

SPIN CHECK



Brooke Valentine
"Girl Fight" (single)
 Virgin Records

Lil Jon? Check. Big crunk beat? Check. Song about fighting? Check. Cameo from another huge ATLien (Big Boi)? Check. Sultry vocals from Brooke Valentine? Check. At this point, the review doesn't really matter. This is assembly-line music. All the factors

"This song does nothing new, other than introduce fighting females..."

for a lazy "hit" are here, despite the fact that this song does nothing new, other than introduce fighting females – which is a leap forward

from the fighting males we've grown accustomed to in crunk music. It probably won't sound terrible in a club, but honestly, this song will be forgotten in years to come. But at least Lil Jon drops his signature "WHAT?!" a few times.



General Patton vs. The X-ecutioners

Self-Titled
 Ipecac

This is a project that both fans of Mike Patton and the X-Men really want to love. Patton is a talented – if not somewhat too eclectic – vocalist and the X-ecutioners are some of the finest turntablists the world's ever seen. Thing is, this is nothing more than a 23 track experiment with songs that rarely break the two minute mark. Some

of it works really well and could maybe pass as b-sides off one of the X-Men's previous albums and when Patton's vocals are involved, they border on his more creepy side. Overall, it's an interesting listen and decent experiment, but not something you want to rock at your next house party.



The Soul Rebels

Rebellion
 Barn Burner Music

Is this hip-hop? Is it funk? Blues? Jazz? Drumline? Whatever it is, these Cajun boys have been doin' it for sometime and they do it right. This eclectic mashing of various

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music genres and styles boasts live instrumentation, tons of energy and real street themes and issues that only the most conscious of rappers tend to cover. Granted, this sort of hip-hop is not for everyone, nor is it always very party friendly since it tends to sound more like a New Orleans parade rather than a club banger. However, after a couple of listens, you'll begin to wonder how they manage to make horns sound so damn hard.



RATINGS

COP IMMEDIATELY (5 Stereos)

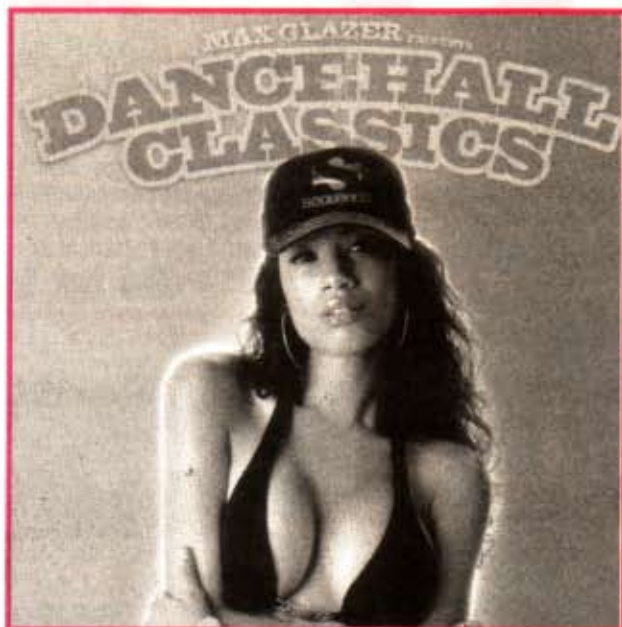
SUB-WOOFER WORTHY (4 Stereos)

SOLID EFFORT (3 Stereos)

PLAY WITH CAUTION (2 Stereos)

PERMANENTLY MUTE (1 Stereo)

SPIN CHECK



Max Glazer

Presents: *Dancehall Classics*
Sequence

Summer is right around the corner. You're trying to lose the chubs 'cause despite the carb-counting craze, you've been on a Krispy Kreme binge. You need to drop the pounds and fit into that bikini, because when this CD starts playing you know you're gonna wanna get your

"While Sean Paul's away, let this mix play."

grind on with the closest hottie on the beach. This disc is jammed with some of the hottest dancehall tracks from the '90s: Terror Fabulous' "Action;" Chaka Demus & Pliers' "Murder She Wrote;" Cutty Ranks' "A Who Seh Me Dun;" Dawn Penn's "You Don't Love Me (No, No, No)" and many, many more from the likes of Shabba Ranks, Mad Lion and Super Cat. While Sean Paul's away, let this mix play. **Hot Hot Hot Hot**



Aesop Rock
Fast Cars, Danger, Fire and Knives
Definitive Jux

"The recording sounds like an audio tape of Ikea furniture assembly instructions being recited in Swedish."

From the opening track, "Dog Tags" Aesop continues to do what he does best: dropping the most uninteresting and feigned witty analogies he can wrap his tongue around, rendering the listener ashamed and in the dark, like a frat initiation gone wrong. With references to Archie comic book characters and a veritable deluge of well-crafted but ultimately sophomoric sound bites, Aesop changes his flow up just enough to render it less intelligible than his previous mind-numbingly incongruous exercises in sonic diarrhea. He goes on to diss the very fanzines that comprise the sum totality of his audience — that's kind of like Britney Spears spouting anti-Wal Mart lyrics. At times the recording sounds like an audio tape of Ikea furniture assembly instructions being recited in Swedish. Eventually the equally de-talented and phenomenally less creative Metro drops a verse, solidifying his ultimate irrelevance and officially making him the Ralph Malph to Aesop's Potsy. But who cares, no matter how many times you utilize visually off-putting imagery, Aesop will never convince real hip-hop heads that he's in any way threatening, lyrically or otherwise. **Hot Hot Hot**

Deitrick Haddon
Crossroads
Verity

"Devil worshippers need not listen."

While it may have taken the likes of Kanye West to use the power of hip-hop to give everybody's favorite Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ a little shine on MTV, the truth is, there have been Christian artists mixing the gospel with hip-hop inspired music for what seems like ages now. Deitrick Haddon's been doing his thing since the second half of the '90s and proves with his latest collection, *Crossroads* that he hasn't missed a step. Ranging from hip-hop flavored R&B/soul to funk and gospel, this is an entertaining listen even for secular listeners. Devil worshippers need not listen. **Hot Hot Hot Hot**

Mars Black

Folks Music
Team Love

Nobody tends to expect great hip-hop from the Midwest, so it's kind of surprising that Mars Black doesn't completely suck. In fact, for a rapper to drop the names of Bob Dylan and KRS-One in a single line is actually pretty impressive. However, his angst-ridden delivery and somewhat dark, repetitious beats do get a bit boring throughout the course of this set. It's not a horrible effort by any means, but one could only hope that the next time around, Mars changes up his flow even the slightest bit and scores a few top-notch producers.



mars black



folks music

AKROBATIK MR. LIF DJ FAKTS ONE
THE PERCEPTIONISTS



The Perceptionists

Black Dialogue
Definitive Jux

Even though this is their official debut, the Boston crew of Mr. Lif, Akrobatik and DJ Fakts One have been working together for a while now. On this set they come hard with bass-heavy east coast styled beats and rhymes that tend to dip into the more political sides of things. Featuring a few impressive cameos, including Guru, Shock G and Little Brother's Phonte, this is yet another album from Definitive Jux that is light on the experiments and heavy on dope hip-hop.

