

Dr Alban
this single is a cool R&B extended mix of 'If That's Your Boyfriend'. Me'shell's beautiful voice and song writing ability holds 'Outside Your Door' to the light as being a great follow up to her last release — it confirms her flexibility as a song writer/producer.

ANGRY BOB

DANCE ALBUMS by ANGRY BOB

CAPELLA — U Got 2 Know

Just by looking at the cover of the single you get the impression that this is Euro crap. Lightning bolts! Purple vinyl! Sexy babe! Rapper homeboy! Is this a joke? It sucks! The well established media label sports mostly mainstream dance acts, Cappella just happens to be one of them.

If you have good knowledge of new dance music you will realise when you hear this that it's just one big muddle. On the opening track 'U Got To Know' it sounds like Cappella have tried to incorporate every single part of a song they've heard over the past year that they've liked.

Don't touch this one with a barge pole.

DUB SYNDICATE — Classic Selection Volume 3

This is a selection of all the Syndicate's best for those of us who find it hard to keep up with their

high turnover of albums and singles. Certain members of the On U Posse are there giving this album its distinctive ring — names like Style Scott, Jah Wobble, Skip MacDonald, Martin Fredrix, Steely, Doctor Pablo and to top it off all the production is mastered by the incredible Adrian Sherwood.

The last quarter of the album has taken four track from *Tunes From the Missing Channel*. This chunk of dub is my pick as the most exciting phase of this compilation. An outstanding compile of old and new selections from the masters — watch out for more Dub Syndicate classics next year.

URBAN DANCE SQUAD — Persona Non Grata

On first hearing this album you could compare UD's new material to the one and only Rage Against the Machine BUT that wouldn't be fair because the squad were kicking science in this style waaaay back. Rudeboy, Magic Stick, Sil and Tres Manos are back after a long break to bring us this fresh, hard, funky LP. Their last album *Mental Floss for the Globe* featured one or two tracks with a pure hip hop funk manner best observed in their big hit 'A Deeper Shade of Soul'. But UDS has totally abandoned this for their hardcore appeal.

Rudeboy's vocal style holds some great lyrics with some hard, realistic political commentary.

Tracks which stand out (and kick you in the head) are 'Demagogue' and with its tennis match

samples, 'Self-Sufficient Snake'.

JULIET ROBERTS — Natural Thing

Juliet Roberts joins the Cooltempo lineup in style with her debut album *Natural Thing*. This soul singer is already a total success overseas. On the list of artists she has worked with in the past are LA Mix, Funk Masters, Working Week and Courtney Pine. She's also a fully trained classical vocalist as well.

The best tracks on the album are 'Caught in the Middle' and the song she co-wrote with DJ Pierre, 'I Want You'. Most songs on the LP have been touched by the masterful hand of Dancin' Danny D.

This album is good and her voice impeccable, but at times the slow soulful tracks just become too much and tend to ruin the whole flow. You get the impression they're just fillers for the real hits.

HEAVY D AND THE BOYZ — Nuttin' But Love

Swingin' back on the scene, old skool hero Heavy D comes at us catching Mad Props and respect at the top of the album from hip hop big-wigs like Q-Tip, Pete Rock, LL Cool J, KRS 1 and Buju Banton — this is impressive, but it gives you the feeling that to put something like this on the album he must have an inferiority complex about his re-emergence. The entire album is a whole lot of party grooves with definite appeal for the out and about swingbeat freaks. The tracks 'Sex Wit You' and 'Something's Goin' On' try to steal fame by using old, classic loops from De La Soul's 'Buddy' and 'Ring, Ring, Ha, Ha, Hey'. Where's the originality? Proof again that Heavy D is well and truly stuck in the past. This is tacky stuff.

TERENCE BLANCHARD — The Billie Holiday Songbook

This is some beautiful jazz from trumpeter Terence Blanchard. Terence studied jazz with the legendary Ellis Marsalis and classical trumpet with George Jensen. He is probably best known for his work on Spike Lee's film sound scores — *School Daze*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Mo Better Blues*, *Jungle Fever*, *Malcolm X* and Spike Lee's brand new joint *Crooklyn*. This album rediscovers the irksome musicality of Billie's legacy with the help of vocalist Jeanie Bryson (daughter of Dizzy Gillespie) and a collection of highly acclaimed musicians.

This LP is a must — especially when it features irrisistible songs like 'Nice Work if I can Get It' and 'Lady Sings the Blues'.

ANGRY BOB

DANCE FLOOR By Simon Grigg, The Box

Leon Watts Project — EP (UK USA 12")

Actually from the hand of longtime London DJ and music columnist Noel Watson, and a few of his mates (Leon plays keyboards), this four tracker of Manhattan styled grooves is destined for classic status, the standout being the lovely shimmering, almost bluesy 'Swing It'.

Federal Hill — We Got It Goin' On (US Sub Urban double 12")

Kim English — Nite Life (UK Nite Life 12")

Simply put, no-one does vocal house better than the Americans and these two are both killers. Kim English is produced by Ten City, and the twelve has a couple of Euro mixes from Bump that are fairly disposable, but the bass driven sultry Masters at Work mixes and the original from Ten City, on the US copies, are the real thing. Federal Hill, on Victor Simonelli's label could've come out of Manhattan any time in the last five years and his mixes have that retro-disco feel that verges on the tacky but ends up sounding anthemic. Cool.

Left Hand Down — Viva Dubs (UK Subwoffer 12")

Taiko — Echo Drop (UK Consolidated 12")

The Question — Who Runs the Show (UK Black Sunshine 12")

Two years ago these discs would've been part of the whole, slightly questionable UK progressive house movement but time marches on and the British dance scene seems to have developed a whole new funky edge again, partially through the influence of the harder edged Americans like Vasquez, Duke etc, and partially because of the rise of labels like the wonderful Cleveland city. Taiko is on a new Cleveland subsidiary and while the A side is a fairly conservative, almost industrial stomper, the flip, the dub, is a neat piano led groove with lush stabs that goes nowhere fast but is worth a listen. Left Hand Down are actually Auerback and Travell, better known as Bump and it's a cool grinding funky but spacey house track that layers track upon track in a kinda Sound Factory way. Seek out. Finally, the Question, created by Camden's Ashley Beedle, has this great organ line and acidic bassline that, like Taiko, doesn't really do much but hooks you in nevertheless.

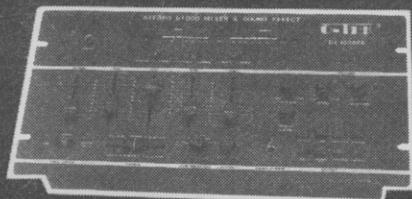
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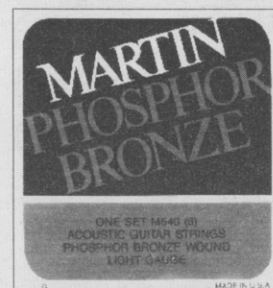
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