

SF WEEKLY

Ted Leo and the Pharmacists (March 2, Great American Music Hall)

James Brown died and it was sad. Now the mantle of Hardest Working Man in Show Business must pass to someone else: Ted Leo has spent the last 10 years playing a righteous, clamorous, beautiful hybrid of dub, DC punk, soul, Celtic pop, and mod. He used to perform solo in basements and living rooms; now he and his Pharmacists can play a VW commercial for all I care (but they never will, because Ted's actually that punk). Think Billy Bragg times Thin Lizzy times the Jam times Marvin Gaye times George Orwell. Ted rules, and any smart person 15-45 is entitled to get down. — Frances Reade