

MUSIC REVIEWS

New music

OUT NOW AND COMING SOON

MADONNA
CONFESSIONS
ON A DANCE
FLOOR

Madonna's "Confessions on a Dance Floor" is a fantastic pop album that pounds out track after track of disco-style, synth-heavy dance tunes that sample and pay homage to every band from Abba to the Pet Shop Boys, who are also remixing her next single "Sorry". This may be her best CD since she last dabbled with the sounds of the eighties. If you don't already own it... add it to your shopping list.


MINISTRY OF
SOUND
CLUBBERS
GUIDE 2006

Ministry of Sound has been churning out club thumping anthemic compilations for many years now. They rarely disappoint. "Clubbers Guide 2006" is another mix of 40 such trance/house anthems. Perfect for dancing, driving, loving or dreaming, this collection is worth every ecstatic penny.


T.A.T.U. DANGEROUS
AND MOVING


People forget that t.A.T.u. churned out an energetic and ultimately brilliant CD a few years ago, filled with immensely catchy tunes. "200km in the Wrong Lane" was slightly overshadowed by their on-stage snogging, a marketing gimmick that sold records and consequently lost them credibility with the music media. Their latest offering, after a two-year, pregnancy-induced hiatus, is "Dangerous and Moving" and it is filled with radio friendly brilliance. Both Sting and Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics lend their song writing and guitar playing abilities to this album. It is, surprisingly, one of the best albums of the year.

NOTORIOUS B.I.G.
DUETS: THE FINAL
CHAPTER


Notorious B.I.G. is catching up with Tupac in terms of most prolific posthumous rap artist of all time. His CD's are still guaranteed to deliver sales in the millions. His latest collection is the acclaimed "Duets", an eclectic group of tracks featuring vocals from Bob Marley, Diddy, Mary J. Blige, Jay Z, Eminem, Faith Evans, Missy Elliot, Korn and many more. Fans can't go wrong with this release, and it will assuredly attract new fans because of its varied influences.

THE STROKES FIRST
IMPRESSIONS OF EARTH


The Strokes "First Impression of Earth" is an amalgam of music rooted primarily in that familiar retro sound that recalls Iggy Pop and that early eighties new wave. The first single, "Juicebox", is actually rather different from the rest of the album in that it doesn't quite continue the rhythmic pounding bass and pained vocals from lead-singer Julian Casablancas. This band doesn't really set itself apart from the enormous crowd of bands who are starting to sound too alike for comfort. This CD has peaks and valleys, but it should satisfy fans of their first two efforts, "Is This It" and "Room on Fire".

PET SHOP BOYS
FUNDAMENTAL

Coming soon... How have the Pet Shop Boys lasted so long? Well, the answer is quite simple... They're good.

Somehow, they manage to consistently create new songs whose depths only begins to reveal themselves once you get past the catchy exteriors. Their newest batch comes under the title "Fundamental" and will hit shelves in April on the heels of a new single "Minimal". One website has already deemed it the first great pop album of 2006. Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe are starting to lose some of their already grey hair, but they keep reinventing themselves enough to keep their supremely loyal fans happy with haunting melodies and poetic lyrics. They are one of the few eighties bands who've never had a comeback... because they never went away.

