

don't seem to be shining examples of his work. However, for those of you who want some fresh floor fodder, these will no doubt hit your spot. "Be Free" is slick and musical with some rolling breakbeats and a deep bass combination, while "The Sweat" takes things on a harder and faster tip with a grizzling bassline and some tougher drums.

File under: [Must try harder](#)

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Noisia / "Stigma" / "Crank" (Vision)

Every now and then, a really massive artist will drop a track that just disappoints the hell out of you. Fortunately enough, Noisia have yet to suffer this fate, and "Stigma,"

the latest release on their own Vision Recordings combines everything that any fan of drum 'n' bass should love. Pounding breakbeats? Check. Disgusting reese basslines, mangled together like some kind of ritual murder victim? Check. Screeching alarm synths and more twists than a maze designed by Escher? Check and check! Flip over for "Crank" if you like. I'm too busy reloading "Stigma" to bother.

File under: [Teebee](#), [Gridlok](#), [Spor](#)

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Phobia & Jubei / "Guillotine" (Breakage Remix) (Coded Music/UK)

Phobia is a producer who was once on my

"one to watch" list. Having made a succession of reasonably heavy tunes for the Trouble on Vinyl/ Renegade/ Renegade Hardware camp, all seemed bright for the future of this guy. Then, at some stage, I found his tracks suddenly became bland and uninteresting. How joyous then to find that for the launch of his own label he's teamed up with Jubei and crafted an excellent, rolling dance floor number which encompasses everything I love about drum 'n' bass. Not to mention that he's drafted in one James Breakeage to drop some remix action on the flip. A great start to a promising label, let's hope Phobia keeps it up!

File under: [Loxy](#), [Ink](#), [Matt-U](#)

DVDs

reviews by [Darren Ressler](#)



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Stax (Infinity Entertainment Group) This two-disc double-feature is an exhaustive document of Stax Records, the famous Memphis-based record label which made an indelible mark on R&B and soul music in the Sixties. The first disc, *Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story*, details the label's accidental founding by owner Jim Stewart, and tells how Stax gave rise to Booker T & The MGs, Isaac Hayes and countless other legends. Everyone from Bono to Jesse Jackson weigh in about the music on this well-directed documentary. The second disc, *Stax Volt Revue: Live in Norway 1967*, is equally thrilling and makes nearly every R&B record from this century pale in comparison.



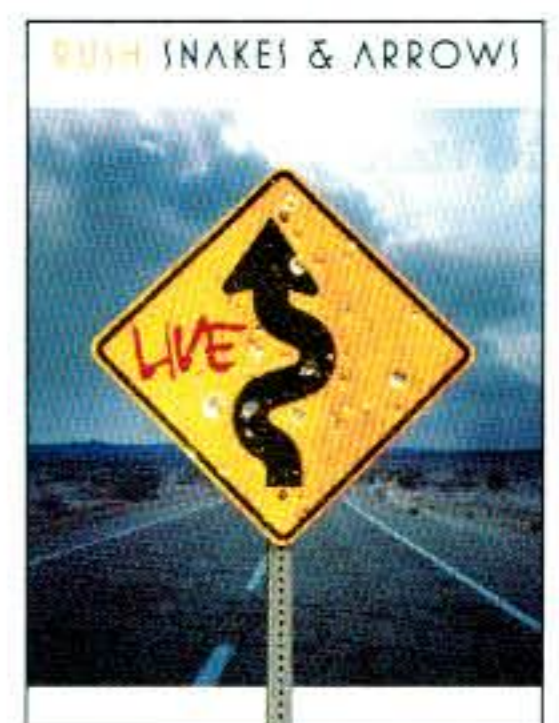
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DJ Dusk's Root Down Soundclash (Mochilla) Eric Coleman and Brian "B+" Cross ventured down to DJ Dusk's Sound Clash at The Root Down in LA in January 2001 to check out the DJ battle between Cut Chemist and Madlib. Although they were both interested in the music, the event was an opportunity to try out their new video cams. After DJ Dusk's tragic death in 2006, this DVD honors Dusk's commitment to the music. Though the camera work varies in quality and there's often too much crowd noise, the duo captured history. The 2002 battle between Will.i Am and Thes One is first-rate, though the 2003 competition featuring Ohno and Exile is a little light on highlights. In the end, this is a fitting tribute.



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The House of the Rising Punk (ABC) Punk might've ended 30 years ago, but the musical genre seems to still be of interest to filmmakers from all over the world. As far as punkumentaries go, *The House of the Rising Punk* opts to focus on the New York scene. Originally aired on German TV in 1998, director Christoph Dreher intercuts interviews with many of the usual suspects (Patti Smith, Tom Verlaine, Alan Vega) and bows at the filthy altar of CBGBs. Although it offers no revelation about the music or the people behind it, the archival film footage of the city circa 1976 tells the story of the Big Apple's gentrification without uttering a single word. If only old punks would do the same.



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Rush / Snakes & Arrows (Zoe Entertainment/Rounder) Aside from a brief teenage appreciation of *Moving Pictures*, Canadian rock trio Rush have never been my cup of tea. Now in their 34th year, *Snakes & Arrows* shows why this threesome have outlasted many of their peers. On this gargantuan three-disc set containing concert footage filmed over two performances in Rotterdam, Holland in 2007, every detail—the lights, sound and direction—is perfect. The band even includes a silly intro film and lots of surprises. Though singer/bassist Geddy Lee doesn't hit the high notes like he once did, his lower delivery is easier on the ears. This is how a live DVD should be done, eh?