



## Ziggy Marley, 'Wild and Free'

**Bob Marley's eldest son is back in fine form with his latest set of classic reggae grooves**

**By Andy Hermann**

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**Record label:** Tuff Gong Worldwide

**Official website:** <http://www.ziggymarley.com/>



**The buzz:** Bob Marley's eldest son has been somewhat upstaged in recent years by younger and hipper Marley offspring like Julian and Damian "Jr. Gong." After releasing a Grammy-winning children's album in 2009 ("Family Time"), the former Melody Maker frontman returns with his first studio album for grownups since 2006's "Love Is My Religion."

**The verdict:** Marley may take fewer creative risks than some of his siblings, but no one channels Bob's spirit better. Breezy, sun-kissed grooves abound on "Wild and Free," starting with the pro-marijuana title track, which features a surprisingly solid guest vocal from Woody Harrelson. Producer Don Was (Rolling Stones, Elton John) keeps the sound crisp and classic, with lots of room for Ziggy's uncannily Bob-like vocals to take center stage. The younger Marley's songwriting may lack his father's emotional depth, but there's no denying his flair for mixing pop hooks with head-nodding Jamaican beats.

**Did you know?** Marley has created a superhero called Marijuanaman, whose pot-fueled adventures are chronicled in a new graphic novel from Image Comics. Finally, a hero most comic book fans can actually relate to!

[http://stlouis.metromix.com/music/cd\\_review/ziggy-marley-wild-and/2671753/content](http://stlouis.metromix.com/music/cd_review/ziggy-marley-wild-and/2671753/content)