

# <DANCE REVIEWS>

by Andy Pickering

## FULL MOON SCIENTIST Do We Look Like Comedians (Botchit & Scarper)

Absolute weirdness here from the sort of people who sound like they only come out on a full moon.

There sound is based around deep dub, abstract drum 'n' bass, and plenty of unusual vocal touches. 'Wild Winds of Westminster' is a downbeat, dubwise skankathon, featuring snippets of jazz, lots of fx and wired vocals. Indeed Full Moon Scientist seem to have a penchant for strange sound fx. '2001 All Out' is a one minute long burst of animals howling and storm winds brewing. 'Stroller' features more of the same; a minimal beat stands tall in a haze of threatening noise. It's when they get down to some seriously warped drum 'n' bass that things get interesting. Check 'Doc Hope' for a wicked journey through dubbed out breakbeats, and a call for hope. 'Till Kingdom Come' returns to the dub theme, but it's tracks like 'Nuke Speak Train', and the didgeredoo led 'Shake Me Out of My Tree', that concentrate on drum 'n' bass, that really stand out. On the former, a tearing beat rips across another stormy fx backdrop, while Underworld-styled vocals gently drift over the top.

*Do We Look Like Comedians* is an unusual album that features a lot to get you head around first time, and boasts a charm and sense of humour that will reveal itself over repeated listens.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS Elements (MDS)

This is a fine compilation of electronic music from across the spectrum. It's subtitled 'The Chemistry of Mutating Beats', and that sums it nicely. Diversity is the key, and spread over two discs, you get good value for your dance music dollar.

There's a stack of strong, Wall of Sound inspired instrumental hip hop numbers, such as the funk filled 'Beatnik Bounce' by the Dirty Beatniks, and the Wiseguys' 'Nil by Mouth'. Drum 'n' bass is well represented, with strong contributions from Dave Wallace, Squarepusher, and the awesome process remix of Rob and Goldie's 'The Shadow'.

In a market overstocked with a flood of similar compilations, *Elements* is definitely one of the better funky breakbeat inspired collections around — the quality factor prevails throughout.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS The Breaks Compilation (Polygram)

*The Breaks* is the long awaited (and much delayed) compilation album of the

popular Auckland drum 'n' bass club night of the same name.

As a compilation this can't be faulted, it's pure quality. Of the 10 tracks, each is a classic in its own right, and there's not a dud in sight. From the Bristol bass and soul driven 'Down' and 'New Forms' of Roni Size's Represent project, to the tear-out, jump-up of A Sides 'Punks', to the harsh, metallic beats of Peshay's 'Predator', the full spectrum of drum 'n' bass is represented here. DJ Krust contributes a wicked hypnotic remix of Baby Fox's 'The Rain', and Dillinja rinses out Bjork as only he could. When the album closes with the celestial rolling breaks of the Source Direct classic 'Secret Liaison', you can only look back and reflect on what has just passed your ears, truly an inspiring collection of future music.

## GOLDIE featuring KRS ONE Digital (FFRR)

A new single from Goldie, and a taster for his next album due out early in the new year. KRS-One contributes a booming rap in his trademark commanding style, sending big ups and respect to the worldwide jungle massive, and paying homage to Goldie's own hip hop roots. On remix duty is Boymerang, who drops a ferocious snare-led drum assault, for maximum dancefloor impact. Boymerang style. Armand Van Helden represents for the house boys, dropping two large speed garage numbers — which are especially effective and quite entertaining — but I can't see many of our own jocks having the nerve to drop either.

## DAVE ANGEL Globetrotting (Island)

Since his last album, *Tales of the Unexpected*, Dave Angel has changed his sound to reflect the hard house direction of his DJ sets. Whereas his earlier releases were more of a jazz flavoured, Detroit orientation, *Globetrotting* is aimed at the dancefloor, with heavy house beats underpinning each groove. The two singles are here — 'This is Disco' again reflecting Angel's deejaying style, combining techno with house and disco for maximum club impact. 'Tokyo Stealth Fighter', is one bound to piss the purists off with its big electro bass lines, pitched-up beats and lots of mad computer game samples. Also here is a track entitled 'K Road NZ' — inspired by Angel's time in New Zealand last year — a squelchy slice of horn-driven drum 'n' bass.

Overall, *Globetrotting* is a strong collection of club gear, and while a fair share of the beats are just a tad too similar at times, it's still peak time floor burning club fodder at its best.

## THE X-ECUTIONERS X-Pressions (Border)

Remember when the hip hop DJ was a star in his (or her) own right? When people like Jazzy Jay, Red Alert, Aladdin, Marley Marl, and Grandmaster Flash were respected for their turntable skills? Before hip hop sold out, first to gangsta, and then R&B ideals? Well this album is a testament to pure hip hop — MCs, DJing, breaking, and bombing.

The X-Executioners (with a name change from the X-Men due to copyright infringement) are down for the cause, and together they represent some of the tightest turntablists to ever walk the earth. Mista Sinista, Rob Swift, Roc Raida, and Total Eclipse between them have won countless DMC champs, DJ battles, and turntable duels. So what do you get? No less than 22 tracks of beats, rhymes, and super phat DJ skills. Check 'Raiders Theme' for production and Raiders cut technique, set to the rapping of the E-Bros, who recall the days of old when DJs had widespread respect. Or how about Rob Swift-produced 'The Turntablist Anthem', wherein a gentle laidback groove underpins some sublime scratching and sexy vocalising — pure dope.

X-Pressions could have been a collection of scratch heavy, DJ indulgences, but the X-Executioners have instead constructed an album of real songs, which takes the art of DJing to new levels.

# shoot THE DJ

## AUCKLAND

House internationals keep on coming to the city of Auckland in their droves, perhaps a little too many. People are getting used to having overseas DJs play every week, and are therefore making choices over which gig to go to or what weekend to go out. Their depleted bank accounts may have something to do with some poor turnouts at numerous events in October and November. It could be a time for some promoters to cool it for awhile — saturation isn't a good thing ... upcoming this month; house legend Roger Sanchez, plays a one off show at the cavernous Kase on December 4, with locals Bevan Keys and Steven Green ... on the same night UK techno DJ Jan Pooley is at the more homely Calibre ... another quality night at Redzone looms — they're set to host Farley And Heller on Christmas Eve. Farley And Heller are best known for their production work on the Junior Boys Own label, and countless remixes of other artists ... those partial to techno should watch out for the regular events at Herzog on Friday nights ... Ballewell, Epsilon Blue, Protean, Slight Return, Strange Attraction, and Chumbwa are playing at the launch party for Kog Transmission's *Transmit* compilation, at 16 Nixon Street (off K' Road) on December 12 ... the ever popular *Island of EA* parties take a space theme at Squid on Saturday December 20, with DJs Gideon, Chelsea, and Havoc ... the annual *Hara* outdoor dance party is happening on December 6, the line up includes Pitch Black, Mechanism, Protean, and System 100. Tickets are available from Cyberculture, with location details only available on the night ... *Millennium 3* at the Town Hall looks the place to be this New Years Eve, five separate areas will feature drum 'n' bass, speed garage/tech house, Britpop, retro, and in the main arena, a mixture of styles. Almost 20 DJs are on the bill including 48 Sonic, Chelsea, D-Rave, Clarke, and Schmoor (Wgtn). *Millennium 3* begins at 10pm and ends at 6am, with 4,000 people expected to attend ... finally, the rumour regarding Carl Cox's visit to Auckland in January has turned out to be false, we will have to wait a little longer. Watch the streets for info to hit soon.

DAVE ROPER

## WELLINGTON

Winding up to December, and with all the internationals lately in both Auckland and Wellington, the market has reached what our BCA friends call 'saturation point'. In Welli, we've had Juan Atkins and PFM on the same weekend, then Gordon Kaye and Der Dittle Raum, and more recently Terry Francis and Ed Rush and Trace. It's all been a bit much, and some turnouts have been lame ... dance wise it looks like the only place to be in the capital for New Years is gonna be ESCape. Two rooms of local DJs and the potential for another legendary Welli party ... meanwhile the local electronic scene continues to bubble productively. Soft presented a series of weekly gigs at Bodega over November, with the likes of 50Hz and Jet Jaguar doing their thing live. And 50Hz and Mr Obscure/LRS both celebrated album releases in November ... on Thursday nights, check out Kinetik at ESCape with Mahi and Tjaden, running through an inspired selection of techno cuts, and at Club 2000 there's *Jungle-Ised* for those of a breakbeat inclination ... don't forget to support Flipside and Troubadour for all the hard work they put into this thing called the Wellington dance scene ... that's all folks, have a coolio New Years.

ANDY PICKERING

## CHRISTCHURCH

By the time you read this, Ed Rush and DJ Trace will have (undoubtedly) rocked the foundations of the Ministry — be on the look out for a continuation of massive drum 'n' bass acts coming to Christchurch next year ... on December 6, a small outdoor party is happening up on the Port Hills, expect a mix of trance/techno. Entry will be very cheap, if not free ... *Street Values*, a multimedia fashion show/dance party is happening at the Ministry on December 13. Local labels Moron, Urbanite, Project, Urchin, and Subvert will be showcased, with live acts and DJs including Lucost, Freq, Kinesis, Pylon, and Argyle ... the biggie this month is *The Gathering*, up on Takaka Hill from December 31 — January 2. Check page four this *RIU* for more details.

DJ KINESIS

# >MO' BETTER< BEATS

## LL COOL J (Something Like A) Phenomena (Polygram)

Jeez Louise, is there a better song on the radio right now than this one? Naw, I don't think so. And there definitely ain't no argument over the best video on TV right now either. The title track to his new album, this is classic LL — funky rhythms and sultry vocals. LL weaves his lyrics like a tapestry — pretty to look at on the surface but when you look closer you really understand the complexity. This is 'just' a song about LL proving what a bad ass he and his shortie are in bed, but damn if it ain't all the way nasty.

## NAUGHTY BY NATURE Mourn You Til I Join You (Tommy Boy)

Let's we forget. With all the recent eulogies for Biggie Smalls, NBN want to remind you that Tupac Shakur was also killed before his time. Rather than a quick cash-in immediately after his death, they've taken their time with this — and it shows. Very poignant heartfelt lyrics that really bring you close to the pain they feel at the passing of their friend. But rather than just a last hurrah for Tupac, this song

stands up on its own, both as a rap and as a song for anyone who's lost someone.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS Nothing To Lose Original Soundtrack (Tommy Boy)

From the new movie starring Martin Lawrence and Tim Robbins, this is a good compilation in it's own right. It starts out with some hip hop pop outings courtesy of Coolio ('C U When U Get There') and Lil' Kim ('Not Tonight'), and then moves into slightly harder territory with Outkast ('Everlasting') and Eightball & MCJ ('Not Tonight'). In amongst it are some new talents and old, such as Naughty By Nature ('Nothin To Lose'), Queen Latifah ('It's Alright') and Quad City DJs ('Route 69'), the latter a fine example of old school rapping circa 1982 (but for a true old school time warp check out Stetsasonic 'Go Stetsa' — fuk'n A!). The album has a good flow to it and the diverse tracks sit together well.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS How To Be A Playa Original Soundtrack (Polygram)

Another good compilation from another 'Afro American' comedy. This

one also includes current hits from the likes of Foxy Brown (& Dru Hill) with 'Big Bad Mama', and Masta P's 'How To Be A Playa', alongside old schoolers EPMD and Rick James (with Richie Rich). *How To Be A Playa* also has a good flow to it, featuring tracks by Redman, 2Pac, Junior M.A.F.I.A., and the marvellous 'It's A Cold Day' by Too Short and George Clinton.

## JOE All That I Am (Liberation)

This R&B slowjam shit ain't really my bag, but being on the phone while it was playing it wasn't half bad. Giving it a proper listen, there's no denying JOE is extremely good at his craft. His voice is superb and it's matched by some slick production from himself (Joe Thomas) and Gerald Levert. His big hit, 'Don't Want to be a Playa', is included here, and it's a good indication of the album. This is sophisticated, adult orientated (and I don't mean XXX) R&B. If you haven't figured out why playing that gangsta drive-by bitch rap doesn't get your lady juiced, then just play this instead and see the difference.

## ETERNAL The Best Of (EMI)

This is a bit cheeky isn't it? Eternal have only put out three albums and already they're compiling their best? Even more bizarre is that it was only

last month I was reviewing their current album *Before The Rain*, which actually included as a bonus disc their previous album, *Power Of A Woman*. Oh well, this compilation includes the best of those two, plus some of the hits from their first album *Stay* (when Eternal used to be a four piece). I'm guessing this will kill sales of *Before The Rain*, but if you're a fan of their luscious R&B style you won't care. All the best songs are here.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS mixed by TONY DE VIT Trade (Flying In)

Trade is a notorious gay nightclub in London, and like Ministry of Sound and Cream, an established 'brand'. Hence the recent visit to Auckland by some of the Trade DJs. Not Tony De Vit though, cos he's top dog in the UK club scene and too expensive. I'm also told that he's not that indicative of the current Trade sound either, which is more funkier and lighter. What we have here is almost 90 minutes of hard, fast, banging house, smoothly mixed and definitely up for it. If you feel like e-ing off your tits at home then this is ideal. The track listing is reasonably current, and De Vit even includes one by himself to boost his royalties (watch Sample Gee do the same).

NICK D'ANGELO

# 1000 TWO COLOUR A2 POSTERS PRINTED

(420mm x 620mm)

from A3 all line artwork supplied

Film Work Available

# \$350 + GST

includes courier fee to anywhere in NZ

# PHANTOM BILL STICKERS

call us toll free on

0800 PHANTOM (0800 742 6866)

## SKIN DESIGN

# TATTOO Studio

Tattoo and piercing vouchers  
available for Christmas

## NIPPLE RINGS

24 CARAT GOLD \$120 EACH

## NOBIUM RANGE OF RINGS AVAILABLE

AUTO-CLAVE STERILATION USED IN  
TAA OF NZ REGISTERED STUDIOS.



also  
FULL RANGE OF  
HARLEY DAVIDSON  
CLOTHING

Take advantage of our great  
prices while stocks last.

112 DEVON STREET WEST,  
NEW PLYMOUTH PH 06 7575148

# THE HATCHING

BAND QUEST '97

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

1st Place: Voodoo Moon

2nd Place: Sadie 7

3rd Place: Her Majestys Minstrels

Get your  
Band Ready  
4 next Year

Entries  
available  
NOW!

Ph. 025 736 736

www.reaction.co.nz/@luna

Proudly supported by

