

Out The Trunk...

By Poppa Wolf
and God Shall Add

Peace to the Gods. That's right, for we are all Gods times sun, times moon, times stars, times earthly bars. Peace to all the heads that are true music luvvas, and what up to the rest of you contortionists that fold yourselves to fit nicely into your comfortable little boxes. Although my seed is deeply rooted in the rich soil of the hiphop and jazz cultures my branches are many and cast long shadows, crossing mind numbing boundaries and fading in and out of worlds like mixing patterns. "God Shall Add" and "Pappa Wolf" have arrived from the inner rings of Saturn to explore the contours of the local music scene. We will exult from the mountain tops and holla watch your step from the valley lows. Question: Tired of being forced to choose between the two growing factions in hiphop, the conscious camp vs. the lyrically retarded backed by phat beats? Tired of hiphop being ruined by crass commercialism? Sick of jiggy villains in versace, cristalin' it up while rhyming over your favorite 80's beat? If so show love to your own, support local artist's hiphop, jazz, rock, country, swing, whatever your thing.

God Shall Add

Local Hip-Hop Releases

S.U.N. *Shining Underground*

on Black Soul on Vinyl Records,
Ypsilanti, MI

(800) 978-1056

S.U.N. stands for Scientific, Universal, Non-commercial. This CD has 16 cuts with some of the cuts being interludes and skits. Santonio Hughbanks (S.U.N.) wears an additional hat as the Executive Producer. Production assistance is offered by Tink Thomas, E. Browne and D.J. A.M.F. Two of the tightest cuts on *Shining Underground* are the title track "Shining Underground" and "Live and Direct" which feature Browne, who use to be SUN's partner in the group UBU before this solo offering, and a female emcee named Invincible. On "Live and Direct", this trio flows to a head bobbing funky track that should satisfy all true Hip-Hop heads. This CD is available locally at 72 stores throughout Southeastern Michigan. S.U.N. will appear in a live performance at St. Andrews Hall in the Detroit on April 1st.

PW

Contenders *Look into My Black Eyes*
on Backroom Entertainment Records.

Features a trio of emcees that include Y.R.G., Blade and Zhen. This self-produced offering includes 10 tracks. Lyrically tight, *Look into My Black Eyes* is riddled with the social commentary of young black men in post-crack Amerika. The Contenders at times seem as though they are the channeling angry spirits returning to be heard, warning us. Their call for action track, "Time left", lets you know there's only so much of just that, time. We are reminded in the bi-lingual joint, "Across the Globe", ghetto laments don't only pour from the major urban areas but flow across seas and cultures. Wherever you are you will find some "Fellin' pain, shit is the same". But, just as you find yourself reeling from the sobering effects of a warm shot of reality, wait hold up. The contenders take you back to the essence with a classic battle rap in "Rock the Spot", letting all know if it don't apply let it fly, but if it does the Contenders are in your back pocket. The Contenders have got a little something for everyone from the stories of soulless lovers in "Heartbroke" to their own hiphop anthem "Carved in Stone".

Overall the Contenders three man collective conscious is nice. With melodic base lines (reminiscent of hip hops motorcity madman, Esham). With lyrics to meditate on, free of the rampant materialistic references that – as in real life – too often obstruct the big picture, I think we've found a diamond in the ruff, young hiphop "Contenders" moving up the ranks looking for a tittle shot.

God Shall Add

P.M.C. *Mindscales*

on Real Entertainment

This is an EP with 10 selections. Production is handled by C.Williams, J. Robinson and Big Ben The Beat Freaka. Overall this offering is tight lyrically and beat-wise. The tracks are well produced. The title track, "Mindscales", is produced by Big Ben The Beat Freaka who provides a hypnotic body bouncing base for PMC's vocal performance. During an interview (cut 2) PMC say's, "Mindscales is giving the whole gambit of Hip-Hop today". PMC has come out the gates with a first release that would be good to include in your collection.

PW

Look out for local groups Mazz Confusion, Sanctuary, MudSlinger and Funktelligence who all have scheduled releases for the summer of 1999.

If you are a local group with a current release or planning a release send it to us care of AGENDA and let us review it. Let us know your local dates. We'll hit you with a review of your live performance.

Peace.