

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Vibes, Beats and ...

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Staff Writers

### Rhyme and Reason Soundtrack Various Artists

One of the worst hip hop experiences of my life came when I listened to the **Rhyme and Reason** soundtrack and I'm glad I didn't purchase it because it would have been a waste of \$15. Although the soundtrack has its bright points, the West Coast was not represented to the fullest on this CD. Eight Ball & MJG, E-40, MC - EIGHT and a host of other West Coast artists continued to use the same west coast G - funk oriented beats that made Dr. Dre famous.

Is originality a disease? If it is, I hope the West Coast catches it soon because there isn't enough going around. People, especially true hip hop heads, get tired of the same repetitive West Coast beats and rhymes.

The only song that really represented the west coast as far as beats were concerned was the song, **Nuthin but the Cavi Hit**. Even though the beat was innovative and not your traditional Dre imitation the lyrics still weren't up to those on the east coast. Neither, the Dogg Pound or special guest Mack 10 really showed any vocal quality. Once again the beat carried the West Coast!

**Wild Hot, UNI - 4 - ORM, Tragedy, and Bring it Back** were the only pieces that made the "Rhyme and Reason" Soundtrack shine.

**Wild Hot**, performed by Q - Tip and Busta Rhymes, was by far the best effort on the CD. It had an innovative wild west beat that put you in the frame of mind of Wu Gambinos, but more gloomy. Q - Tip was at his finest on the mic in this effort. Of course you know Busta came off as well.

**Uni - 4 - ORM** performed by Heltah Skeltah, Cannabis, and Rass Kass as well

as **Tragedy**, by the RZA, had the best lyrics. It was refreshing to hear creative lyrics, diverse styles, allegory and metaphors, as opposed to making "cat" rhyme with "hat." I'm so tired of the Dr. Seuss style present in rap. Creative lyrics catch you off guard and that unfamiliarity is what makes it so tight. Heltah Skeltah even stepped up their plain vocals when on the mic with Rass Kass and Cannabis.

RZA was on point with his broken, Islamic, mathematic, street-type flow. All of you probably slept on RZA, but his flow is out of this man's universe.

My favorite MC, KRS- ONE ripped it once again with **Bring it Back**. Although his delivery is simple, it's still deep and **Bring it Back** could be considered a vintage KRS battle rhyme.

If you buy soundtracks just to hear four tight songs then **Rhyme and Reason** is the perfect soundtrack for you, but if you want a CD full of 'butta' tracks then you need to keep your \$15 because this isn't the CD for you.

### Dru Hill - Dru Hill

Island Records definitely didn't sleep on this talented foursome: Nokio (Tahir Ruffin), Sisqo (Mark Andrews), Woody (James Green), and Jazz (Larry Anthony Jr.).

They have a gospel/R&B sound which puts them in a category with Jodeci and Boys II Men. You can expect them to be around for a while.

Their self-titled debut album "Dru Hill," contains their first single release, "Tell Me," along with their current single, "In My Bed," which is blowing up the air waves as we speak. This song is strictly "DA Bomb."

Luckily, these are not the only good songs on the CD. You will surely get your moneys worth with songs like "5 steps," "Satisfied," and a remake of the Confuncions "Love Train."

The only songs poorly performed on this CD are the faster ones. Their up-tempo songs are garbage! Other than that "Dru Hill" is evidence of the stability and talent you need to stay in this industry. We give this CD two thumbs up!

### "The Preachers Wife Soundtrack"

While the movie itself looks inspirational and enlightening the soundtrack is even more dynamic. Even though this CD sounds more like a regular Whitney Houston album, than like a movie soundtrack with a variety of artists featured, the music is outstanding.

Whitney Houston, The Georgia Mass Choir, Bobby Brown, New Edition members Ralph Tresvant and Johnny Gill, Faith Evans and Monica are all featured on the now released single **Somebody Bigger Than You and I**. This song gives inspiration and praise of the gospel to any type of musical fan.

"With the voice of an angel," as she has been referred to by her co-star Denzel Washington, Houston really shows her angelic vocal talents on her remake of the Four Tops' **I Believe in You and Me**, along with every other song featured on this soundtrack.

This 15 track CD is loaded with gospels including **I Go To the Rock, He's All Over Me**, with Shirley Caesar and the Georgia Mass Choir and **The Lord is My Shepherd**, sung by Whitney's mother Cissy Houston with The Hezekiah Walker Choir. This soundtrack also received an award at the American Music Awards last month. I don't know about the movie, but we give the soundtrack a thumbs up!

### Donell Jones - My Heart

Even though his debut album on Laface Records has been in stores for a

while, Donell Jones' 15 track CD titled **My Heart** captured mine. This CD is loaded with songs that someday are going to make somebody's "Smooth Grooves" tape.

Not only does Donell have strong vocal talents, but his style is so smooth that you can't help but fall in love with this CD. From the mellow street sound of **In The Hood**, to his wonderfully done remake of Stevie Wonder's **Knocks Me Off My Feet**, this brother really has talent.

However, some of the sample beats that are used in this CD remind you of Junior Mafia and The Notorious Big, giving it a bit less original flavor.

Some songs to check out on this CD, besides the ones that have already been released, are **No Interruptions, Yearnin', and I Want You To Know**.

### "Greatest Hits"

#### BeBe & CeCe Winans

This is a must have CD for all the BeBe & CeCe Winans fans. How can you go wrong? It has anything and everything that you would want to hear from the awesome duo.

From old hits like "I.O.U. Me," from their self-titled album **BeBe & CeCe Winans** (1987), "Lost Without You" and "Heaven," from their **Heaven** album (1988), to "Addictive Love," "I'll Take You There," featuring Mavis Staples, and "It's O.K." from **Different Lifestyles** album (1991). The Winans also include one of their most recent releases off their 1994 **Relationships** album "If Anything Ever Happened To You."

If ever you want to just sit and chill to something soothing and relaxing then this compilation put together by EMI Records is music to any Gospel/R&B enthusiasts ear. If you're not a BeBe & CeCe Winans fan, you will be after this! This CD gets 2 thumbs up!

### Global Perspectives

#### International Forum Presentations Spring Semester 1997

Presentations will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Thompson Center from 7 - 8:15 P.M.

Thurs., Feb. 27, 1997

Dr. Ike Okonta

Social Science

"The African Roots of Christian Theology

Thurs., March 13, 1997

Dr. Abhijit Sen

Mass Communications

"Media & Popular Culture in India Today"

Thurs., April 10, 1997

Dr. Donald MacThompson

Social Science

"Structure & Functions of the United Nations"

Sat., April 19, 1997

International Day WSSU Campus 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.