

# MUSIC REVIEW

## Salt 'N' Pepa's slip into sexist rap

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

"Very Necessary"  
Salt 'N' Pepa  
Rap  
Next Plateau/London

Salt 'N' Pepa's "Very Necessary" aims to strike back at the misogynistic lyrics of today's male rappers. Many male rappers have the "O.P.P." attitude and rap about women as sex objects. In Dr. Dre's "The Chronic" album, the "Bitches ain't sh-t but hoers and tricks" phrase became extremely popular.

Unfortunately, Salt 'N' Pepa fails to rise above this sexism. Instead of presenting a more mature reaction to the misogyny, they stoop down to the male rappers' level and talk about men in the same way men talk about women.

This is surprising, because their past work has included more noble efforts of battling sexism. Their hits "Do You Want Me" and "Let's Talk About Sex" presented a re-



Salt 'N' Pepa members: Spinderella (Dee Dee Roper), Salt (Cheryl James) and Pepa (Sandy Denton).

sponsible view of sex and relationships.

But these have been traded in for songs like "Shoop" with the lyrics "Brother, I want to thank your mother for a butt like that," "Can I

get some fries with that shake," and "I want to know - how does it hang?" The mature, responsible nature of their past work is lost here. "Shoop" could've worked if it was presented in a sarcastic

and humorous context like TLC and Digital Underground's past work.

A brighter spot on the album is "Whatta Man," in which En Vogue provides the chorus and adds soul and sophistication to the song. But Salt 'N' Pepa's lyrics "You so crazy, I think I want to have your baby" seem out of place considering their rich lyrics of female independence in the past. En Vogue's vocals are good enough to carry "Whatta Man," but the inferior lyrics can't hang with the chorus.

The most effective aspect on the album is "I've got AIDS," a skit presented by a Boston group of teenagers named WEATOC. It features an emotional recreation of a teenage girl finding out she has AIDS. Ironically, the best thing on the album doesn't even have Salt 'N' Pepa in it.

By battling men on their level, Salt 'N' Pepa doesn't help to find a solution to sexism in rap, they only add to the problem.

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## Rock

Continued From Page 3

ground," Salmon said. "Hopefully in the future, we will program even more variety."

Rock, meanwhile, will be continuing his performances on "In Living Color" and working on a new film.

Rock claims the future film is "top secret," but he does admit to working on another script with his friend and co-writer of "CB4," Nelson George.

But Rock said he won't give up performing for writing.

"Writing and producing and all that stuff are just things you can do when when you're old," he said, "Things to do so you can eat."

Rock said he wants to stay on the stage as long as possible.

"I'll stop performing when I have nothing to say," Rock said. "When I get bad, when I can't fight anymore, that's when I'll get out of the ring."

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