

# REQUIRED AUDIO

HEARD BEFORE THE HERD

TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN

## The Waiting Room Emanon

Since 1995 Aloe Blacc and DJ Exile have released a series of mixtapes. This time around they took their time putting this long-awaited debut together until they knew the final one-hour masterpiece was destined to be a classic. Their 15 tracks visit and develop feelings like pseudo-reggae ("Count Your Blessings"), R&B/jazz/soul ("The Words" and "She Thinks") and bebop ("The World Don't Sing"). Their unique sound helps us believe they achieved what they set out to do. This will be a classic that will bring respect to the creative West Coast underground and hip hop. [www.emanonhiphop.com](http://www.emanonhiphop.com)



## 1000 Fathoms Persistent Pressure

Here's a secret we can't keep: Many issues back we were introduced to a really dope producer, Maliks (Golden Monkeys), who did some stuff on the under-promoted indie tip. Emcee SHRUGnice (of Dragons of Edin) picks up the mic and teams up to help produce a five-cut EP that's a great play-through companion on 20-minute excursions. If you double it up for a replay on the return trip, it's damn-near guaranteed you'll visit [www.1000fathoms.slangrock.com](http://www.1000fathoms.slangrock.com) for information on how to get more.



## Soundz of Spirit Jog 9 and Joslyn Rose-Lyons

Rose-Lyons, a 25-year-old director and Berkeley grad, understands there are a lot of negative images placed on today's hip hop music and wanted to show there are some positives in the culture. Packed with revealing interviews from many of



hip hop's greats, like KRS-ONE, Andre 3000, Common, Cee-lo, Talib Kweli, Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples, DJ Q-Bert, Saul Williams and many others, it explores the creative process and the spiritual outlet through hip hop and its culture. This documentary is the winner of the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival and might be a little much for the residents of radio's hip pop. It may be just the artsy viewing for the visitors.

## El Reggaeton Mix DJ Warrior/Big Dee/DJ Strong

From the East comes the next genre to branch off from Reggaeton (Latin hip hop with a reggae/dancehall flair with bomba and salsa rhythms). Cultivated over the past 10 years and then brought to the mainland via Puerto Rico, it's made big strides in Latin hotspots like Miami and New York. Spotlighted on this CD are cuts like "Disco Inferno," "Saltshaker" and "Whoa" but include Ivy Queen, Daddy Yankee and Pit Bull. *El Reggaeton*, however, may get a run for the market as soon as the West Coast Chicanos push their mix of banda and hip hop. [www.thedjstrong.com](http://www.thedjstrong.com)



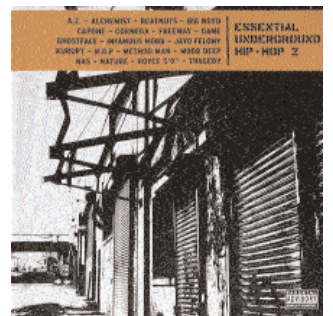
## 4th Avenue Jones STEREO: The Evolution of Hiprocksoul

Add a touch of indie-rock attitude to The Roots and you are a step closer to Los Angeles-based hip-rock band 4th Avenue Jones. Just as the album title states, the "Hiprocksoul" tracks, fronted by Ahmad Jones, fuse the genres by way of the innovative backings of guitarist Timmy Shakes, wifey vocalist Tena Jones, bassist "Phat" Al Parker, drummer Dee Calloway and violinist Gailybird. The band does a great job of expanding your urban music horizons while at the same time keeping locked in. [www.hiprocksoul.com](http://www.hiprocksoul.com)



## Airborn Audio Good Fortune

*Airborne Audio* sounds like what the disbanded Antipop Consortium would sound like if they did another album. Oh wait, M. Sanyid and High Priest are Antipop Consortium. After a year and a half of studio work the duo brings into the light their new interpretation of hip hop by lacing animated lyrics and cadence play through out-of-the-ordinary and sometimes unbalanced rhythms and clashing music styles. It works. They call the shots in "Bright Lights" where they chant "Welcome to Airborn Audio/Your new provider for the finest in sound/Crews might come and crews might go/But it's the hottest new sound around." [www.airbornaudio.com](http://www.airbornaudio.com)



## Essential Underground Hip-Hop 2 Various Artists

Mainstream radio may be fooled, but those who know hip hop won't. This obviously pre-routed push toward an "underground" element may not only be the nicest deal on the market, but through its lineup, may simply be a great compilation of dope cuts. Spreading the butter over 34 no-nonsense tracks, the skit-free two-disc set features heavy-hitting artists like The Game, Ghostface, Infamous Mob, The Alchemist, Royce da 5'9", Nas, AZ, M.O.P., Capone, Kurupt, Jayo Felony and the Diplomats.