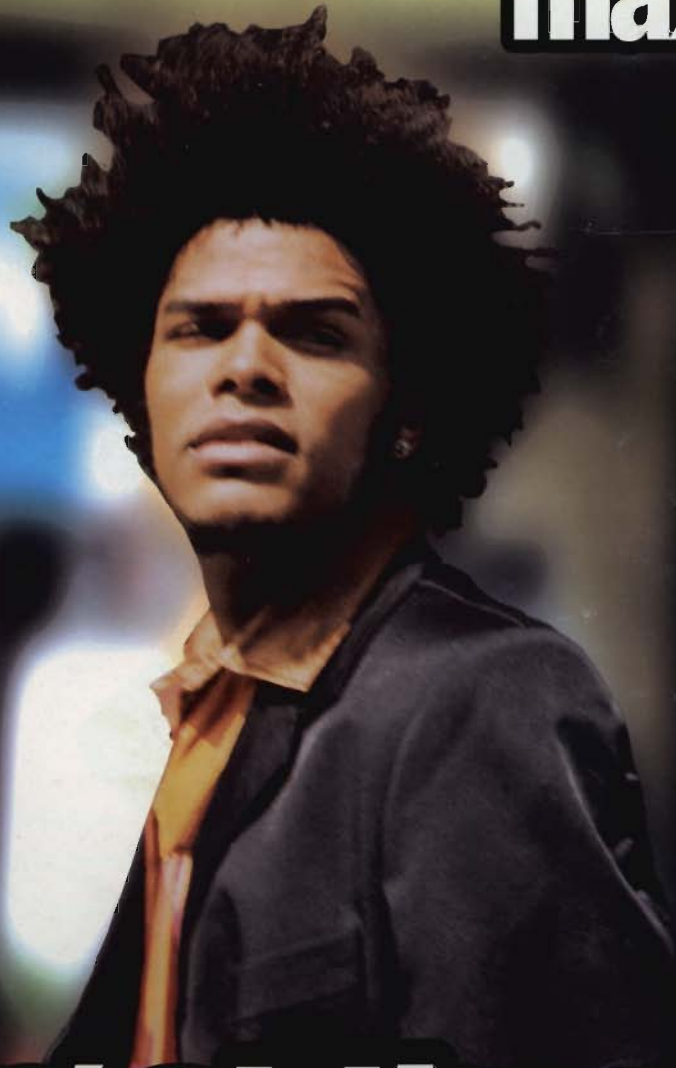


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the Latino Magazine™

maxin'out.



hangin' at the suite.

maxwell
red hot & latin

handball
viva zapata
brenda k. starr



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Sonidos



The Barrio Boyzz

Ven A Mi

EMI Latin

The Barrio Boyzz show versatility in their music from the pop Latin groove in *Tu Manera De Amar* and *Es Cosa Del Amor*. Their collaboration with merengeros Rikarena on *Se Me Fue Mi Vida* esta lista para que muevas la colita con gusto. The talented quartet slowed down the pace with their harmonic sound on *No Quiero Verte Mas Llorar*, *Dejamos De Sufrir* and *Ven A Mi*.

The members Hans Giraldo, David Davilla, Louis Marrero and Roberto Vargas have a great history, including the winning of an Ace award to being featured on several soundtracks: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *I Like It Like That*, and *Shazam*. They are definitely doing their thing once again! Much deserved props to these Latinos who continually struggle to break into the English market after becoming superstars in Latin America.

- Marilyn E. Rodriguez



Brenda K. Starr

Te Sigo Esperando

Parcha Records

Your first reaction might be, "Brenda K. Starr has a Salsa album? Word!" Yes, Miss Cosita does and this one is slammin'!

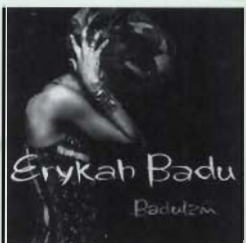
With Freestyle out of style (or making a comeback, depending on what radio station you listen to) artists of this genre are currently looking for new ways to boost their careers. Like Marc Anthony, India, and Safire, Salsa seems to be the chosen path for this former Freestyle songstress.

Known back in the "huevo pant" days for her hits "What You See Is What You Get" and "I Still Believe," Brenda has debuted in the Salsa world with *Te Sigo Esperando*.

Her powerful yet smooth and sultry voice combined with strong lyrics and stronger arrangements gives way to a series of tracks which have all the sabor to please the truest of Salsa heads. Songs like "No Necesito" and "Sola" really showcase her developed maturity as an artist. She's even thrown in a slow jam on the English tip for old time's sake.

Be on the lookout for the reemergence of a star...Brenda K. Starr!

- Yesi Morillo



Erykah Badu

Baduizm

Kedar Entertainment/Universal

Light a candle, set the mood and mellow out to the meditative music of Erykah Badu as she captures the hearts of many. Here is a talented lady who creatively expresses herself through her vocals and lyrics.

Erykah touches many topics in her soul-filled compositions. She expresses a woman's conflict about being in a relationship with a drug dealer in "Other side

of the game"; she gracefully amplifies the rhythmic sound of the drums in "Rimshot"; clearly exposes her strength with firm control of her thoughts and emotions through "Appletree" and "Certainly." On the track "Drama," her deep, bluesy voice is not afraid to explore the problems facing many today.

Erykah is a diva compared time and time again to Billie Holiday (the Jazz goddess). Pick up *Baduizm* to see why Erykah is sweeping the nation with essence and purity.

- Marilyn E. Rodriguez



Merengón

Various Artists

Wea Latina

A compilation of recent Merengue releases, *Merengón* delivers lovely. This joint delivers all the hits without giving you any extra cheese you don't need. For example, "Esta Cache" by Oro Solido still gets people to crowd the dancefloor. You can never get tired of listening to it. Kinito Mendez' "Cachamba" trae el vacilón, and "Es Mentiroso" by Olga Tañón is a cool change of pace. Don't let the wack artwork on the CD cover and inside fool you, this is a definite party CD you can leave on throughout the night to keep everyone dancing.

- Jason Carias



Abstract Vibes 2 More Vibes

Various Artists

Quango Records

You would expect a CD with such eclectically dope moods to have some ill title. However, *More Vibes* delivers with the best in (choose the term used this week) A) space age lounge B) trip hop C) ambient.

The great thing about this compilation is that it gives you a taste of the groove from all around the world. Check out DJ Cam's French translation of the Gangstarr "Take It Personal" beat. The combination of the sitar, the turntable scratching and the rim shots are...C'est magnifique!

The thing with buying this type of music is that sometimes you can get some wack stuff. The worst thing is hearing the same Hip Hop beat played over and over again, with some synth flourishes to distinguish between tracks. You won't have this problem with this CD. Ceasefire's housey mixture of congas and a scratch sample is the type of track that puts you in that chill out mood. Whenever you are in the mood for some different sounds and aural experiences, pick this joint up. I'm sure you can find a good title for it.

- Rodrigo Salazar



Sprung Soundtrack

Qwest Records

Sprung, a new release from Rusty Cundieff, director of *Tales From the Hood*, is receiving a welcomed boost from a strong soundtrack. The soundtrack contains songs from Jay Z, Canibus featuring Lost Boyz, Monifah, E-40, Keystone, Next Level, Money Boss Players, and Aaliyah featuring Ginuwine, just to name several notable artists featured on this Qwest project.

The first track entitled "Who You Wit" performed by Jay Z proves to be the ulti-