



SKILLZ VOL. 1 - DJ VICE & DJ ECHO

Repping the largest market this side of NY, Power 106 FM mixshow DJs Vice and Echo show you what the hits are gonna be for the next few months. If you're looking for something that you could play start to finish, this is the one to pick up. Even though all (and I mean all 32) cuts are sure club bangers, it's the RARE Kanye West track featuring L-Boogie that's the shiner on this. Can't wait for Volume Two. —HollaBoyz.com



THE GREY ALBUM - DJ DANGER MOUSE

You better get this download. Period. DM took the Beatles' White Album (the sole source for all the music) and remixed it with Jay-Z's Black Album and pressed up 3000 royalty dodging copies. A cease and desist order was sent out and Illegal Art took under their wing. It's illegally free. Ain't rebellion and the internet the best thing invented? It's takes a nation of millions to hold us back. Free Mumia. —Illegal-art.org



TWENTY SIX INCH EP - DANGER MOUSE & JEMINI

The duo goes 6 for 6 on this EP follow up to their Ghetto Pop Life release. Remixes featuring Cee Lo, Tha Liks, and Sadat X proof-out half the album—new cuts for the remainder. Extra points to him rocking the headless mouse suit. —LexReords.com; DMandJemini.com



THE PIECE MAKER II - TONY TOUCH

Tony Toca has got the freestyles that would make any mixtape wannabe pee their pants. 16 tracks with team-ups with the likes of Red, Meth, Erick Sermon, Keith Murray, Large Professor, Pete Rock, Masta Ace, Fat Joe, N.O.R.E, and JuJu make this follow-up a worth the skit-fillers. —TonyTouch.com



STEVIE - YESTERDAY'S NEW QUINTET

Producer Madlib has been accepted by jazz buffs and has solidified that through his Blue Note (the jazz industry's most respected label) release of Shades of Blue. Madlib's talent-melding of new jazz greats Ahmad Miller, Monk Hughes, Otis Jackson, Malik Flowers, and Joe McDuffey add an additional genre to Stones Throw, a label known mostly for its hip hop and funk re-issues. On the aptly titled STEVIE album, YNQ takes the hits of, you guessed it, Stevie Wonder flavors it up Blue Note style. This one is a must if you've got that high-brow bitch for the night. —StonesThrow.com



ZEN CD & ZEN RMX - VARIOUS ARTISTS

Feeling in a damn-where's-the-X mood? Well here's the CD set for you; each Zen is a double disc set. The Ninjatune sound is hard to classify; part hip hop, part electronica, part dance, part jazz. "Keepin' it Right" show host Mik-ill (kuci.org) calls it New-Fusion. Zen has 32 mood pieces to get you warmed up and have your juices flowing. Zen RMX finishes you off with 20 more—that's over four hours of fore-play. You know you won't last. —NinjaTune.com

CONNECTICUT HIP HOP 1979-1983 - THE THIRD UNHEARD

The Sugarhill Gang and their '79 release of Rappers Delight was important to hip hop because it made it possible for hip hop to survive outside of the local scene. However, hip hop was alive-and-well years before and it was by no means the first hip hop album. It was an assembled crew, handpicked (not too unlike Puffy's Da Band) to make a sure hit for the pop charts. Thanks to Chic's "Good Times" they hit platinum status. Hip hop was also more than Grandmaster Flash, Africa Bambaataa, and the Treacherous Three and as you'll hear on this compilation, you'll catch others that were out at about the same time. This album opens up the coffers to a more diverse "old school" that you've been force-fed. —StonesThrow.com



UPWARDS - TY

His production is tight and so are his hooks. He's got the funky-soul-jazz-hip hop flav—not that euro-techno terror crap—that will get you moving. So, forget about that flash-in-the-pan UK phenom that does the "Fix up, Look Sharp" song. TY is the guy to listen for because he'll cross the Atlantic with longevity. Ty denies being a poet but see if this (from his cut "Music To Fly To") will get you thinking: "My dad used to say Son , you're not supposed to win/ You were never supposed to win/ When you understand that you understand everything/ You're not supposed to win, so win everything/ Winning as I always do./ I give you some music to fly to..." —BigDada.com



HUSH-HUSH VOL. 3 - DJ FUDGE

You won't see Fudge anywhere out West but when you break East and hit that Hotlanta scene—watch out! You've more than likely seen him at HIN Atlanta. He just released his third disc for his Hush-Hush series. All tracks are hip hop-influenced, soul-jazz instrumentals from artists like Biz Markie, Soulive, Jay Dee, Pete Rock, A Tribe Called Quest, Emanon, DJ Spinna and a slew of others. If you like it dark, soulful and funky give this one a listen to. —GoodKnightRecords.com; SmokinNeedles.com



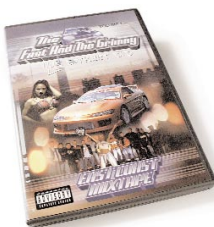
THE PUREST FORM - ORGANIC THOUGHTS

A couple months ago I told you to look out for this Jersey-based group. Who knew that an art director/graphic designer, a financial specialist, a computer programmer and two college students would be verbally blessed (Fraze & Diwrekt, El Gambina; their female Bahamadia-sounding mic ripper—ooowee!) and tablistically gifted (DJs Reason and onPoynt)? Their sound is made of homegrown hip



hop'd funk/soul beats and loops, smoothly delivered insightful lyrics, and battle-classed turntable play. Contributions from Large Professor (Main Source), Prince Poetry (Organized Konfusion), and Peril-L (Mountain Brothers) help to push this debut onto the radar. —lllvibe.net; OrganicThoughts.com

this video there's no doubt that NYC has followed—and added—to the West Coast import scene. —fastandthegrimey.com



DVD: THE FAST AND THE GRIMEY: NYC STREET DVD VOL. 1

Before you pack the car up for a NY race night check out this video and be the judge of scene and competition. Its raw, sparsely edited style of filming is different than the standard

360vm videos the West is used to, but the video definitely is "real." The producers hit it right on the head when they called it "Grimey." Maybe after a few more DVDs, and perhaps because of the accessibility to an abundance of rappers, they might reinvent the mixtape. After watching



DVD: HIP HOP IMMORTALS: WE GOT YOUR KIDS

They cover hip hop's home plate like a crew of fat batters. If your depth of old school hip hop history begins with Jay-Z then the truth is you are too young to understand the true

meaning of hip hop's music and culture and how it's intertwined with corporate dollars. I know the deal—I know that you want to be more than just a superficial young-buck wannabe but you don't know how to break out. It's a damn shame that flipping through the captions in The Source and XXL are your only source of reading and that VH-1 bio's are your only source of the culture's history. Expand your horizons with this DVD then go jump into conversations knowledgeably and sucka-free. —HipHopImmortals.com

CRATE-DIGGER SPECIAL



ATLANTIS SESSIONS / THE DEADLY ART OF BRAINSTORMING - SHELSHOCK / MALIKS

This is a rare one. Let's see... I've got number 648 of 1000. I have no worries about the physical quantity produced because I'm sure the other 999 will Kazaa this mofo in a New York second. Its production is pretty good. The first 30 minutes (Atlantis Sessions, 12 cuts) is produced by t1 and features folks like Aesop Rock, Cannibal Ox, Blueprint, and Illogic. The second 30 (The Deadly Art Of Brainstorming, five cuts) gives its credits to designer/artist/producer Maliks. It's good shit. Someone better call him for services before he's sold to the highest bidder. —AncientBambooTemples.com; MondrianSound.com

THE BASTARD EP

Here's the story: Before they really came up Aesop Rock, Vast Aire (of Cannibal Ox), Mojo (of Dujeous?), J-Smoke (Allies), and P-Love did some stuff with this dude Shelshok out in NY. Shelshok had to bounce. He took his beats and the masters to the stuff he did with the come-up emcees and headed West. He never made it all the way across. He ended up in Colorado. It's cold. He pressed this EP. He didn't press enough. Better go find this one quick. —waxpoeticproductions.com



ANGELS & INSECTS

This compilation utilizes the skills of Cannibal Ox, Aesop Rock, Atoms Family, Weightless Crew, Subconscious, Mojo, Dragons Of Edin, Impervious, Shelshock and Maliks. If you like moody, indie hip hop poetry listen to this one. —MondrianSound.com



SEDIMENTS - DRAGONS OF EDIN

Primed with an initial release in Japan—die-hard hip hop-head heaven—a sell out is inevitable. I can't understand a lick of the Japanese verses but damn it sounds good. Maliks Sedimenotaur is a limited run CD that is packaged as a bonus. It is not a bullshit, thrown-together-at-the-last-minute bag filler. If albums had b-sides this would be that one that gets equal play. —Lo-Vibes.com —AncientBambooTemples.com; MondrianSound.com; Lo-Vibes.com; waxpoeticproductions.com