2.5 stars you gave it! I agree with you that it is heavy and dark in a really and positive way, but that's pretty much where we part ways... Personally I love the fact that it's real "album" - there's a real narrative flow throughout that holds my attention and my finger away from the >> button. There are definitely a few standout tracks like Dawn and the KRS tunes that have made their way onto a couple of my playlists but I pretty much listen to it full.*

*That being said, it's all about Heavyweight live for me. I checked them for first time at Reggae on the River in '06 - didn't know what to expect and was blown away by their set. Three dreads at the controls, Dr. Isreal and all the other vocalists took things out to the next level. Everyone was going nuts! Deep, deep, deep...*

★★★★★ Posted Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 08:28 by Bob Arctor

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