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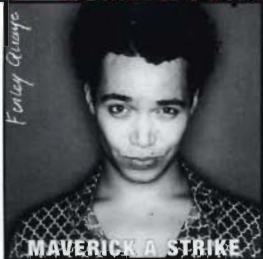
Maná: Sueños Líquidos - WEA



After winning fans in Latin America and appearing on *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*, where do you go? After attaining mainstream acceptance as the official poster children of Rock en Español, Maná faces a new challenge: keeping new fans happy without alienating their core constituency. Their new release, *Sueños Líquidos*, shows that Maná has the ganas to make it in both these worlds. The care put into the lyrics of most of their songs illustrates the respect they have for their art (only "Clavado En Un Bar" and "Robame El Alma" are throwaways). Fher, lead singer and songwriter, seems to paint a song instead of write it. "Chaman," a journey to spiritual love through the rain forests and jungles of America Latina, is straight poetry. Fact is, Maná is not just suffering from a love jones. Deep down inside, Maná are balladeers who like to get down with Funk and heavy guitars. *Sueños Líquidos* is a beautiful collaboration between the two worlds they inhabit.

- Rodrigo Salazar

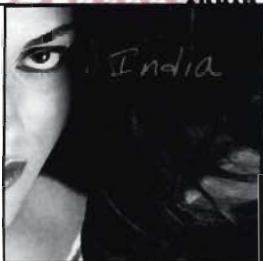
Finley Quaye: Maverick, A Strike - 550 Music



This joint is illmatic! If your musical scope is far reaching then you will definitely feel this one. However, if your idea of music is a Puff Daddy loop, then you probably need to check something else, on da real! But for those who are still with me, let me bless you with this. But I can't front, when I got back to the crib to play this joint, I found it a little hard to gauge Finley's musical direction. So I got my full herbal on and then saw the light! Finley clearly expresses all his musical tastes on one CD. The first track entitled "Sunday Shining" is some reggae meets rock meets blues concoction, and I can't even front, the track is HOT! Then he hits you over the head with a joint called "Falling." This mid tempo track is soothing to the soul. It has a bluesy flow to it, and it definitely opens you up to the versatility that Finley flexes.

- El Gato

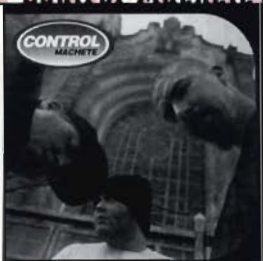
India: Sobre El Fuego - BMM Records



La Princesa De La Salsa is back with her second album and her exuberant voice. This album is a true depiction of a woman's strength in love, life and work. It is a collection of songs written about some of the difficulties in a woman's life. The inspiring "Me Canse De Ser La Otra" depicts the story of a woman tired of being second best to a married man. The rest of the tracks tell stories about raising a child and about letting go of someone you love. A treat on this album is a duo with Celia Cruz ("La Voz De La Experiencia"), where both singers display their extraordinary talent with a little "Rumba buena y guaguanco." India has even gone ahead and added a little Latin flavor to Chaka Khan's "Through the Fire" ("Sobre El Fuego") and Celine Dion's "The Power of Love" ("Si Tú Eres Mi Hombre"). La Princesa has the voice and the heart and she's back again to touch us all.

- Yesi Morillo

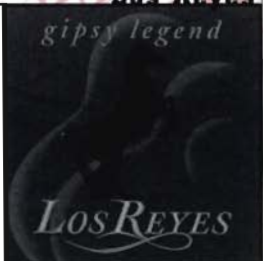
Control Machete: Mucho Barato - Polygram



From the third largest city in Mexico, Monterrey, come Control Machete, whose release, *Mucho Barato*, sold ten thousand copies the first three days it hit the market. The group is made up of Toy Kenovi (formerly of the group La Ultima de Lucas), Pasto (vocalist for Pasto) and Fermin (guitarist/singer for Profugo de Metate). Produced by Jason Roberts and Antonio Hernandez, the tracks chronicle the lives of conglomerated youth from the border. They deal with the theme of gangs in "Me Entiendes Mendez," where the simple phrase says it all: "Mirame a los ojos sabrás lo que soy." The song "Humanos Mexicanos" is a manifest on the problems immigrants' face. Expresan un nacionalismo guadalupano juvenil lleno de acercamientos a la cultura popular mexicana, utilizando referencias de otros generos musicales. This group has definitely been influenced by Cypress, House of Pain and The Beastie Boys. I will venture to say that they will be the bearers for the Hip Hop en Español movement.

- Gonzalo Aburto

Los Reyes: Gypsy Legend - Wild Sky Music



Once upon a time, The Gypsy Kings established a distinctive sound that won them many loyal subjects around the world. It seems that they now have pretenders to their throne: From a land far, far away come Los Reyes. The question is, Can they dethrone The Gypsy Kings? Let's just say that hopefully their two kingdoms can coexist peacefully. Although they may have a similar sound, Los Reyes seem more authentic. When they throw down ("Todos Ole," Nada Mas") uno siente si estuviera en la plena España. If this is your cup of tea (or dish of paella) pick up Los Reyes. The Gypsy Kings were getting too comfortable on their throne anyway.

- Omayra Benitez