



DANCE

NEWS

Once again our boy in the dance arena, Gareth Lancaster brings you the top new from the dance scene.

Infonet Records, home to the likes of Bandulu, have moved offices. Their new address is: 93A, Rivington Street, London, EC2A 3A7. You can also reach them on the telephone on: (0171) 613 4600 or Fax them on (0171) 613 4611. They've also expressed an interest in receiving more demo tapes, they're on the look out for new acts of any electronic style, so get in touch with them if you make your own music.

Loop Guru, whose new single Possible Futures is reviewed in the singles section of this issue, have a new album called Amrita due out on September 16th. North South, their record label, have also pledged allegiance to the group by offering them a 3 year record deal.

Of course, Loop Guru signed so we can expect much more from them in the future.

Hydrogen Dukebox seem to be gearing up for the summer, rather than slowing down as is the norm. Releases coming up on the label include: a new Slab single called Atomsmasher with a limited edition 12 pack featuring a couple of Andy Weatherall mixes. Transcendental Love Machine's new single Revolvalution will be released on 12 and CD+ formats with 40 mins of music plus video, graphics, soundbites, chatting etc. (for the same price as a single CD). The CD + format allows you to listen the music without those annoying don't play the first track noises, plus it's also Mac and Windows compatible. Also The Big Eye's next single Scam should be out sometime in July.

Upcoming Releases:

Future NTone releases include: Hex 12 Harmonic/ Boing/ Akashic/ Alien Bone set for an August release, the Transcend CD 2001-2008 in September and Tone Tales From Tomorrow 2 in October. - A new Orbital single, (read about their great Glastonbury set in our top Glastonbury section)



with new material and featuring a new version of Sad But True (possibly called Sad But New) set for release in July. - 24th July, Sabres of Paradise's Sabersonic 2 Nightmares on Wax Smokers Delight LP, again no release date as yet. - Tons of new R & S stuff in the pipeline or coming out real soon now! Others: LFO, Bedouin Ascent Insanity Sect. (coming real soon! as the Americans would say).



2wentys



Singles Reviews

**Aphex Twin - Donkey
Rhubarb (Warp)**

This is the best thing Mr. Richard James has ever done, bar maybe the On single. It is, quite simply, a work of genius and the title track, steel drums and all, assaults our ears and barrages us with obscene amounts of squelching and analogue pops. A full on summer track (it's got to be the steel drums) that's hard to beat. Also, in amongst the other three tracks on this release, there is the Philip Glass orchestral remix of Icet Hedral, which is haunting and beautiful, reproduced specially by the master himself with a full orchestra rather than with Aphex's electronic boxes.

**Loop Guru - Possible
Futures (North South)**

It's been quite a long time since we've seen anything from Loop Guru, but this single places them right back at the top of the pile. They fuse ancient rhythms and sounds together with technology to create a vibe somewhere out in space. Get my drift? Regressing backwards to push forwards. They've gone for less ambient tracks on this release, maybe



a sign of things to come, but what they have come up with is undoubtedly some of their best stuff to date.

**Blue Boy
Sandman
(Ascension)**

Slow, rising funk with a mean, rasping rhythm. It feels like 80's house revisited, with a cooler 90's vibe. A sure fire, dance floor filler that I could listen to for hours on end and not get bored with.

**Pressure Of Speech
Mothmath (North South)**

An odd band are Pressure Of Speech. I'm not sure how I'd go about describing them, apart from saying listen to them with an open mind. It's disjointed, challenging material (which makes a welcome change) that crosses over electronic music boundaries to create something weird and different. That's Mothmath all over. If you've liked what they've put out before, you'll like this.

**Bandulu - Changing World
(Infonet)**

Bandulu haven't been my favourite outfit in the past, their material has all been a bit too up and down in quality for me, but this is a stunner. A rhythmic number, with rattling sounds and a nagging melody with some exquisite bass thrown in. There are also lyrics, recorded in the same sort of style (ish) that made Underworld so well loved. This has changed my views about Bandulu, it's brilliant.

Space Djz - Bang (Infonet)

Hard, hard, hard. This has been out for a while, but hasn't been picked up on until the last week or so. Fast, banging techno at its





best, mixed with quirky electronica gives a full on club vibe in your living room!

Thunderground - Canz / Singled Out (Infonet)

A crazy 10 (don't you think 10 releases are cute!) again from Infonet (a busy month or so promised around September from them as well). Probably not music for the home, it doesn't change that much, it's fast and trancy in the extreme, but if you hear it in the clubs you'll love it, without a doubt.

Sonambulist - Ambush (Plink Plonk)

Three remixes of the track Ambush are to be found on this slab of vinyl. Mr. C's remix is a vibrant, electronic affair, with tinkling melodies aplenty. The Blind Acid Attack remix is much the same, but there's a slower, more ambient intro. Finally, the Elec Acid Attack is again not that much different, but it's the pick of the bunch, more samples and fluffy noises help bring the best out in the track.

Tone Theory - Limbo Of Vanished Possibilities (Plink Plonk)

Another Plink Plonk release this month lands on my desk, probably the better of the two releases (but not by much). Again we're treated to three rework-



ings of Limbo Of Vanished Possibilities. The Derrick Carter Mix is mellow (not too slow though) with pianos and rounded melodies, a joy to the ears it must be said. The Bushwaka! Mix, seems to be a sort Frankie Knuckles type of remix (a bit reminiscent of the Whistle Song from a few years back), it sounds behind the times and is gorgeous. Finally Mr. C slaps the track around a bit and creates nothing that different to what has gone before, which is a shame.

Tribal Drift - Tangents EP (Chill Out)

This is different. There's the pounding trance beat and that's where the repetition stops, it's got odd

sounds warping around the speakers, weird instruments, piercing melodies...in fact it's just AI all the way. Well, that's Volcano summed up in one go, (you mean one sentence surely -Ed) and as for the other tracks on here, Fertile is a less full on track, with more get up and go (not just get up and stamp your foot). It's got such wonderful melodies, breaks and sounds it's probably one of the best things I've heard all year. Finally

Transmutation is a techno anthem in the making. It's all so damn good!

Various - Art 7.1 & Art 7.2 (B12 & Applied Rhythmic Technology)

Finally for this month, Art 7.1 and



7.2 are two releases spawned from a collaboration from B12 & Applied Rhythmic Technology. Expect music ranging from total ambience to mellow, slow paced lazy day theme tunes. Artists on the two releases are Red Cell, Elegy, Esoterik and Blue Binary. Two fine releases in the Art series.

Album Reviews

Various - Machino Wierder
(Hydrogen Dukebox)

Last year Hydrogen Dukebox released Machino Weirder, a sampler of the acts on the label that was well received by both the press and the public alike. Now, in 1995, they release Machino Wierder, another sampler featuring Globo, The Big Eye and Transcendental Love Machine. The music ranges from techno to more laid back adventures into sound, and provides a good introduction to the acts on the label (the tracks are all the best the bands have done, some having been released before). Take Transcendental Love Machine's One Thousand, a mellow rolling number with deep bass and treated guitars that just sends you when you listen to it. Other tracks such as The Big Eye's

Suck, Blow, Inferno are more forceful and weird. Hydrogen Dukebox haven't just put the



more accessible stuff on this album, they've made sure they show the acts as they really are, which is exactly how it should be. Some of this won't instantly hit you as being good, you may have to open your mind, (oh I hope not that sounds dangerous - Ed) but it'll be well worth the experience.

Children Of The Bong -
Sirius Sounds (Planet Dog)

The latest release from the Planet Dog stables, this album carries the distinctive Planet Dog persona, epitomised by Eat Static. The analogue indulgence is second to no other label and for that Planet Dog aren't liked very much by some of the mainstream press. This album, however, deserves much more loving attention, its musical content is of the highest order. Children Of The Bong are one of those acts that are loved by almost everyone who hears them, have been around for years but have never really released that much to the public. This should quench the thirst of Bongers for new material and for those people who've heard the music but not been able to get hold of it for keeps. Let me guide you through a couple of the highlights, which must start with

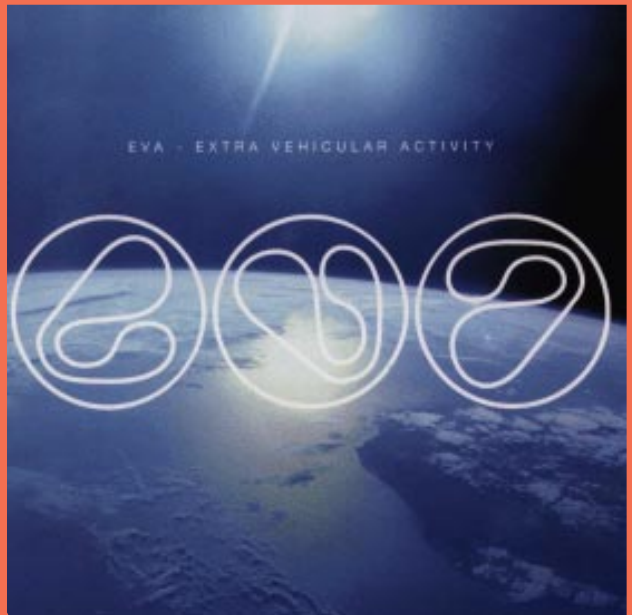
Polyphase, a vibrant analogue dream of a track, with chords of sumptuous ambience behind with





ample quantities of deep bass thrown in for good measure. It s the perfect opener. Then there s the track Squigglesonica

a pinch of techno and a sprig of hip-hop



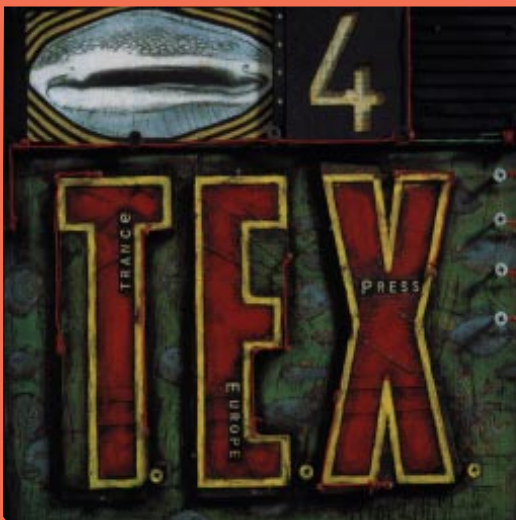
the beat driven frenzy, complicated in its timing but threateningly deep and rasping in its make up. I could go on and pick more tracks, but I won t spoil it all for you. Seek out your local record store and demand a copy of this album, you

E.V.A. - Extra Vehicular Activity
(Kickin'- Kick26)

styles, that s the first thing that you ll notice. They ve been likened to The Orb and maybe Black Dog, which I think in places is fair but in other places totally misses the mark. There s elements of total ambient abandon, then there salit-tle jungle twist, a pinch of techno and a sprig of hip-hop. It goes beyond The Orb and Black Dog, it s experimental, that s for certain, but it s got a certain quality to it that makes the music undeniably fresh with ideas, and very listenable. It s a strong base from which E.V.A. can develop in the future, this being their debut album, and I for one look forward to hearing what they come up with. In the meantime though, this album will have a wide appeal and I can t recommend it enough. It ll take you by surprise in places, but it resonates nicely with the ears.

Various - Trance Europe Express 4 (Volume Teex 4)

What can you say about the Trance Europe Express series that hasn t been said before. Not a lot, everybody knows the quality of these releases, they re way out there with the Ambient Dub



albums, far from most awful compilation albums. And you still get the CD sized booklet full of features and artist profiles, with enough reading material to keep you happy for months. So who s on this new compilation? Well, basically, anybody who s anybody in electronic music. Take the likes of Fluke, LFO, Coldcut, Hex, Depth Charge, A Guy Called Gerald and Underworld and mix them with some acts that are probably less well known such as Future Perfect, Deadstock and Lava Lava and imagine them all creating music close to the peaks of their abilities. That s Trance Europe Express 4. There are bound to be tracks you re not keen on, it s a diverse spectrum of musical tastes that are covered, but I can guarantee that there s something on here that ll make you sit up and say that s the best thing I ve heard in ages .



Extra Vehicular Activity is an album of differing, contrasting



**Jake Slazenger
Makes a Racket (Clear)**

Mr. Cheesey himself, Mike Paradinas aka. Mu-Ziq, offers up a new album under his even cheesier moniker Jake Slazenger. If you've never heard Paradinas music then here's a brief description. Take loud poor quality instruments (old Casios, Bontempi's etc.) so you get some really awful sounds, take some weird samples, mix them all together, add some thumping drums, maybe some distortion and some nagging, wonderful melodies and you've got a track. The thing is, you sit there thinking

Why is somebody using such crap sounds? whilst you're being drawn into the undeniable quality of the music - it's so expertly put together it's unreal. The coarse sounds work, the lack of subtle effects like echoes or reverb works, in fact it all works. Why? I don't know, but you'll end up hating yourself for loving this album. I do, but I listen to this album almost all the time, it's that good. He's created a niche that nobody else has exploited yet. Music needs these visionaries, people to create music differently, in order to create the next big thing and to give people something different to listen to. Mike Paradinas does it and does it in style, he'll be slated by a lot of the press, but I'm

not going to, I'm going to praise him for being different and hope he continues being different. Get this album and hear him make a racket of the highest quality.

**Various - Techno Nations
4 (Kickin' - Kick25)**

It's not often I really don't like an album, but I'm afraid Techno Nations 4 is one of those. It's all been done before, there's nothing new. There are 400 other compilation albums out there begging for the public's money, so why should you buy this? Well, I can't think of a reason. There may be the odd track that strikes a chord, but you can't seriously tell me that people can listen to albums of this stuff at home. Put the music in the club scene and it's a whole different kettle of fish, of course, because that's where this music comes into its element. For the home, tone it down a bit, water the fast stuff down with some less full on material. This album is just too much, too monotonous to listen to for any great length of time. My opinion? Save your money and go and buy Reactivate 10, that's a much more balanced compilation, with a much better class of music.

Benidorm



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