

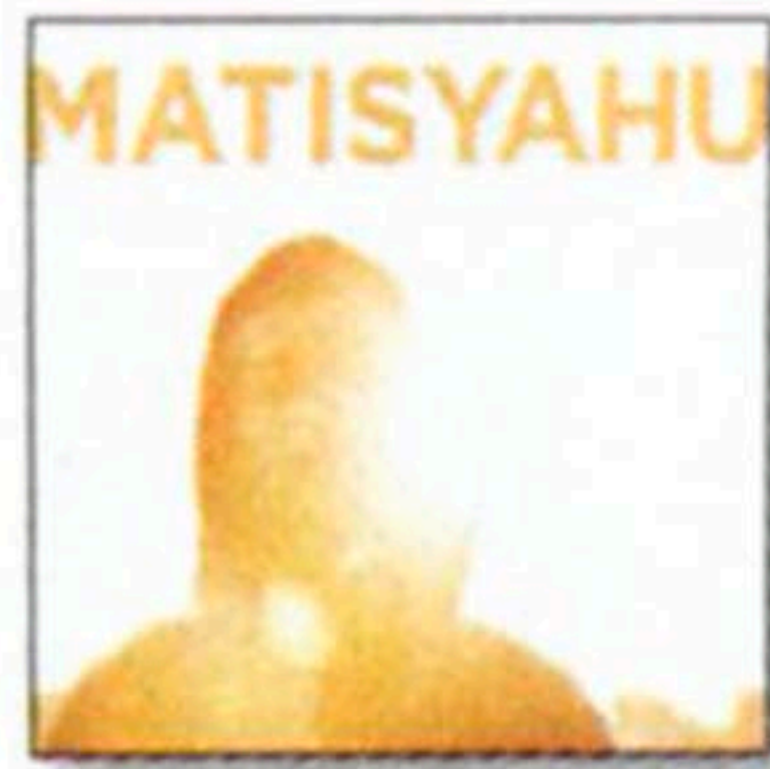
Rolling Stone

September 3, 2009

Matisyahu ★★^{1/2}

Light *Epic*

**Orthodox-Jewish reggae don
lightens up a bit**



FOUR YEARS AFTER he debuted, Hasidic Jew and reggae toaster Matisyahu is well past the novelty stage, as the large crowds at his shows attest. He sounds thoroughly like a pro on his third album, which finds him employing island-flavored jams, skittery hip-hop and slick keyboard grooves. On bright pleasures like the New Wave-y “We Will Walk,” *Light* comes close to becoming an attention-holding pop album. But it’s dragged into earnest tedium by good-natured platitudes (“I must find a road that leads where nobody goes”) and hippie-soul moments like “Thunder,” on which Matisyeezy sounds like a self-serious indie rapper with a major vegan bent. **CHRISTIAN HOARD**

Key Tracks: “We Will Walk,”
“Struggla”