

DANCE

Idle and Wild Far Behind
(UK Hott 12")

Michael Watford and Robert Owens
Come Together
(UK Hard Times 12")

Two from the hand of the now firmly re-established Marshall Jefferson. Monumental deep garage from some of the finest voices on the planet (Keith 'Break For Love' Thompson is the vocalist on 'Far Behind') that may be too subtle for this guitar driven musical backwater.

Way Out West Arjare
(UK Deconstruction 12")

Straight out of Bristol (there must be something in the water in that city), a fusion of technoid sensibility and old school electro that really jams on the best mix (Pierre's Wild Pitch), a perfect meeting point between Union Square and Saint Paul's.

Congress Happy Smiling Faces
(UK Blunted 12")

M People Open Your Eyes
(UK Deconstruction 12")

Enough cheese for a family of five. The Pak 'N'Save of dance music, M People, have actually tucked away a couple of fine mixes on side two, from Farley and Heller, especially the 'Wild Luv'-ish dub. Congress's own re-mix (under their alter ego Nush) of their oldie grooves along in a perfectly acceptable pop dance manner.

Mory Kante Yeke Yeke
(Fr Going Global 12")

Dave Angel In Flight EP
(UK Blunted Dbl 12")

Originally from 1988, 'Yeke Yeke' has been re-mixed in a nice churning, funky and acidic manner by Germany's Hardfloor, and is kind of essential, at the moment. Dave Angel's EP isn't really quite so essential, but has a mellow, soulful Detroit feel. For fans of Carl Craig,

Chez Damier etc. Very cool.

Elastic Reality Casa De X
(UK Tribal 12")

Danny Tenaglia Bottom Heavy
(UK Tribal 12")

The tribal machine move on. Just when you think they've pigeonholed themselves with a sound, they change the rules. Danny's single (first heard on the *Tribal* compilation last year) is a dark, noisy and metallic trance track, that takes his sound one step on from 'So Get Up'. Casa De X is an X-rated gem from the amazing Brian Transeau that twists together tribalism, homo-industria, trance and jazz.

Velvet Jungle Keep Holding On
(UK Sony 12")

Kerri Chandler and Arnold Jarvis Inspiration
(UK Freetown 12")

The sound of Manhattan as seen from both sides of the Atlantic. Ashley Beedle's East Village mix of Velvet Jungle is really a lovely raw, deep and funky

groove, that wouldn't sound out of place on a Strictly 12, even though it's out of West London. Kerri Chandler's the real thing, a lazy four to floor mood piece, with a stunning vocal from Arnold Jarvis.

Matrix Can You Feel It
(US Vicious Music 12")

Johnny Vicious with an excellent 17 minute techno-ish bump and grind, which retains much of his earlier work, but is less like a roller coaster cut 'n' paste than his normal output. Does the world need another record called 'Can You Feel It'?

DJ Krush Strictly Turntablised
(UK Mo Wax double LP)

Various Headz
(UK Mo Wax triple LP)

Whilst Mo Wax may still be the hippest name to drop around town (although its new major label affiliation may change that), don't let it deter you from the music. Both these albums stretch and manipulate the boundaries of the style called jazz. They do so brilliantly, with music that creates its own environment, and

repetitiously, ultimately goes nowhere, which is exactly the point. Summer in the city.

SIMON GRIGG

MO BETTER BEATS

BABA MEN Just A Sunny Day

Written and produced by Lenny Kravitz, this is a fine slice of summer pop indeed. The BaHa Men are just lampin' in sunny Jamaica and making the most of paradise. There isn't really anything new about this, but it's done with style and finesse. Kravitz may well have given this band the break they needed.

MASSIVE ATTACK Protection

Nelle Hooper (ex-Soul II Soul) produces the latest single off the new Massive Attack album. This time it's new gal Tracey Thorn doing the vocals, and she sounds great over MA's trademark groove. Not as funky as the stuff that made them famous — *Protection* is an indication of the new sound MA have taken up since the departure of original vocalist Carleen Anderson.

MADONNA Take a Bow

Her latest album, *Bedtime Stories*, has taken a beating from some critics, but, since I haven't been given a copy (Warner Music - Hellooooo!), I can't comment. All I know is I enjoyed the first single, 'Baby's Got A Secret' (particularly the 'Dan-o-rama' mix), and this ain't bad either. Mind you, I always see them on video first, which kinda helps! Written and produced by Babyface and Madonna, it's another ballad with an edge to it musically (but not much lyrically), thanks to Madonna mastering the 'tortured voice' sound.

TLC Creep

Okay, here's an admission that's going to get me into trouble — it's not very PC (blame it on Nuttin' Nyce). Every time I hear this track I wanna go out and rob banks in the vain hope that maybe, just maybe, I might one day have enough money to buy the affections of one of these super-fine women. Any one will do — they are all sooo lovely. And don't they know it. Last year, Left Eye burnt down her boyfriend's mansion because he pissed her off. And he didn't press charges! They must

be good. Seriously, this song reeks of sensuality. Just in case you get over excited, there's a 'safe sex' rap thrown in at the end. Single of the month.

REDNEX Cotton Eye Joe

It's interesting to note the lengths DJs go to to find a new dance 'sound'. Personally, Audio Murphy's yodelling never quite worked for me, but The Grid's 'Swamp Thing' was excellent. Rednex have also dipped down to the bayou for their inspiration and the result is... interesting. Mixes include the 'Madcow Mix' and the 'Overworked Mix' (good), but the original Cajun-style version works the best.

N-TRANCE Turn Up The Power

Mindless techno-pop of the ilk now playing at clubs and aerobic classes nationwide. There might be nothing new about this, but it's done well and grows on you. A straight hi-BPM beat with cheap lyrics — N-Trance will have to work hard with their follow-up if they don't want to be shown the X-It.

ARROW Hot Hot Hot

David Johansen did a version of this in the 80s, so I guess we're due for another outing of this New Orleans standard. This time the emphasis is on 'World Carnival', ie. very heavy on the percussion. Listening to the full mix, I wasn't sure if I was in Rio, Rarotonga or Notting Hill. Obviously someone thought it was too ethnic for the dancefloor (it isn't), so Les Adams sweeps in for the floor-friendly 'Outrageous Mix'. It's not bad either, but he's replaced the live percussion with studio bass and drums.

NUTTIN' NYCE Down 4 Whateva

A bit soon to start sampling Soul II Soul I would've thought, but, judging from the chart success this track is receiving, I guess I don't know nuttin'. Yes it's good, but it's really just a straight lift of 'Back To Life', with new verses added. And oh, what lyrics: "I'm down for whatever / I'm down for whatever / I'm down for whatever / I'm down for whatever..." Pleeease! These girls have got nuttin' to say other than they're available for whatever yo' dick fancies.

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