

ITEMAS

COMMENTARY

1. The hottest club banger at the moment – anywhere. 2. The new street anthem for 2006, hands down. 3. Reggaetón with a twist. It takes the sound to the next level. 4. BK's finest meets JA's finest. Need I say more? 5. Juelz is the future. The beat is dope, and you can get your bounce on. 6. It's got that TS swagger. Remy steps into the spotlight and delivers. 7. Drop this in the club and you got everyone singing the hook. 8. Any respectable DJ has this in their crates. 9. This works on so many levels. It'll have you jumping no matter where you're from. 10. It's a fresh, new sound. Play this after Remy and pop ya collar! *11. Anything from the new Wu Tang Latino mixtape, hosted by the RZA (which I put together).

DJ CLEAR'S TOP TEN LEGAL DOWNLOADS

SONG	ARTIST
1. "Shake (Remix)"	Pitbull f/ Elephant Man
2. "Hustlin"	Rick Ross
3. "Rompe"	Daddy Yankee
4. "Sácala"	The Notorious B.I.G. f/ Bob Marley
5. "Oh Yes"	Juelz Santana
6. "Conceited"	Remy Ma
7. "Llame Pa' Verte"	Wisin y Yandel
8. "Run It (Remix)"	Chris Brown f/ Juelz Santana
9. "Mas Mais"	NORE f/ Pitbull, Fat Joe, Chingo Bling and Nina Sky
10. "Stay Fly"	Three 6 Mafia

DJ Clear



1: How did you get started DJing?

I got started with my cousin Damaso, DJ Shamrock, who had one of the biggest sound systems in Brooklyn. I expressed interest in DJing, and he helped me out. He gave me my first pair of 1200's, let me spin at block parties, local clubs and stuff like that. I haven't looked back since.

2: How do you approach your job differently from other DJs out there?

I've got an unorthodox style, and I'm versatile. When I first got in the game, I was only into hip-hop. Thankfully, I learned to mix other genres of music, which is extremely important if you want to play internationally and expand your fan base. I can play to any crowd on the planet.

3: Vinyl or CDs?

I was asked that question a few years ago during a TV interview. Back then, I was a strong advocate of vinyl, but now, it's neither! We're in a digital age and since early last year, I've been

sponsored by Scratch Live, which lets you play MP3s like records. As much as I love vinyl, you can't go against technology and expect to win. Plus, it's easier to lug around my 250gig hard drive than my record boxes!

4: What genre do you prefer working with?

Well, like I said, I can play all genres, but I prefer hip-hop 'cause that's my roots. I love that different areas like Houston are blowing up right now, that helps keeps things fresh. In the clubs though, reggaetón is definitely the most fun to mix.

5: A crazy club experience you would like to share?

Just one! (Laughs.) Man, there are so many. Ok, I was DJing the late, great Big Pun's first album release party at this club called Diablo, which is now Show in New York City. There were two Lamborghini Diablos right on the dance floor! You know us Latinos, we like to do it real big. It didn't take long before the place was packed! We shut the street down early! When I left, it was crazy outside!! Fire trucks, police cruisers and the block closed off! There were a few hundred people outside that couldn't get in! It was incredible. Big shouts to Terror Squad -- they definitely know how to do it up!!! Big Pun forever!!!

6: Favorite club?

Just one! (Laughs again.) Nah, that's easy -- The Tunnel [in New York]. There are lots of clubs that have really dope DJ booths and in comparison, The Tunnel wasn't as great, but with all the history there, it always felt special to step into the booth, and the crowd was always rocking.



independents' day

THE CELEBRATION OF HIP-HOP'S NATIONAL UNDERGROUND SCENE



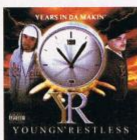
(L-R) Big Shot, Killa Khir, Blaccodectah and Ivory Keyes

leaves them stagnant or sounding like everyone else. Instead, they exceed the standards and dig deeper to bring out that next ish.

Which takes us down the 'pike to the city of Norfolk, Va., to build with its primary inhabitants, Nottz and the Teamsta's. Their general has been doing it and well for a good minute, being a super producer to the stars, as well as crafting D.M.P. (Durte Muzik Prahduksun @ 757-623-5064). The four-man clique brings us into their lives with a nine-cut CD, led by the singles

"Take Em' 2 Church," and "Don't Wanna Give That Up," both of which have already received over 400 spins in Va. and the surrounding areas. So with that in mind below is a set of indies also keeping true to self.

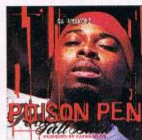
—BOOGIE ROSARIO



AFTER MAKING AN impact with their single "C 2 C" f/ Fat Joe off the *Cradle 2 the Grave* soundtrack, things have been bubbling for the team of Young N Restless (Strong Armin Ent. @ 973-495-2419 or demynboise@aol.com), who drop a three-track EP. Peep the street anthem "Hold 'Em" for unadulterated pleasure.



FROM AROUND THE world to your 'hood, Swedish producer Soul Supreme presents... *The Saturday Nite Agenda* a 12-cut album with two bonus joints and a DVD. Peep the first single "Come Get It" f/ Big Daddy Kane and "The Message 2003" f/ KRS & Shuman (866-MIC-CHECK or 617-325-7854). You can't go wrong.



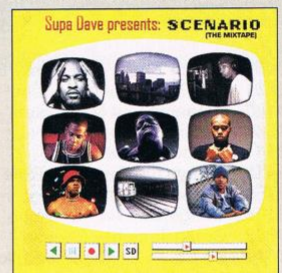
BED-STUY, BROOKLYN, native Poison Pen has been holdin' down the fort in the name of hip-hop for a hefty number of ventures. Now going for delf, he drops the single "Fall Back" (8887429151@Skytel.com or 514-817-7725) off his upcoming *The Money Shot* EP on the Rainmakerz Lounge imprint. Guaranteed sure shot!



AFTER ONE SPIN OF THE U.N. Limited Edition three-cut single (Schott Free @ 917-912-7213) you'll know why this is a must-have in any DJ's crate. With tight production and fresh rhymes, it speaks in volumes. For a glimpse into the future, peep "Money." Then there's Large Professor on the boards with "What They Want" and the Pete Rock-produced "Game of Death." "Nuff said.

TALE OF THE TAPE

THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST MIXTAPES & CDs



SUPA DAVE—SCENARIO (THE MIXTAPE)
Long Island's Supa Dave delivers 35 throwback cuts from Big L, Biggie, Redman, Nas, Jay-Z, LL Cool J and the god Rakim.

DJ CLEAR—50 BLENDS
Fifty instrumentals blended with tracks from Big Pun, P. Diddy and Mobb Deep to Amerie, Sade and Aaliyah.

FERRIS BUELLER & PLAIN PAT BEHIND THE BEATS WITH KANYE WEST
Forty one instrumentals of Kanye's top beats from Beanie Sigel and Scarface to Trina.

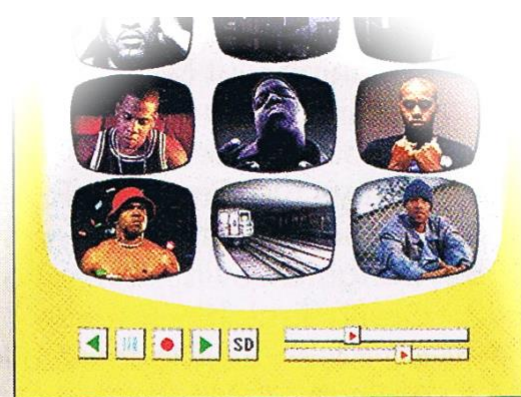
B.I.G. F.A.C.E. ENTERTAINMENT DAVID BANNER UNDERGROUND VOL. 1
The Mississippi native serves up 14 cuts of pure Southern-fried flavor featuring Lil' Flip, Bone Crusher and Lil' Jon solidifying why he's the \$10 million man.

BOOMTOWN—STARRING DJ BOOM AND DIRECTED BY BENNY BOOM
A two-CD set with exclusives and freestyles from Joe Budden, JoJo Pellegrino and Peedi Crakk and a 2003 remix of Mad Izm, plus the infamous battle between Freeway and Cassidy.

NEW YORK'S LAST DON PEE WEE KIRKLAND A GANGSTA MIXTAPE 4 THE STREETS
The infamous legend in two games introduces his new record label, S.O.G. Entertainment's roster with 18 joints featuring New Child, Alize, Natasha, Pay Per View and Lil' Keys.

TIME 2 EAT ENT.—SHELLS UNDERATED
The Unsigned Hype alum has compiled a 22-track session of sorts complete with freestyles and unreleased singles.

Each month in this column, we'll highlight the hottest mixtapes and CDs. DJs send tapes, CDs and contact info to: THE SOURCE—Tale of the Tape, 215 Park Ave. South, 11th FL, New York, NY 10003. Current goods only!



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ESTILO ISSUE

Urban Latino

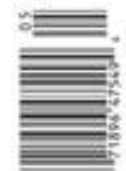
10
STARS TO WATCH
IN 2001

SOULFUL SIREN
JOY ENRIQUEZ &
RESURRECTION ALBUM'S
NICHOLAS GONZALEZ
TOP OUR LIST

WHAT'S HOT (AND NOT):
Chicago, LA, Miami, NYC

9 DRINKS THAT
DEFINE YOU

APRIL 2001
\$2.99
DASIGN



'HONKY' A WHITE GUY REMEMBERS THE BARRIO
FENG SHUI, OUR WAY!
INTELLECTUAL WARFARE IN CHIAPAS: SUBCOMANDANTE MARCOS FIRES BACK



djclear

words/danielrodriguez



"[He's] one of those quiet rising stars that you don't know about until they just blow up."

Asked to describe himself, Leo Canela, known professionally as DJ Clear, tells me what I already know; "I'm low key and laid back. I'm not very flashy, which kind of contradicts what I do but I like to be recognized for my work."

Tall, dark and Dominican, Clear has been a DJ since the mid-80s. He's a mere 31 but his career has made leaps and bounds from his humble beginnings of making mixed tapes and spinning at house parties. He has been featured at well-known clubs like Tunnel, Cheetah Club and the Copacabana. He's also had the chance to spin on location for movies such as *Above the Rim*, and *I Like It Like That*.

Most recently, he produced tracks for MTV's *TRL* and Galavision's *Galascene*. You can even see him in action on the dance TV show *Club La Bomba* on the Metro Channel with Colombian bombshell Sofia Vergara.

A Brooklyn boy, Clear found his professional name while tagging as a kid. He assured me that although it stuck, his alias has "no real relevance." Clear was lucky enough to rise through the ranks under Shamrock, one of Brooklyn's biggest DJs when Run DMC was hot and everyone rocked Adidas. Shamrock took the 15-year-old aspiring mixer under his wing, letting him carry records and watch him work.

Clear first saw the power DJs have over a crowd when he tagged along to a party. That was it. The bug bit him in a major way. "You expose people to new music. You educate them." He assured me that the high he gets from being so respected is as addictive as any drug.

Although hip hop is his forte, he mixes it up with Latin music and listens to jazz legends Bob James and Grover Washington when he isn't working.

As for his future endeavors, Clear is most interested in producing. "Everybody has to bring their own style. I grew up [with] hip hop. That's what I am. I'm Latin, so I have that as part of my heritage. You want to be

able to bring out a different fusion. Maybe I'll bring out something a little more Latin oriented, maybe have more edge to it, but it will be my own. A lot of producers out there have their own style and that's how we keep it going."

Shamrock, Clear's mentor and older cousin, had nothing but praise for his work. Before moving to Miami to pursue the nightclub scene back in '89, Shamrock gave Clear a pair of Technic 1200 turntables, already broken in. Clear's reaction was total disbelief. Shamrock chuckled, remembering how baffled Clear was at the gift. "He deserved them. He really had a lot of talent ... He really, really enjoys it. He's one of those quiet rising stars that you don't know about until they just blow up."

Not satisfied with just playing records, Clear formed a production company, Panacy Productions, named in honor of his cousin who died of leukemia. "My only regret is not having him around to share in the success." Recently, Panacy partnered with Enye Incorporated, a new media company of young professionals who have wanted to work with Clear for several years. Their first chance came when they produced a new song for *Galascene*. "Once they got the go ahead for the show, there was no question I was going to be doing the tracks."

Perhaps his dream of being the next Jellybean Benitez (DJ turned record label executive turned music mogul) will be realized. Besides, if things go accordingly, the high point of his career, "hasn't come yet."

up with **KEN BURN**'s documentary *Jazz*? Not even one mention of Latin jazz! Where was **CHANO POZO**? **MACHITO**? **IRAKERE**? ... **GLORIA ESTEFAN** will release a new album which will include three new songs. Don't be surprised to see her son **Nayib** listed in the CD credits. **Nayib**, a film student in L.A. who has been spinning at local clubs under the alias **Monkey**, helped **svengali** **LITTLE LOUIE VEGA** craft a new house mix of his mami's pioneering track "Conga." ... Stay tuned for more ... **NO ME DIGA**

NMD



CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARDS