

Eclectic circus

All reviews by Scott MacDonald unless otherwise stated

Lords of the Underground Keepers of the Funk (EMI)

The Lords second album is out and they've lost little of the street smart sound that was so prevalent on their debut album "Here Comes The Lords", but they don't capture the sound that made them so popular with songs like "Chief Rocka", or "Madd Skillz". Still, it's a very good follow-up that features the production skills of Marley Marl. The single "Tic Toc" could be one of the new year's top hip hop cuts.

(3.5)

Various Sony Music Sampler (SONY)

A veritable cornucopia of music by some of Sony's top artists. It moves along the musical spectrum ranging from the hip hop sounds of NAS ("The World is Yours") and Xscape ("Tonight"), to the rock stylings of Jon Bon Jovi ("Good Guys Don't Always Wear White") and Spin Doctors ("Cleopatra's Cat"). An excellent album, unfortunately you won't find it in stores because it's just a promotional release.

(5)

Various 1-800-NEW-FUNK (ATTIC)

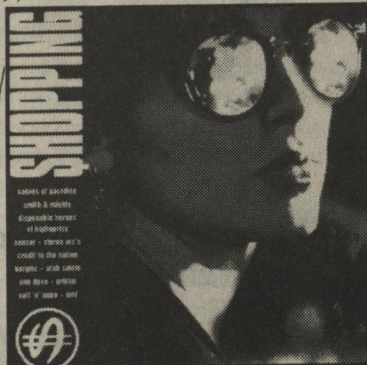
Prince has gathered together some of the newcomers of funk and some of the veterans of R & B together to put out an album showcasing the freshest new sounds in funk. The "Atomic Dog" himself, George Clinton, joins artists such as Nona Gaye (Marvin's daughter) and Mavis Staples in this Minneapolis product.

(3)

Various Shopping OST (POLYGRAM)

A soundtrack of a movie that I've never heard of, featuring several artists that I've never heard of. The 20 cuts are basically a fusion of techno/hip hop/alternative, but nothing really stands out. EMF's single, "Don't Look Back" is blasé at best, and Stereo MC's "Wake Up", is basically boring. The one interesting track is Credit to the Nation's "Call it What You Want" which uses Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" in an unusual way.

(2.5)



Red Hot Chili Peppers Out in L.A. (EMI)

Essentially nothing more than a few new remixes of some classic Chili Peppers tunes, ("Higher Ground", "Behind the Sun", and "Hollywood" to mention a few) mixed in with some previously unreleased demo tracks. Only for the die-hard fan who wants to grow his hair like Anthony Kiedis.

(3)



Warren G Regulate...g funk era (POLYGRAM)

Warren G is quite heavily influenced by George Clinton's P-Funky sounds on this album, which is yet another laid back Compton gangsta album. It's a mix of melodic long Beach Getto reality and laid back bass bombs, painting a picture of waving palm trees and faded graffiti scrawl. "Regulate" is by far the best on this CD, which at 35 minutes runs painfully short by most measures. Some may be offended by the misogynist tone of his "'94 Ho Draft", which really has no place on this CD.

(3)

Public Enemy Muse Sick-N-Hour Mess Age (POLYGRAM)

The Enemy is back, following up their "Greatest Misses" CD, with some seriously hard sounding rhymes. As always the album speaks out strongly against white oppression, and once again, is an excellent teacher of Black pride and history. The lyrics are rugged and intelligent, and the beats hard and pumping. Good, but not up to the past standards of excellence of the lyrical terrorist Chuck D.

(3.5)

The The Solitude (Sony)

This is one of the bands we all grew up with and promptly forgot. Hearing this CD brought back all the memories. You may recognise some of the songs from old The The recordings, or from the soundtrack of "Three-some". "That Was the Day" was revamped from the original "This is The Day". I strongly encourage you to check this out, if only for one song: "Dogs of Lust". Once you get past the scary album cover, you'll discover a CD with just plain music. No real message - and that's why I like it. Lots of guitar, but no annoying feedback. Rock without grunge... a hard combination to find these days.

(4)

--Aldera Chisholm

Bodycount Born Dead (EMI)

Ice-T's band does their best impression at hard core heavy metal. Too much yelling and swearing, and not enough musical ability or thought went into this album.

(1)



David Serada The Blue Guide (RWRD)

The promo for this album calls David Serada the next Leonard Cohen... I beg to differ. This guy sounds like your typical poppish, overly commercial, unoriginal, ing-to-cater-to-the-mainstream-market newcomer. I admit that the guy does have some musical ability, and a very clear tone of voice, but you'd think that he'd put it to better use than sappy love songs. Don't let the title deceive you, this stuff is not blues. Depressing, yes, but not blues. I wish I could say more nice things about this album, seeing as he's an independent Canadian artist and all, but the fact remains... he's a cheap Michael Bolton rip-off. Mind you, if you like that kind of stuff, this is definitely for you.

(2.5)

--Cate Hanus



Uisce Beatha (pronounced: ka baha) Voice of the Voyager (Festival Records)

Uisce Beatha is a traditional band from Halifax. No, they are not another Rankin Family, they're MUCH better than that. They use traditional instruments such as the Irish whistle, bagpipes, harp and mandolin. They are gifted musicians who are immersed in their specific style. Mainstream Celtic music pales when compared with the mastery of Uisce Beatha. They are definitely worth listening to over and over again.

(4.5)

--Cate Hanus