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Album: Extra Credit
Artist: Yoni
Style: Rock



Artists making smart pop-rock are almost everywhere you look these days; so much so, that a lucky break is needed to give one a leg up on the competition. Such a boost was given to Florida-based singer-songwriter Yoni Leviatan's career when his song "Twentysomething" was used by MTV as theme music on a couple of their shows. That kind of publicity doesn't come along everyday, and the exposure helped raise Yoni's profile immeasurably.

Which leads us to his debut album Extra Credit, a collection of--what else?--smart pop rock that also boasts some funk and ska influences. Upon initial listening, the album's grooves evoke the Red Hot Chili Peppers or Primus, but unlike those bands Yoni isn't just making music to shake your booty to; he's got something to say about the world around us, which is fitting for a guy who graduated from college with a degree in criminology and law. A re-mastered version of "Twentysomething" kicks off the proceedings, and it's by far the best song here: a rockin' rumination on the trials and tribulations of being young in this day and age. From there we get songs about psychology ("A Lesson in Freud"), the usual love politics ("Maybe This Time"), political apathy ("Fate of the Union"), and contemporary college life ("Tales of Higher Learning"), all delivered with pile-driving funk oriented grooves and lots of electric guitars. When Yoni gets quieter, as on "Morning", he reminds of any number of people from Dave Matthews to Ben Harper, but he's sincere and that's what counts.

Extra Credit isn't the most original album sounding album in the world--it does need that little extra something to make it stand out from the pack--but Yoni does have a spark about him that makes me want to root for him in the long term. So I guess the verdict is a B for Yoni's Extra Credit, with one eye on future endeavors.

Written By: Gina Morris

<http://www.evolutionofmedia.com/review.asp?id=727&order=Yoni&style=Rock>