

music

music report | BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

URBAN SPOTLIGHT GOES DVD

April will see the West Coast World Premiere of *Urban Spotlight* DVD-Zine, a DVD version of the popular magazine that features hip-hop and rap artists. The debut in this format will have features on Keak Da Sneak, Too Short, AVANT, Mobb Deep and Snoop Dogg.

E-40 will have an interview piece on the disc along with a concert feature and the same goes for Ice Cube and Malverde. Freestyle segments will feature Spider Loc, Ladi G & Young Dre and Ras Kass.

Pimp C will check in with a music video while other segments will focus on celebrity basketball, 310 Motoring, HW Motorsports and Unice exotic wear. Special features in the issue will include "The Listening Party," "Concert Series Highlights" and a segment on G-Unit West.

The whole deal runs about 94 minutes and has a suggested retail price of \$9.95. Find it at your favorite magazine, DVD or music retailer on April 3.

A LATTE MORE THAN COFFEE

The folks at Starbucks have long been involved in promoting good

music, and several of their new projects have a local connection. First up, issued in conjunction with KCRW, is *Sounds Eclectic: The Covers Project*. The set features 15 acts performing cover tunes live, all of which were recorded when the artists visited the KCRW studios for the "Morning Becomes Eclectic" program.

Damien Rice and the Flaming Lips both choose to honor Radiohead; Rice with "Creep" and the Lips with their take on "Knives Out." Some acts look a little further back for their tributes; Dido interprets James Taylor's "Fire and Rain," REM takes a turn at "Gentle on my Mind" and Nikka Costa channels Nina Simone for "I Want a Little Sugar in my Bowl."

Robert Plant sort of cheats and covers his own material with a revamped "Black Dog." M. Ward, k.d. lang, Paul Weller and Rufus Wainwright are some of the other artists featured on this unique compilation.

Then on April 3, the coffee house will issue another compilation, this one featuring up-and-coming artists. L.A. will be represented on *Off the Clock* by Folkloriate and their tune "Small Boat." The members of Folkloriate are Nanda Zipp and Mario

Esquivel, and they define their sound as "music for the weary-hearted looking for a place to sit awhile."

And to add a little whipped-cream topping to the whole thing, Starbucks' Hear Music label has just released the self-titled debut from L.A.'s Low Stars. These four guys have earned a following by playing at places like the Hotel Café but with a sound that brings to mind great mellow California acts like the Eagles or Crosby, Stills & Nash.

Low Stars have a future that will soon take them to larger venues. All of the Low Stars have impressive backgrounds, and among them is former Tonic guitarist Jeff Russo. So, now you have plenty of good stuff to check out while you're waiting for that cup of cappuccino.

READY FOR GREEN BEER?

Have you looked at your calendar lately? It's nearly St. Patrick's Day!

The good news is that this year the special day falls on a Saturday so you should be pretty much back to coherency by Monday morning even if you get a head start by celebrating with L.A.'s very own Irish rockers, the Young Dubliners. The party band will



Young Dubliners

be starting the holiday a day early Friday, March 16 with a show at Key Club in West Hollywood.

They'll be playing plenty of drinking songs (aren't they all!?)

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