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Album Reviews. By the BPM Music Crew.

the jazzy and soulful, with *Bombay One*, Bombay Recordings shows why it is one of the premiere house music outlets in North America. While some label compilations tend to be stale or sound heavy in one direction, *Bombay One* showcases a diverse house label that has more than one ace up its sleeve. (Rick Salzer)

THE DINING ROOMS

*Numero Deux* (Guidance)



Although most known for their legendary back catalog of deep house, Guidance Recordings has always released quality down tempo compilations, such as their Hi-Fidelity lounge & dub series. However, this year the imprint has been busy with more downtempo artist full lengths such as the Troublemakers highly praised *Doubts & Convictions*. With this new release of *Numero Deux*, a genre definitive lounge album from Italy's denizens of swank known as the Dining Rooms, Guidance confirms this identity. This is first and foremost a listening album with more of a song-oriented format. Live guitars, melodic female vocals and jazz samples balance out thick hip hop breakbeats and jazzy swing percussion, all the while blending a 1960's Italian mod feel with a heavy blues-based attitude. In a time where lounge has been overused, imitated, and as a result, cheapened, the Dining Rooms *Numero Deux* offers an insight to the true nature of this sound. (Ben Ewy)

VARIOUS

*Room Service Vol. 1* (Mole Listening Pearls)



There's a lot to digest here, but it's worth the effort and the aftertaste is more than palatable. Disc 1 is the more uptempo of the two, featuring a selection of deliciously mellow house tracks. The grooves have been marinated in nothing but the finest jazzy, soulful late night European vibes and release the bittersweet scent of nostalgia epitomized by Taxi's fine opener *People Come Runnin'*. Disc 2 provides a decidedly more downtempo platter of treats. Loungey grooves, languid vocals, organic production and a dash of the exotic make for an intoxicating post-party cocktail. For example, Naomi's *Kava Kava* is as super-relaxant as the title suggests, dripping dreamy melodic phrases over a deep, hypnotic beat. An excellent package all-around. Mole is proving itself to be a formidable label when it comes to all

things mellow and electronic. This one comes highly recommended. (Lucy Beer)

JOHN ACQUAVIVA

*Mainhattan Sound* (Shadow Records)



Don't let the title of this mix fool you. We're not talking about the Big Apple here. Mainhattan Sound is a mix that owes a heavy debt of gratitude to the Frankfurt scene as Acquaviva features all 14 tracks from the German label Force Inc. In a continuation of the format of the Shadow Mix Series, one label is given its due. Fans of bangin' beats will not be disappointed here although the label posse might have a hard time blurring the line between straight-up techno and tech-house. This is a release that obliterates genre hair-splitting and puts the focus on the dance floor where it belongs. (Allen Vaysberg)

MORE ROCKERS

*Select Cuts From More Rockers 12" Selection* (Select Cuts/ Echo Beach)



This collection is definitely overdue. Rob Smith (ex-Smith & Mighty) and Peter D (part of the original Massive Attack line up), have been producing some of the most moving and memorable dub influenced breakbeats for years as More Rockers. Every selection delivers a powerful blend of early 90's breaks, the mixing board tweaks of King Tubby, the moodiest Bristol aesthetic and emotional vocal talent from guests like Joanna Law, Henry & Louis, and Marilyn McFarlane. So many artists from drum & bass to other sub-genres have prided themselves on pushing new styles and production techniques but More Rockers have created a style that is unparalleled and left best untouched by minute production details. (Justin Hardison)

V/A - COMPILED BY ANDREW JERVIS

*Love from the Sun* (Ubiquity)



Since its inception, Ubiquity has carved a niche for itself as one of the few labels to embrace many styles of electronic music into its own unique West Coast nu-jazz sound. This is a result of label tastemaker Andrew Jervis, and his ability to find those

artists who know how to blend genres. This label compilation spans the hip hop continuum from Greyboy's turntable mastery on *Hold it Down* to the more clubby, yet still organic, throw your hands in the air celebratory vibe of Interference's *Dinheiro*. Whatever your pleasure, the one musical constant here is the West Coast attitude that permeates the record, whether it's the soulful diva vocals on Beatless' *Love From the Sun* or the deep atmospheric & percussive drum breaks of As One's *Undefeated*. You know what you're going to get, and it's called Ubiquity. You won't find this anywhere else. (Ben Ewy)

BABY MAMMOTH

*Seven Up* (Pork)



The UK's Pork Recordings has always been a little ahead of the learning curve. Before Fila Brazillia went separate ways, the duo released about 8 albums and a number of singles on Pork. Other long running label acts include Heights of Abraham and Baby Mammoth. Hand cooked and stirred by Baby Mammoth, a.k.a. Mark Blissen and Andrew Burdall, *Seven Up* is the eighth studio album from Baby Mammoth, and it may just be their best and most mature work to date. While this duo has put out a new full-length every year for the past eight years, they never seem to rest on their laurels or fail to grow and innovate their sound. For *Seven Up*, Baby Mammoth pulls out all the stops and delivers an album of stunning caliber. (Rick Salzer)

STANTON WARRIORS

*The Stanton Session* (XL Recordings)

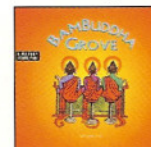


This is one of the easiest records ever to review, as it's been permanently lodged in my stereo for weeks. The inimitable Stanton Warriors offer this great selection of tracks: some new, some old and some from their own arsenal. With *Da Virus* and the follow-up single *Da Antidote*, the Stanton Warriors carved out their niche in the breaks world by riding beats somewhere between MJ Cole and BLIM, and this flawless head-bobbing opus will do nothing but fortify their position. Relentless bouncing basslines bump throughout the record, illustrating the potential aesthetics of a nu skool and 2-step fusion. Of course, the smoothness of the mix may be credited to the digitally assisted mixing, but when the

tracks are this good then who really cares? (Nick Stecher)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

*Bambuddah Grove* (Mole Listening Pearls)



M.O.C. Paoli, resident DJ at the Bambuddah Grove in Ibiza: a small island catering to all sorts of club folks, brings an equally exotic downtempo album for everyone to enjoy. Deep Dive Corp's version of the classic song *Summertime* and Yonderboi's Doors cover, *Rider on the Storm* give new twists to a couple of old favorites. Deep and jazzy while still being funky and clever, BBG kept my ears guessing while I sat sipping a cool drink on a hot summer night. Whether you're indoors this winter or still enjoying the last days of summer, this album will keep those around you shakin' their hips and enjoying the sounds of the Bambuddah Grove for days to come. (Kenoy)

ALEX GOLD

*Xtravaganza Mix* (Xtravaganza)



Finally a trance LP that doesn't blow mud. *Tranceformations*, *Trancesubstantiations*, *Trancemissions*, *Trancefixations* blah blah BLAH. People wonder why trance is getting a bad rap. With production values and artistic sensibilities that make the soundtrack to your favorite porno look like Wagner's 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony, the nauseating number of ill-conceived releases are turning discerning listeners away from the genre. Don't buy this CD if you're into voiceovers of drugged out thirteen year olds saying things like, "I am a child of the cosmos and from my ethereal home in the heart of the transcendent wonderland called earth, I keep careful vigil over mankind." In fact don't leave your house. The aliens are watching you. Trackwise there's a host of bright, geometric gems here: Three Drives' standby *Sunset on Ibiza*, van Dyk breaking free with *Different Journey to Vega* and Tiesto's *Flight 643*. I've noticed as of late that the inclusion of 643 on any given mix tends to be an indicator of quality; with a new album coming out soon, he's on fire. So let your mind slide away to an imagined night at Gold's Ibiza dub *Xtravaganza*: where the candle light was just right, the mix was tight as hell, and the wine...was delicious. (M. von Pfeiffer)