

Grooves: The New Monthly Look At Albums

By Corey Brown
Staff

Grooves

Sizing up new releases in the world of hip-hop, rhythm and blues, gospel and jazz.

Grooves

The rating system:

- 4 CD's- Highly Recommended
- 3 CD's- Recommended
- 2 CD's- Find a friend and Dub It
- 1 CD -Listen To The Radio

Edutainment Boogie Down Productions- KRS-ONE is back and larger than ever with his forth and unarguably best album. Talk about droppin' science, KRS addresses everything from Blacks trying to identify with our Caucasian counterparts in *Ya Strugglin'* to the Greek's theft of Egyptian philosophies in *Blackman's in Effect*. KRS-ONE also known as Kris Parker is definitely one of the most respected rap artist on the scene today and if you can appreciate music with a message, you'll love this album. 4 CD's

Born to Sing En Vogue- En Vogue is one of the most talented women groups on the scene today. In their debut album, they have every element for success including

the dance hits *Hold On* and *Lies*, the nice slow jams like *Waitin' on You* and *Just Can't Stay Away*, and something to make you think like *Part of Me*. Each of the twelve cuts on *Born to Sing* are well written and well produced that's why this one gets 4 CD's.

The Revival Tony! Toni! Tone!- 3T is back and as strong as before with their return to the scene in *The Revival*. It contains the make ya' move songs like *Feels Good* and *The Oakland Stroke* and more. Although not known for making slow jams, this record contains two in particular that have hit marked all over them: *Whatever You Want*, and *It Never Rains (In Southern California)*. This fourteen song album was well put together by the guys from Oakland. 3 CD's

I'll Give All My Love To You Keith Sweat- I'm sure everyone has heard of the sophomore jinx, but I am glad to say Keith Sweat does not suffer from it. This, his second album, of course does not measure up to the greatness of *Make It Last Forever* but is good nevertheless. Sweat scores big with the love songs *Come Back*, *Just One of them Thangs*, and the title track *I'll Give All My Love to You*. But falls short on the dance grooves 'cause he didn't make many. Re-

gardless this is a definite top ten album and merits 3 CD's as long as you don't compare it to the first one.

Mama Said Knock You Out LL Cool J- For the first time since the *Radio LP*, I could actually listen to LL without getting tired of his ego trippin'. Mr. James Todd Smith may have found a social conscience on this his fourth album. He combines hard core tunes with serious bass like *Da Boomin System* with sleek dance grooves as in *Milky Cereal*. Then to top it off, he has a song called *The Power of God*, which pays tribute to the Almighty. I never thought that I'd see the day when LL raps about someone more than himself, but he's had a slight change in attitude. It deserves a solid 3 CD's.

Pandemonium The Time- In their, if you will, return album the Time attempts to recapture past glory from the days of records like *777-9311*, *the Walk*, *Jungle Love*, and *Cool*. Of course their initial release, *Jerk Out*, was an instant success but the hits on this album will be few and far between. It seemed to me like they were somewhat out of touch with what the public wants to hear. On cuts like *Blonde* and *Skillet* it appeared as though members of Guns and Roses helped with lead guitar. And being a

fan of the Time you can imagine the disappointment I felt. This deserves no better than 2 CD's.

Poison Bell Biv DeVoe- When *Poison* (the single) was first released I can remember anticipating getting this album. I figured the whole album would be filled with smash dance tunes and smooth ballads. I was terribly wrong. Aside from the fact that Ricky Bell, Mike Bivins, and Ronnie DeVoe flat out cannot sing, they reinforce the negative image of the black male. I should have known, I mean what kind of intelligence do you need to make a song like *Do Me*? Frankly, this album lacks in taste and shows no artistic ability. 1 CD

Up and Coming Artist Preview: Kaos and Mystro- A Shade of Grey

This Detroit based rap group has only been on the scene one year but with their first album show a lot of promise for the future. Their style is somewhat like Public Enemy's in that they have deep meaning, but they still make you dance in songs like *Mystro on the Flex* and *Move Your Body*. It may take a while for their sound to migrate south but keep an eye out for these guys.

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For more information contact Doneé Thomas (932-5495)

