

Leap In The Dark

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Music Review: Apache Indian & The Reggae Revolution *Time For Change Tour Live*

There aren't very many nice things you can say about the British Empire, in fact I'd say you'd be hard pressed to find any. But as a result of the Britain's colonial ambitions of years gone by that funny little island off the coast of France has become a gathering place for the myriad of people who at one time lived under her always sunny flag.

Probably two of the largest immigrant groups were Indians and Jamaicans. Both groups have been settled in their newfound country now long enough to be on third generations. Through proximity the two groups, especially the younger generation, have become to grown familiar with each other's culture, specifically music. This is leading to some interesting combinations and meetings between the two.

To the uninitiated Apache Indian merely sounds redundant, but to those in the know it means a lot more. [Apache Indian](#) is the name taken by one of England's most popular singers. Of Indian, not Native American, Indian heritage he has combined the traditional bhangra music with reggae to come up with a sound that represents the best of both worlds.



In 2006 Apache Indian toured with Reggae Revolution as a part of the World Of Music And Dance (WOMAD) tour. As part of the tour they played the Musicport World Music Festival in Whitby, North Yorkshire United Kingdom. It was at this concert that the DVD *Time For Change Tour Live* was filmed and is now being released through [MVD](#)

Apache himself is an impressive looking man, tall and straight with a very full head of dreadlocks and great stage presence;

constantly dancing and performing high leg kicks associated with martial arts and bhangra dance steps. Thankfully not wearing tons of gold jewellery around his neck or acting in any way like a North American hip-hop performer save for some similarities in vocal inflection Apache weaves in and out amidst six or seven members of The Reggae Revolution.

I'm questioning the number in the group not because I can't count but because I'm not sure if one of the people on stage is from The Revolution or if he works exclusively with Apache Indian. Gubzy is listed in the credits as playing Indian percussion, which seems to include sampled sounds as well as live, because he spends as much time standing over an electronic box as he does the Tabla or picking up the two headed dhol.

There's a great moment right in the middle of the concert where they stop all the music except for Gubzy and his drums. On the back cover of the DVD track listings they are listed as "Gubzy's Freestyle" and "Dholblast" and they are lumped under the title of "Hey Baba Improv" on the inside track listing, but whatever you want to call them they are great. He is an amazing drummer and gives a clinic in how to play the dhol as he leads the band and the audience in some great rhythms.



The Reggae Revolution seems like they are The Band for hire these days having played with people like Sting and groups like Musical Youth. It's no wonder, because they are wonderful. Not only can they be counted on to lay down a rock solid reggae beat but they can jump right into any improvisation with ease.

After a while I found myself wishing there were more of those breaks for improvisation like the one with Gubzy as Apache's sound began to get rather monotonous. Although the lyrical content was more interesting than usual, the rap style approach started to wear thin after a while. I began to wonder whether the people in the audience were absorbing any of what he was saying.

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