

GET YOUR VOTE ON! THE ULTIMATE ELECTION GUIDE

VIBE

WHAT'S THE WORD ON
NELLY

Pop star, pimp,
or gangsta?

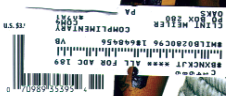
The last
days of
**RICK
JAMES**

**NBA
REPORT**
The good
ball young

PLUS
**FANTASIA
TALIB KWELI
SLIM THUG
JADAKISS**



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ONÉ
E

ittle Olivia from
Raven-Symoné
ie world she's all
ve it, she records
of pop/R&B
ing with Hilary

ling arrangements. She's recruited
Diane Warren on the maturely
written "Overloved," enlisted
Scott Storch for the funky
bass-licked "Backflip," and called
on Matthew Gerrard (Duff) for
the dance-floor destined "Bump."
Yet, none of these composers can
compensate for the teen queen's
sub-par singing, the one thing pre-
venting her from getting her full
bloom on.

"Emcee Murdah," a scathing
indictment of the shiny excesses
that saturate today's hip hop.
While k-os's antimaterialist rant-
ing can wear thin at times, *Joyful
Rebellion* builds and improves on
the rich, organic, live sound that
made his debut, *Exit*, such a left-
field hit. "Crucial" is a reggae-tinged
gem that showcases the Canadian
MC's strong singing, while the
frenetic "Crabucket" borrows its
drum 'n' bass swing from the
Cure's "Lovecats." Along the
course of his rebellion, k-os
might detest the state of hip hop,
but at least he has a convincing
plan to save it.

notable.

Jeff Sanico

Duff-like innocence and spark-

Angie Romero

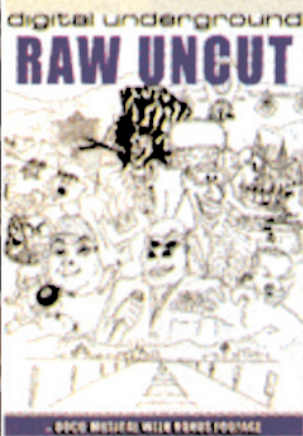
Hua Hsu

> out the box

Hot joints from all genres

> block busters

Zooming in on the latest music DVDs



Lyricist Lounge Show.

> **DIGITAL UNDERGROUND—RAW UNCUT**
(MUSICVIDEODISTRIBUTORS.COM)

◀ **REW:** Vintage concert footage illuminates
Tupac's origins in the rap game.

▶ **FF:** With a 100-minute running time, only D.U.
diehards will see it through. *Donnie Kwak*



tweaks dance/electronic music with funk, rock, and
pop, without alienating the masses. Don't miss the
playful remake of the Steve Miller Band's "The Joker,"
featuring Bootsy Collins.



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