

ENTERTAINMENT

Vibes, Beats and ...

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Erykah Baydu - Bayduism

It's about time that there was creativity and pure original sounds present in R & B music. Erykah Baydu is a breath of fresh air amidst the fog of played out R&B queens over hip hop samples. Listeners are tired of hearing Mary J. Blige imitations all over the radio. Baydu has what most entertainers lack in the "dat machine/sample" age and that's live sound. Her music is a mixture of hip hop, jazz, "new jack swing," soul, and R&B.

Many critics have compared Baydu to the late Billy Holiday; but she is much more than that - when you listen to Baydu you also hear Patti Labelle and Chaka Khan. It's almost as if she is singing old school lyrics over a modern beat. What I love about Baydu is that her songs really mean something. Every song has a fresh new subject and a positive outlook. It's not commercial! Baydu is more committed to artistic integrity than to record sales.

Conversely, other critics consider

Baydu a female D' Angelo, but she's more than that as well. D'Angelo's album sounds like Prince's album, but Baydu is unlike anything you've ever heard. She takes jazz and hip hop soul to the next level.

It's rare to find an album that both young adults, adults and youth enjoy listening too.

Baydu's "On and On" focuses on her spirituality and "Certainly" focuses on sex without a woman's consent. Her unique subject matter also shines on songs like "Afro," an example of free style skit; "Appletree" and "Rimshot."

Be sure to check out BET for the most "butta" R&B video out at this time (it belongs to her). This CD is well worth a \$15 investment.

Maxwell Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite

After listening to this CD, there's really no wonder why this talented brother was nominated for three Soul Train Music Awards and why he won all three.

Maxwell's *Urban Hang Suite* deserves the recognition of being one of the hottest CDs for 1996 and definitely will continue to climb the charts in 1997.

Although it's been in record stores for quite some time, this is a CD that should definitely not be overlooked.

This CD has more of a laid back feel, with jazzy tempos and soothing melodies that put you in a relaxed frame of mind. The entire CD is an extraordinary piece of urban jazz, rhythm and blues and truly a winner with me! If you want something that will relax you both mentally and physically, then Maxwell's *Urban Hang Suite* is definitely the CD to check out.

Each one of the 11 tracks featured on this CD, has its own flavor. So check them all out!

Funkmaster Flex 60 Minutes of Funk

Funkmaster Flex has still got the funk, but is it new cutting edge funk, semi - old school funk or similar crime related freestyles by common crime related artists?

What *60 Minutes of Funk* lacks is what every mix tape in the universe should have and that's unheard material. "Time for Sum Aksion," "How I Could Just Kill a Man," and "How About Some Hardcore" are some vintage underground hip hop classics, but everybody and their

mama has heard them. "Hip hop heads" buy mix tapes to hear material that not everyone on the street has gotten their hands on, not to hear songs they already have on CD at home. If I want to hear these songs I can just go to my CD case.

What do Jay Z, Nas, Lil' Kim, Puff Daddy, Mase, and Biggie Smalls have in common? I'll give you a hint. They all have crime, sex, and money related rhymes and approach rap from the same perspective. All of these artists have outstanding freestyles, but there was too much uniformity when I was expecting diversity. What happened to artists like the Refugees, KRS, Rase Kass, Jeru the Damaja, A Tribe Called Quest, the Roots, Busta Rhymes and Rakim, who in my opinion have hip hops best freestyles. These rappers would add creativity and originality to the Flex project. Instead I was greeted by the "same old same old." How could you do this to us Flex?

Since Flex turned in such an average product I can't recommend it. Save your money and buy a real mix tape from off the street. This commercialized version of what a mix tape should be is not vintage Flex.

Movie Reviews

BY DAVID FULTON AND DANIELLE PROPHETE
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The Relic

The Relic is a suspense thriller directed by Peter Hyams. The movie is set in a natural history museum where mysterious murders are reducing the humans to nothing in a matter of seconds.

In *The Relic*, the film's monster possesses the traits of several different animals and decapitates it's victims. The movie's most effective scenes are those involving the bloodsucking beast chasing it's victims. The movie contains cliché dialogue, sloppy editing and unanswered questions but it is still a nice thriller as far as keeping the tension and body count high.

Penelope Ann Miller ("The Shadow") plays a sassy evolutionary biologist in a museum where the murders occur and Tom Sizemore ("Strange Days") is a sardonic, no-bull policew lieutenant investigating the crime. Together, they discover that a shipment of

artifacts from Brazil has brought a mythical monster into their midst. So, check-out *The Relic* for bone-chilling thrills to make you shake from head to toe.

Scream

Scream is a psychological thriller directed by suspense "King" Wes Craven. The story is set in Santa Rosa, Calif., a small quiet town that comes under siege by two murderers who take all "their clues" from the movies. The killers take their ideas and clues from Halloween, Friday 13th and other classic horror movies.

In *Scream* nobody is safe, as the psychopaths stalks victims, taunts them with trivia questions, then rips them to bloody shreds.

Scream's most effective scenes are those involving the killer(s) calling it's victims. The young and old people that he targets can only survive if they have presence of mind to follow movie's rules: "Don't answer the door. Don't hide in the closet. Don't just stand there. Don't go

back in the house. Don't trip. Don't answer the telephone. Don't ask, "Who's there?" Don't have sex. Don't drink or do drugs. And, one important rule is to never *Scream* under any circumstances. "Scream" keeps the audience bewildered about who was the killer. There was a killer in their midst who has seen a few too many scary movies. The killer could be anybody... Sidney, Billy, Casey, Geeky Randy, Gale, and Dewey, the goofy-sweet police officer. The members of the audience must know answers to trivia questions and clues to catch the killer or killers in this chilling thriller. This movie keeps the audience jumping out of their seats. It is a good horror-comedy classic.

Rosewood

In the small town of Rosewood, Fla., Blacks owned land, their homes and some of the businesses. They got along with the whites who lived in the town.

But in 1923, Rosewood, was burned to the ground. Rosewood residents were

murdered because of a lie told by Fannie Taylor (Catherine Kellner) a white woman.

Taylor was cheating on her husband the truth, she said a Black man did it. This one lie would cause the sheriff, played by Michael Rooker, and the rest of the town's whites to go on a rampage to find a fictitious rapist.

Meanwhile, a girl named Scrappy (Elise Neal), had time to fall in love with a stranger named Mr. Mann (Ving Rhames), an ex-war hero, who was looking for a new start.

Sarah Carrier (Esther Rolle), worked for Fannie Taylor and witnessed what really happened to her. She didn't want to say anything fearing what would happen if she told everybody it was a white man who raped Fannie.

This is a very violent and dramatic movie! It will definitely evoke ill feelings, but in no way should this movie be used as an excuse for any hatred against whites. This is a true story and it should be used as a historical and learning experience by viewers.