

ENTERTAINMENT

Vibes, Beats and ...

BY VINCE WOODY
Staff Writer

Soul Assassins

DJ Muggs is one of the most underestimated DJ's in hip hop. He is most famous for producing the melodic, eerie, yet abrasive beats that are responsible for making Cypress Hill famous. For this outing he has followed in the footsteps of Marley Marl, Dr. Dre, and Erick Sermon by producing a compilation album of current hip hop heads.

Soul Assassins is the greatest representation of what hip hop was and should be, that I have seen in some time. Tight beats and creative lyrics are the essence of what hip hop is and what makes this CD a must have. However each artist seems to add their own original flavor to a Muggs' beat.

The only blotch on the CD are songs by The Infamous Mobb, Mobb Deep, and LA the Darkman. It's not that the lyrics have flaws, its just that we've heard it, over and over and over again. Crime and violence themes have been over worked in hip hop. Maybe if these artists would read a book or look at the world outside of the projects they would have been entertaining. There isn't anything wrong with projects but there is more to the world than projects. For the record, "keeping it real" is not being loyal to crime and negativity in your lyrics, its being loyal to your people.

"John 3:16," written by Wycleff of

the Refugee Camp, takes an interesting look at the biblical verse. "John 3:16" is the CD's best and it probably can't get much better.

Goodie Mobb, represented the South to the fullest with "Decisions, Decisions." The strength of these lyrics even earned C-LO, (the rapper with the southern fried accent), a hip hop quotable. The thing you have to love most about Goodie Mobb is they keep it real. There's nothing wrong with being country and Goodie Mobb is proof. "Decisions, Decisions" proves to the listeners that ATL has lyrics too, regardless of where they originate from.

Other standouts include: Dr. Dre and B-Real's "Puppet Master", KRS - One's "Move Ahead", and RZA and GZA's "Third World" which elevates the WU Tang saga to another level.

Over all, this CD's one of the most solid compilations I've heard in a long time. I definitely underestimated DJ Muggs' ability to bring together a tight project.



The Apple Tree Tour: A Review

BY VINCE WOODY AND TONYA SHEFFIELD
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The "Apple Tree Tour" made a stop on Winston - Salem State University's campus earlier this month. It was a stop well appreciated by WSSU faculty, students and residents of the Winston - Salem community. The tour, featuring Erykah Badu, brought jazz, spice and life to an audience who was accustomed to hearing samples, formula raps, and remixes.

Badu and her band would kept the crowd on their feet with the funky old school songs or samples they used in a song. The band got the flow going when they began pumping the sounds of Herbie Hancock's, "Watermelon Man." Then after three to five minutes into the song, Badu appeared on stage and got the concert jumping. From the intro of Heatwave's "Boogie Nights" to her latest single "Next Lifetime" the audience gave and received much love from Badu.

The relaxed atmosphere of Badu's show was a breath of fresh air from hardcore or graphic shows. She sung with a spirit and creativity that many R&B divas lack in this day and times. She raised her voice to levels that may have even given Patti Labelle and Jennifer Holiday a run for their money. She is a mixture of the best parts of many singers of the past reincarnated in the present. These skills were presented in her rendition of Chaka Kahn's "Stay,"

the audience sang along with her.

According to an interview on BET's, Planet Groove, Badu's motherland essence is her being herself. Her afrocentric clothing and spiritually inspired subject matter in songs like "On and On" and "Apple Tree." She seems to be heavily in touch with her roots, where she came from, and where she is going.

She also gave the audience improvisations, and selections from her CD *Baduizm* such as "Certainly," "Appletree," "Rimshot," and "Whatcha Gonna Do."

Accompanied only by bass and keyboard players, a drummer and three background singers, it seemed as though she had an orchestra. The sound was pure and crisp, unlike many concerts where the sound is muffled or certain instruments are up to loud.

For years we have looked for originality in R & B concerts, "The Apple Tree Tour" restored our faith in originality. Everything from the incense burning on stage to the motherland aurora made her performance well worth the price of admission.

Conversly, the performance of comedian, D.S., who told tired jokes which degraded blacks and a subpar performance by Outkast, added no flair to the concert. A tip to Outkast, find a better sound man. A tip to the comedian D.S., find jokes that don't make black people look so ignorant.

Movie Reviews

BY DANIELLE PROPHETE AND SHARONDA WILCOX
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B.A.P.S.

B.A.P.S., Black American Princesses, is a basic rags to riches story, directed by Robert Townsend. Halle Berry (Nisi) and Natalie Desselle (Mickey) are two girls from Decatur, Ga., who sling hash in a local greasy spoon. They both fantasize about a better life. Nisi wants to be a hairdresser and Mickey wants to own her own restaurant.

When they learn about a Heavy D audition in Los Angeles, Calif., Nisi persuades Mickey to take their life savings and fly to L.A. for the audition. After bombing at the audition they are approached by a chauffeur (Luigi Amodio) who claims his boss is also making a music video and he thinks they would be perfect for the job. He would also pay them \$10,000. (Show Them The Money!) They soon find out the real reason they were brought to the estate.

B.A.P.S. is so hilarious that it is definitely worth seeing. Halle Berry enters into a whole different atmosphere with this character and shows her ability to transform from one character to another. This is the type of movie that the whole family should go out and see together and laugh together!

Love Jones

"Lovejones," is a wonderful display of the realities of a relationship that involves two ambitious African-Americans was really a breath of fresh air when compared to the way young African -Americans and relationships are usually stereotyped in movies.

Darius Lovehall (Lorenz Tate) and Nina Mosley (Nia Long) meet at "The Sanctuary," a popular nightclub where Darius and his friends hang out faithfully and where poetry is the thing. Darius who is intrigued by Nina, dedicates and recites a poem for her titled, "Brother to the Night" (A Blues for Nina), but she is a

little embarrassed; but intrigued by his affection. Eventually after much determination and persistence Darius finally gains Nina's attention and eventually this infatuation develops into a relationship.

The one thing that stands out about this movie is that "it's real", the characters, the situations, the talks that the men and women have about sex and relationships is what makes this movie interesting.

Although the movie seems to leave you wondering what happened with Darius and Nina's relationship, the story was really easy to follow. Not only did it provide a good showing of talent from an all African-American cast, but it was good enough for me to go and see it again.

Other talents to look for in this movie are Isaiah Washington (Savon), Bill Bellamy (Hollywood), Bernadette Clark (Sheila), Leonard Roberts (Eddie) and Lisa Nicole Carson (Josie).

I definitely got a "Lovejones" from this movie and the soundtrack is worth checking out too!