

Carleen Anderson

VARIOUS ARTISTS - Tranced (Volume 1)

Too young for nightclubs? Fear not kids, throw this on, turn it up loud, and drive your parents crazy. DkaDkaDkaDkaDka, Bleep Bleep Bleep, - they won't have a clue. "It's not music," they cry. "No, it's Techno," you reply. This is a mixed collection (but not 'mixed'!) of hits and misses including 'Open Your Mind' from Ursula, 'Cosmotrash' from the Trashman, and the poisonous 'Yerba Del Diablo' from Datura. Everyone gets sampled here, including OMD, U2, Yazoo, and even Utah Saints. Second half makes up for the first.

***DAK MADISON

ICE T - Gotta Lotta Love

Ice T getting down with Mike Oldfield? This you gotta hear! The vocal version, from the album *Home Invasion*, was wack and lost T his props at home in LA. This time they've pulled his vocals out completely, and mixed in Oldfield's 'Tubular Bells'. Five minutes of spooky dub which could still do with somebody, *anybody*, rapping over the top. Also on the EP are 'Addicted To Danger' (another chapter in the Ice T biography) this time stripped back and remixed sparse by the Beatnuts. More gangsta rap with G-Style, remixed by Hen Gee, then the closing 'Race War', remixed by DJ Assassin. One of the

highlights of the original album, 'Assassin' runs with a jazz loop and some mad turntable scratching, whilst still giving full vent to Ice T's venomous lyrics. Excellent.

***ND'A

Dr ALBAN - Sing Hallelujah

Don't get me wrong, it's a nice slice of techno pop; but this is also just a cheap reworking of his first hit 'It's My Life' which featured the refrain 'sing Hallelujah'. Now they've fleshed it out into a chorus, built a song around it — but it still sounds like an instrumental b-side.

**DAK MADISON

LISA LISA - Skip To My Lu

Looks like it's goodbye to Cult Jam and goodbye to C+C Music Factory — Lisa Lisa is solo. Written and produced by Nona Hendryx, I'd speculate that the record company told Nona she was too old and trundled in the young(ish) and sexy Lisa. The beats are good but the lyrics are *sooo* wack. Extremely bad (as in *not* good). Guru kicks in with his reproduction of the album mix, and there's even a slice of Espanol. Mindless funky pop.

**+ND'A

JODECI - Diary of a Mad Band

Like R Jelly, Jodeci are the Young Gods of Love. Their music has helped many a homie into the . . . okay, enough already! If you like slow jams and swingbeat (I don't) then you'll already know what to expect from Jodeci. There's plenty of slow jams (the first half) to make your current girlfriend think she's special, with the second half mercifully picking up the pace courtesy of a couple of rumpshakers. The guys have beautiful harmonies but the arrangements leave all their songs sounding the same. Standout track is 'Sweaty', featuring Misdemeanor from Sista.

**+ND'A

R KELLY - 12 Play

Ralph is on the sex tip, no doubt about it. The track listing on this album includes: 'Your Body's Callin'', 'Bump 'n Grind', 'It Seems Like You're Ready', 'Freak Dat Body', 'I Like The Crotch On You', 'Sex Me' . . . get the picture? What do you do with shit like this? Easy, you play it in the car with your date on the way home from the movies, the party, the Lotto Shop, or wherever else you've been. And when you park up, or get back to your house, or her house, you play it all over *again*. You really wouldn't want to actually *listen* to this stuff, but having it playing in the background — well — pretty soon she

can't help but think that every other girl in the world is doin' it so she might as well too. And then you're in! Insidious, isn't it?

***ND'A

TO BE CONTINUED - One On One

I presume this trio is the video friendly front for Two Tuff-E-Nuff Productions, who write and produce this amiable and funky funky jam. It rolls real fresh, lazy with the lyrics, and you can't help yourself from groovin' out. The lyrics are positive, the rapping's okay, and four versions to choose — I preferred the original album mix.

***DAK MADISON

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES - Dream On Dreamer

The radio friendly version is just that, so expect it on a radio near you! David Morales slows the

backbeat down a tad for his remix, and loses some of the shine of the vocals. While everyone else is getting into hip hop jazz, the Heavies stick with soul — I know it's good for me, but it's bland.

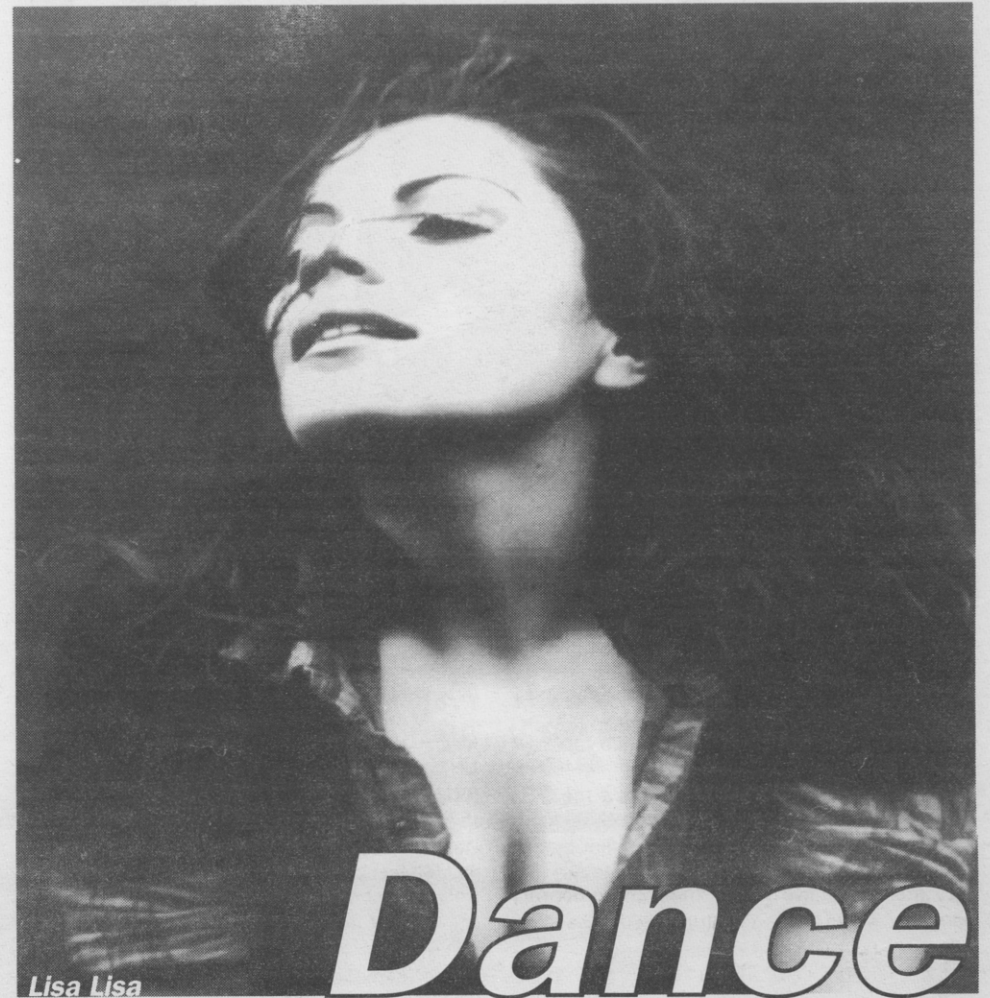
***DAK MADISON

ERIK - Got To Be Real

Pete Waterman performs his 'magic' on the Cheryl Lynn dance classic, thereby becoming the Salmon Rushdie of dance music. Seriously, this muthaf**ker *has* to be killed for what he's done here. (Next in the firing line: *Cut N Move*). Techno, disco, pop — there's a version here for all 'tastes'. **** (but only for the B-side, which is quite good actually!) ND'A**

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**MAD PROPS
ALL GOOD
GOT SKILLS
MO'KAY
HAMMERTIME**



Lisa Lisa

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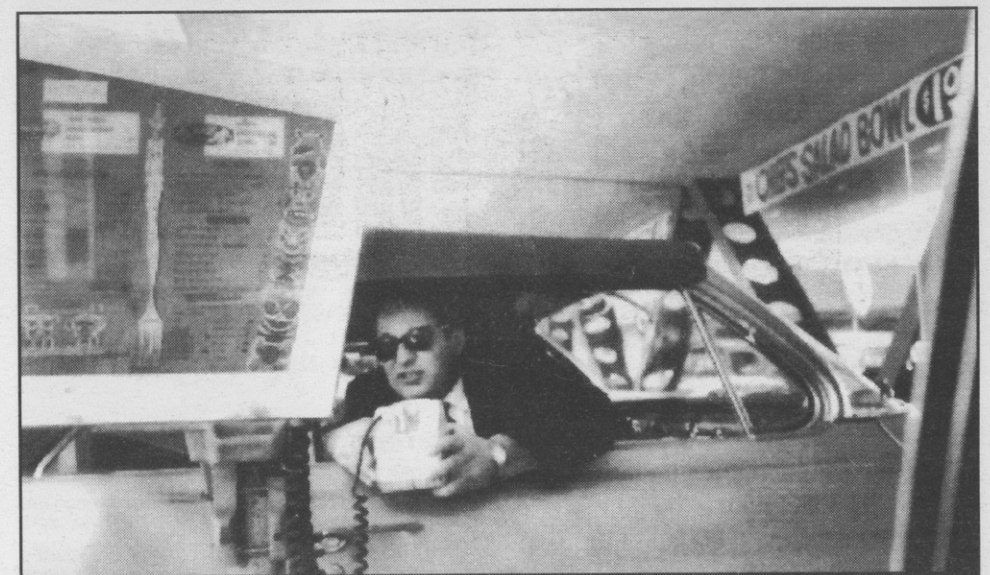
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