

The Jimi Hendrix Experience  
Are You Experienced (Reprise)

Over frantic drum beats and a surging descending electric guitar line in The Jimi Hendrix Experience's "Fire," the bandleader bellows out a spirited, "Move over Rover and let Jimi take over!" in a frenzy of lust and passion just moments before diving off the deep end into funky fervor. One of the most notable songs on the British-American rock band's 1967 debut "Are You Experienced," "Fire," indicative of the 11-track LP, meets at the intersection of psychedelic blues and cosmic soul.

Drummer Mitch Mitchell, bassist Noel Redding and guitarist and lead singer James Allen Hendrix, created an kaleidoscopic soundscape with songs like "Third Stone From the Sun" that layered spacey, experimental rock guitar lines over jazz beats or "The Wind Cries Mary" which combined vulnerably soulful vocals with a twangy classic rock ballad instrumental. That mosaic of sound shatters the boundaries of rock music.

On "Purple Haze," the southpaw Stratocaster loyalist shows off his signature harsh and powerful tenor accompanying intricate and assertive psychedelic guitar licks. "Are You Experienced" debuted the legacy of the singer-songwriter's groundbreaking, genre-blending music characterized by his classic gritty belt and detailed guitar solos coated in fuzzy distortion and feedback.

☆☆☆☆ — *Reya Mosby*

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