

# Dance

## Jam & Spoon

**'Triponatic Fairytale 2001'** (Bel. R&S CD, double 12")

And an amazing thing it is too, this album from Germany's Jam El Mar and Mark Stoffel, or at least most of it (there are two or three truly embarrassing moments), matching the ghost of Kraftwerk with the soul of clubland, with almost an early Strictly Rhythm feel about it, albeit in a humourless Teutonic way. I especially like 'Path of Harmony' or the Larry Levan tribute 'Paradisé Garage'. Essential stuff.

## Barbara Tucker

**'Beautiful People'** (US Strictly Rhythm 12")

A real good trick this. First release the track with the vocal sample (last year's monster 'Deep Inside' by Hardrive (aka the Masters at Work) so everyone goes looking for the obscure Salsoul track it came off, then toss out the new original a year later. But what a track. As 'Somebody Else's Guy' was to 84, 'Promised Land' to 88 and 'Are You Gonna Be There' was to 90, this is an anthem, especially in CJ Mackintosh's vocal mix.

## Discipline

**'Reaching'** (US Miami Soul 12")

Featuring the voice of Bobby Pruitt, this deep bassy garage thang comes from Miami's Murkman Ralph Falcon, on his label, which also gave us last year's single by the Fog, and this kind of continues where that left off.

## River Ocean

**'Love & Happiness'** (US Strictly Rhythm db1 12")

Although he must be in his seventies now, Tito Puenté, the original Mambo King, sets fire to the first half of this wonderful tribal tune, actually the work of the Masters at Work. But its halfway through, when the music drops and Louie's wife India wails, that I just go to pieces. The meaning of life.

## Doop-Doop

(Dutch CNR 12")

This record really is crap, but it'll sell by the truckload, fill a million dancefloors and then be forgotten. Reminds me of 'The Birdie Song'.

## Holmes & McMillan

**'Total Toxic Overload'** (UK Soma 12")

With a title like that you really don't expect anything too tender, but this single is sort of majestic in an ominous, old school techno way. Sounds like the music I hear when I play 'Doom' on the PC. The new heavy metal.

## Johnny Vicious featuring Loleatta Holloway

**'Stand Up'** (US Vicious Muzik db1 12")

Wow! The guy who gave the world the immense 'Liquid Bass' EP last year has taken the whole thing one step further, this time sampling huge chunks of an old Loleatta Holloway Salsoul track called 'Dreaming'. Epic, joyous, with a mix for every occasion.

## Michael Watford

(US EastWest LP/CD)

From New Jersey, his first single 'Holdin' On' (included here) was the garage/soul anthem of 91. Three years later this proves it was no fluke - 3,000 people were turned away from a recent club gig in the UK because this guy was to sing three songs from this album. Destined to be the definitive purist soulboy long player of 94.

## Disco Anthem (PG5)

**'Scream'** (Bel. Parasus 12")

Wave your hands in the air, a genuine dancefloor stomper complete, in the best mix, with sirens, funky guitars and 'Planet Rock' samples. Cheesy as hell but fun.

## Spank da Monkey

**'Running Wild and Jazzy'** (UK Moussetrap 12")

Now that mainstream America is stuck in New Jack Hell, it seems that the Europeans are making much of the funk and soul for the planet (along with US holdouts in Frisco and New York). Check this out, especially in the slick, jazzy, flute-driven 'Hustlers Dub Mix'. Cool.

## The Soundman

**'The Factory'** (US Sex Mania DB1 12")

From the hand of DJ Duke, with a stunning slippery NYC styled trance mix from Junior Vasquez, whose club, the legendary Sound Factory, is the inspiration for this. Made for very big sound systems.

## Mangohead

**'Mad Jungle Vibes'** (US Nitebeat 12")

Whistle while you work. Cuban created, Miami based, African inspired, this sounds just like the title.

## The Believers

**'Who Dares To Believe In Me'** (US Strictly Rhythm 12")

Chicago's Roy Davis is best known for this long trancey builder, in the DJ Pierre/Junior Vasquez style. This is along the same lines but topped with a beautiful funky piano line and a live sax. Highly

SCHOOLY D Welcome To America

(Columbia)

TOO SHORT Get In Where You Fit In

(Zomba)

D.R.S. Gangsta Lean

(Capitol)

WU-TANG CLAN Enter The Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)

(BMG)

Here are four artists all on the gangsta tip in one way or another, two from the very old school and two new kids on the block releasing their debut albums. As you would expect it's a mixed bag.

First up is Philadelphia's original gangsta Schooly D. The ridiculous attitude major US labels have toward rap artists means this copy of *Welcome to America* is marked as the 'Special Clean Version For Radio.' And that folks is scary. Here we have a major record company

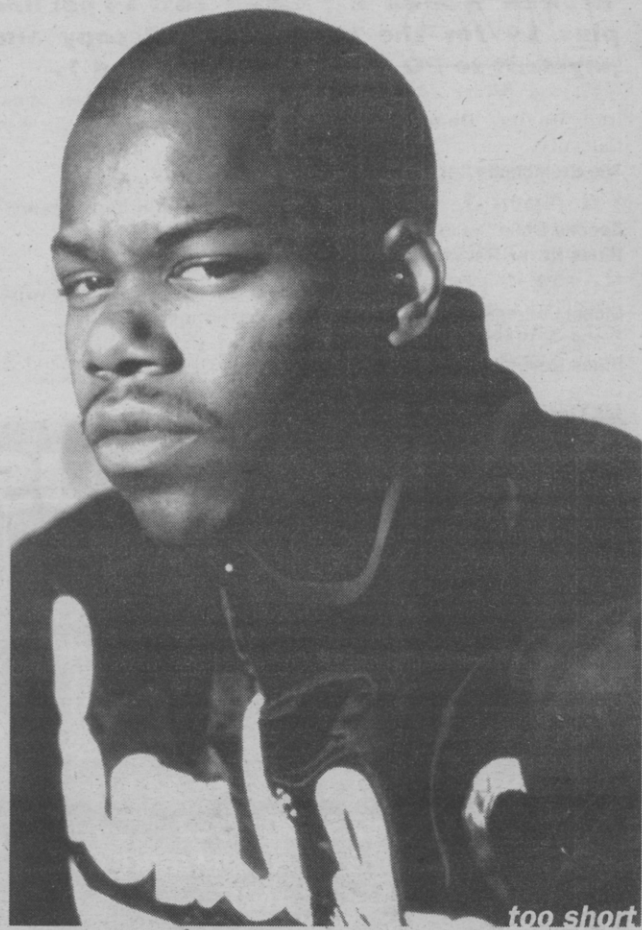
bowing to redneck lobby groups, and endorsing the censoring of one of their artists. If Sony Music NZ, who are only acting as overseas distributors for Columbia Records, would be kind enough to send *Rip It Up* the uncensored copy of *Welcome to America*, it will definitely receive a full-length assessment. The original version of the album, with Schooly D in full effect, is the one I choose to hear and would like to review.

Oakland's Too Short is another original hip-hop star. Naturally being from the West Coast he's firmly entrenched on the mellow tip and of course the dope beats are strictly old school. Most often this is a winning combination but Too Short has clearly run out of words. Virtually every rhyme on *Get In Where You Fit In* is the tale of a bitch or a ho, and of Short's fondness for a lot of T & A. Snoop Dog or the Geto Boys can talk this talk and pull it off every time (no pun intended) 'cause they possess a wild sense of humour. Too Short covers that territory well on 'Blowjob Betty' then doesn't know when to stop. There's fine beats goin' on for sure, but lyrically, this man is fresh outta ideas.

D.R.S are record company manufactured 'gangstas' and deserve less than no respect. The title track from their first album *Gangsta Lean* has been all over the airwaves on Mai FM and sits in the high rotate pile on the Pepsi video shows. This one song perfectly encapsulates the sound of the entire record. It overflows with lame beats, syrupy vocals and insipid lyrics. Way more entertaining is the band biography that accompanied the review copy of this record. It's peppered with terrifically clichéd 'hood talk that could only have been written by a white collar in a high rise who thinks that big booties are something you buy for an oversized new born. Ask for a copy of this instead of the album.

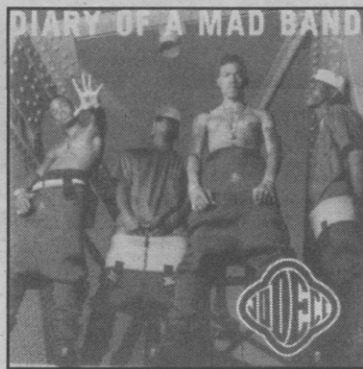
The Wu-Tang Clan are from the undisputed home of hip hop, New York. You would think with all that rap history to plunder the result would be a much greater record than this. Even Madonna could get into one, but that all important groove completely escapes the Clan. Not once over the dozen tracks on *Enter The Wu-Tang* do they produce a feel or a rhythm that could tempt a head to bounce or a toe to tap. The beats sound like they were thrown together as an after thought and lyrically their only concern is to prove what tough muthafuckers they believe they are. A totally unconvincing, not to mention extremely boring, debut album.

JOHN RUSSELL

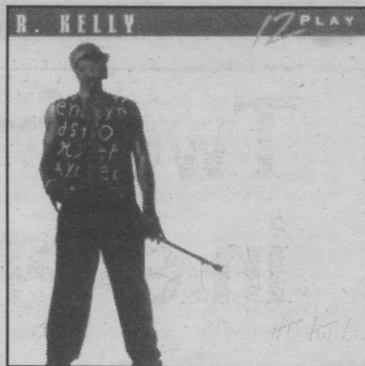


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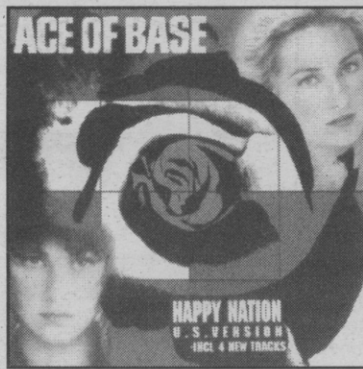
# YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO DANCE



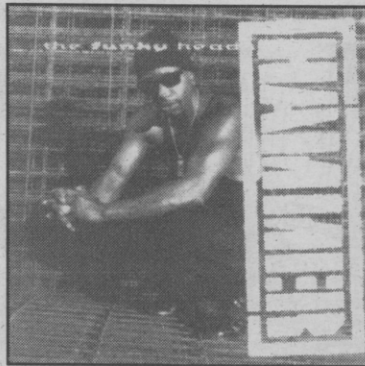
★ **JODECI** ★ **DIARY OF A MAD BAND** "Diary Of A Mad Band" is the R&B sound of '94! Jodeci's second album is loaded with soaring gospel harmonies, pumped with grinding nasty beats and smoothed with satiny seduction. "Diary Of A Mad Band" features the singles "Cry For You" and "Feelin'". The future of R&B starts here! ★ **R KELLY** ★ **12 PLAY** The long awaited second album from R Kelly, "12 Play" is exploding worldwide. From the sweet, smooth and infectious "Sex Me" to the free style, sexy, soul blends of "Bump n Grind" R Kelly has



proved he is a timeless artist who will bridge many of the generation gaps in R&B. ★ **ACE OF BASE** ★ **HAPPY NATION** With the precision and style the Swedes are known for, Ace Of Base are heading to the top. Their debut album "Happy Nation" furthers the international impact of Ace Of Base



with a brilliant collection of songs that of course includes their hits "All That She Wants", "Happy Nation" and "The Sign". ★ **HAMMER** ★ **THE FUNKY HEADHUNTER** With the release of Hammer's new album "The Funky Headhunter" the world's most popular rap artist of all time is letting his fans know that it is now time for the real deal. With its



sparse sound and bare knuckle lyrics, "The Funky Headhunter" is a striking departure. Hammer's first single off the album "It's All Good" not only shows Hammer's peerless rapping skills, but displays the musical muscle driving this album. ★ **COLDCUT**



★ **PHILOSOPHY** Classy is the only word to use when describing Coldcut's new full length album. DJ's Matt Black and Jonathan More have made a triumphant return to form with this, their first album in four years. "Philosophy" includes the singles "Dreamer" and "Autumn Leaves", both of which include the glorious vocals of Janis Alexander. ★ **SHAQUILLE O'NEAL** ★ **SHAQ DIESEL** "Shaq Diesel" is O'Neal's appropriately titled powerhouse debut album.



Along with "What's Up Doc (Can We Rock)", the album features the Def Jef produced first single and video "(I Know I Got) Skillz" and the Erick Sermon produced second single and video "Shoot Pass Slam". "Shaq Diesel" features production work from Main Source's K-Cut, and two songs from the A Tribe Called Quest's Ali.

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