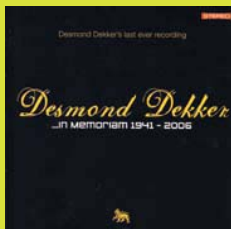


ALBUMREVIEWS



DESMOND DEKKER

... In Memoriam 1941-2006
 >> Rollover Studios



One of the first Jamaican artists to gain a major hit with the track "Israelites," along with his band, The Four Aces, in the UK as well as other countries around the world, Desmond Dekker has been recording music for nearly 40 years.

With more than three dozen records under his belt, the ska, reggae singer and songwriter's latest offering *...In Memoriam 1941-2006*, is a compilation of some of Dekker's most memorable work. Dekker is often credited with glamorizing rude boy culture and helping to popularize the cultural movement during the 1960s. His music would go on to resonate with rude boys and establish Dekker as a rude boy icon, producing tracks like "007 (Shanty Town)," which would later go on to top the UK charts and make Dekker a hero with the mod culture emerging around the same time. Hits like "Sabotage" and "Pretty Africa," are all found on *...In Memoriam*.

Though Dekker died in May of 2006, *...In Memoriam* is the definitive Desmond Dekker album, littered with some of his greatest musical accomplishments, including an original version of "Israelites," "You Can Get it if You Really Want" and "Sing a Little Song." The album is a testament to Dekker's renewed relevance in reggae music.

- ZACHARY FRANKLIN



INTELLEKT & DIRTY DIGITS

Intellectual Property Revised
 >> Arc The Finger Records



Imagine you show up to an all white party wearing all black. Either you feel dumb or paint the town Technicolor in your artful deception of normality. Breaking the South's mold of crunk and snap music, Intellekt & Dirty Digits add another chapter to the ever evolving hip-hop scene of the "Dirty Dirty." Sticking out like a sore thumb, or in this case, an arched middle finger, the ID-Double lets you become a slave to each page in their b-boy, true school-flavored rhyme book, *Intellectual Property Revised*.

Starting off as an EP, crafted while they resided in their respective college towns of Gainesville and Tallahassee, FL, the duo packed up and moved to the growing hip-hop scene of ATL to make *Intellectual Property Revised*. Incorporating live scratches and an energy of battle ciphers and Adidas hitting linoleum, The ID-Double pulls out a Krylon can and proceeds to paint an underground burner. With jazzy tracks provided by CYNE and Tough Junkie respectively, the emcee Intellekt tells tales about independent rap hustlin' and his stint as a Japanese hibachi chef on "Mario Kart" and "Living The Life." The group's true shine comes when Intellekt bears his soul about a murdered friend on "Freebird...For Ben." If you think Florida doesn't have anything to offer hip-hop, you didn't listen to this.

- ECLECTICITY INC.



PACIFIC DIVISION

Sealed for Freshness Blendtape
 >> Unsigned



Allow me to introduce you to Mibbs, Likewize and BeYoung, the Southern California collective that makes up Pacific Division: three young emcees with a mean shoe game and a flow that marries boom-bap with booty music. Get familiar with them now because this won't be the first time you'll be hearing from them. Pacific Division's *Sealed for Freshness Blendtape* is a 360 degree look at hip-hop, simultaneously looking at its past and taking a glimpse at its future. It is rare to find a mixtape...excuse me, blendtape that really blows you away. They take classic hip-hop beats and make them their own, with unique concepts that rival the originals. Funny coming from kids who couldn't have been more than 7 years old when half of the songs came out. Even though they kill it on industry beats, they shine brightest over original beats, courtesy of Swift. They really outdo themselves on "Grown Kid Syndrome," "How We Chill," and "Ack Like You Chillin'"; which soundtrack their lives as men in their early 20s. These cats definitely have what hip-hop needs to stay afloat and keep from drowning in "Chicken Noodle Soup" whackness and "Chain Hang Low" infantilism. Go to MySpace and check these dudes out www.myspace.com/pacificdivisionmusic; you'll be pleased with what you hear.

- ELOSI



NICOLAY

There
 >> BBE/World's Fair



Who would have ever thought IM'ing an anonymous emcee online tracks would lead to your own album on a label that puts out nothing but constant dope for the hip-hop and soul junkie. Since then, Nicolay has dropped an LP with the aforementioned emcee under the name of Foreign Exchange and a few other indie compilations with good responses. Now it's Nicolay's turn to show you what he can do over here in the States with *There*.

If you're not familiar with Dutch producer Nicolay, truth is, you been missing out on some good music. Jazzy enough to be neo-soul, but hard enough for a rough-around-the-edges emcee to get introspective, Nicolay lets go and lets the artists on *There* go for what they know. Laying down a beat that incorporates keys that would make Scott Storch blush, Nicolay provides a wonderful space to let Black Spade lay down his story of family struggle. Not one to be one dimensional, Nicolay gets his R&B on and lets frequent collaborator Darrien Brockington have at it on the fun-loving "I Love The Way You Love." With more bright spots than not, *There* is a great way to get somewhere to let your mind relax from a hard day.

- ECLECTICITY INC.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

GREGORIO HOWE Y COMPADRES

Salsa Blanco Latin Soul Flavoring
 >> Wide Hive Records



LISTEN TO THIS ALBUM WHEN:
 You have an urge to dance until your feet bleed.

THIS ALBUM GOES GOOD WITH:
 Anything that is muy caliente!

IF YOU'RE DOWN WITH THE FOLLOWING, YOU'LL LIKE THIS:
 Latin jazz, Afro-funk, Puerto Rican Day Parade and Cinco de Mayo.

GREENSKEEPERS

Polo Club >> Om Records



LISTEN TO THIS ALBUM WHEN:
 You don't care about being called a "scenester."

THIS ALBUM GOES GOOD WITH:
 Tight expensive jeans, black tees, pints of Stella.

IF YOU'RE DOWN WITH THE FOLLOWING, YOU'LL LIKE THIS:
 Talking Heads, Clap Your Hands And Say Yeah!, Moving Units and Huey Lewis.

MICHAEL VINER'S INCREDIBLE BONGO BAND

Bongo Rock >> Mr. Bongo Records



LISTEN TO THIS ALBUM WHEN:
 You just finished watching that "Fresh Prince" episode where Will and Carlton were stripping and got caught by Aunt Viv.

THIS ALBUM GOES GOOD WITH:
 Old school hip-hop.

IF YOU'RE DOWN WITH THE FOLLOWING, YOU'LL LIKE THIS:
 Sly & the Family Stone "Running Away."

ANTHONY DAVID

Red Clay Chronicles >> Brash Music



LISTEN TO THIS ALBUM WHEN:
 Trying to impress the earthy chick you met at Starbucks. Followed by the lines, "You know you can tell a lot about a person by the music they listen to."

THIS ALBUM GOES GOOD WITH:
 Soul food.

IF YOU'RE DOWN WITH THE FOLLOWING, YOU'LL LIKE THIS:
 Algebra Blessett, Conya Doss, Eric Roberston, Yin Yang Café (ATL shawty!)