



NUBLU SESSIONS Wax Poetic

Before Norah Jones got her Grammy (then a 19-year old), she hooked up with and did a couple cuts for her first group, the trip hop/jazz collective Wax Poetic—so did N'Dea Davenport (Brand New Heavies), U-Roy and Saul Williams. Ms. Jones' two cuts ("Tell Me" and "Angels") are just the bonus to the other 10 lounge-like cuts on this buttery audio excursion. —UltraRecords.com



LAB DOWN UNDER A Team

How better to set ablaze the underground rap community than to start Down Under? Los Angeles' hip hop heavyweights Abstract Rude and Aceyalone recorded almost all of these cuts in Aussie territory, even incorporating some of the accented local talent. Must be that vacation/business trip that's making them sound especially better since their initial *Project Blowed* release. Individually, they're equally dope but they're better as a pair—who wants to see a one-breasted pornstar? —ProjectBlowed.com



LIVE COVERAGE Kreators

Boston is in no way a rap chart dominator, however, a few of its sons made some notable contributions to hip hop; most will recognize Edo.G and Guru. The pair's assistance (along with Pete Rock, Cappadonna and Dj Revolution) help to get this project from underground headphones to a borderline rap chart appearance. —Kreators.org



FLAVA MIXX VOLUME 1 DJ Turbulence

Turbulence, a member Los Angeles' Power 106 FM Flavor Unit, produces an instant-party CD by selecting, spinning, blending and scratching the 31 hottest known club cuts in recent memory. You've heard them before, but not the Flava Mixx way. —Battle-star.com



ECONOMIC FOOD CHAIN MUSIC LMNO

Laced behind production from KeyKool, DJ Rhomes, and OHNO, LMNO's distinct sharp delivery and interesting takes on topics, ranging from his faith in God, economic commentary and Long Beach history to the de facto braggadocio, is nothing short of uplifting. Catch the microphone partnerships of SoCal stars 2Mex, KeyKool, and Wildchild among others. —UpAbove.com



THE WARRIORS 4: NEW YEARS RESOLUTION Various Artists

This 21-cut sampler features songs from the future of The Roc family—S.A.S., Young Gunz, ODB, Beanie Sigel, Kanye West, Freeway, Cam'ron, M.O.P. Twista, Rell, Memphis Bleek and others. I guess the replacement for platinum is to buy a lot of gold. —Rocafella.com



FATLACE VOL. 3 DJ XL

It's time to let the cat out the bag. I've wooed many a lady into submitting to my every whim by simply playing this CD on the way back from the club. DJ XL's 17-cut selection does Fatlace right. The perfect balance of mixing and scratching of music by Les Nubians, D'Angelo, Janet Jackson, Jonell, Erykah Badu, The Roots, Maxwell, Mary J., Sade, Dwele, and others help make this smoothed-out, down-tempo aural love kit get you to third base. With this CD there's no need to steal home; you'll get the OK to slide right on in. —Fatlace.com



WITH LOVE Various Artists

Asian-Americans don't get due credit when it comes to music. In fact, they're a romantic bunch that will plunder your village to seek out its hearty women. Not only are they armed with bamboo sticks and nun-chucks, they come prepared with the right kind of bait—usually a lowered Honda Civic and a CD like this one. The next thing you know your chick is rubbing on his bald head while you inhale Mugen exhaust. —WithLoveCD.com

REQUIRED AUDIO

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JOEL MARASIGAN



GOOD 2 GO Elephant Man

Pon Di River! Pon De Bank! Cock Up Your Bumper! Bun Fi Bun! Head Gone Wine Up Uh Self! Bun Down Stop Hitch! Yet another artist I can't understand—even if I read direct from the lyrics sheet—but hot damn, Elephant Man, his crazy look, and his infectious hooks makes dancehall just so friggin' cool. G'wan now signal de plane. —VpRecords.com



JOURNEY INTO THE DAY Seek

The cross between the Brand New Heavies and Sade lands you in the realm of Seek. Their smooth dance beats mixed with sultry vocals sound so good that they actually make it easier to order up a glass of wine, sit back and chat intelligently like a grown up. —Seekmusic.net



LIL SCRAPPY & TRILLVILLE

WHAAAT?! When you can announce your presence a half-mile away through the kick of an 808, who really gives a fuck what Scrappy and Trillville are talking 'bout? Just know when to repeat the hook. OhhhKAYYY! —LilScrappy.com; Trillville.com



THE SOUL OF JOHN BLACK

This Los Angeles based duo melds blues, rock, hip hop and acoustic guitar into their brand of new soul. Ex-Fishbone guitarist John Bingham and Bassist Chris Thomas provides an immediate, energized, feel-it-in-yer-bones sensation that's usually felt at a live show. —TheSoulOfJohnBlack.com



MUSIC BY CAVELIGHT Blockhead

Who got my Kid Koala mixed with my DJ Shadow? Blockhead does Ninjatune style of eclectic, hip hop-influenced instrumentals. His is the subtle and sexy musical gibberish you'll play as an aural backdrop on long nights of e-related sex. Ay Papi! —Ninjatune.com

REQUIRED AUDIO



CELESTIAL CLOCKWORK Illlogic

You've heard this less processed, creative style of hip hop before; it's the counter-part to mainstream underground, it's the backpacker steelo. The *Celestial Clockwork* combo of Illlogic's method of "out-there" metaphors (guest appearances from Vast of Cannibal Ox, Slug of Atmosphere, and Aesop Rock) and mood-filled production by Blueprint make for inescapable (and tolerable) replays. It's definitely a little easier to listen to dumbed-down lyrics. —Weightless.net



WHAT'S WRONG WITH BILL? Ill Bill

Ill Bill of Non-Phixion is one angry, foul-mouthed, lyrically skilled b-boy. Unless you like someone yelling in your ears for extended periods of time, the album is better one song at a time. A big thanks go out to some of his other guest artists (Goretex, Sabac Red, Necro, Q-Unique, Mr. Hyde and Uncle Howie) for leaving their show level vocals on the stage. —NecroHipHop.com



DVD Zen TV DVD

Don't worry about visual effects at your next party or club. Zen TV has got you set up for a ride on the kooky train. Pop the disc in and press play. Turn down the volume on the TV and turn up the DJs music real loud. Adjust the club lighting. Fill the club with drunken fools and voila! Instant confusion. Two full hours of it. —Ninjatune.com



JDM INSIDER VOL.2 360 Video

Drifting around a corner at 80 miles an hour is the shit. Molding your bumper onto opposing traffic is shitty. 360 Video takes a second trip to Japan and hooks up with underground drift car drivers to show what you Stateside wannabes wish you could do. If watching this video doesn't grow some hair on your chest, I don't know what will. —360vm.com

HEAD OF STATE Cali Agents

Must be the return of the "return of the duo" era. In this sophomore re-surfacing are Bay Area's Rasco and Planet Asia (r'member when he and Mystic were nominated for a "Best Rap/Sung Collaboration" Grammy for "W" back in '02?). With Vinroc and Architect handling some of the production it's expected that mixshow spins are evident. It's too bad that only "Sharp" and "RawRap" have that airplay chance—the skills show brighter on stage. —PocketsLined.com

THE COLLEGE DROPOUT Kanye West

I like the way that mainstream hip hop can make me feel like I can dance like a video honey. Forget about those releases of "Through the Wire" and "Slow Jamz," there's a reason why this next generation Rocafella stayed on top of the charts. Tip: Remove the eight skits and the 12-minute "how-Kanye-got-rocafel-la'd" cut and re-burn for a perfect listen-through. BTW, if you missed his College Tour you may have missed one of the best shows around. —Rocafella.com
