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THE BATTALION

Hardcore for the Headstrong Omar Santana CD Courtesy of Moonshine Records

"Hardcore" is one of the most overused words in music today. Everyone from punk rockers to rappers to bubble-gum pop singers have described their work with this



term, but, for Omar Santana, it is not a misnomer.

Listening to this CD, one can only wonder what seeing him live would be like - the music is somewhere around 180 beats per minute and extremely percussive. With songs called "Noise Havoc,

'Necronomicon' and "Out of Control" and a list of producers whose names sound like the devil's frat brothers, the jacket alone makes this mixed CD look like true hardcore. One listen is likely to blow the untrained ear away

Much of the CD is Santana's original work, which largely consists of what he calls "hard hop." While to his ears, this music is lightweight hardcore, it is extremely fast, extremely loud and very hard-pounding. The highs and vocals in the songs usually consist of electronic bleeps at very high pitches, which create a dissonant, violent sound. This mixed CD is like listening to a car wreck. But, like a car accident, everyone stops to look.

Hardcore's appeal is undenia It is nearly guaranteed that, drive down any street in America, no more than one person will be in ing to it. This musical style is ma to appeal to a narrow stratum people, but those people will lo this CD. The mixing is like then

sic: fast and hard. This music will take some died up ting used to for the average list stocked but for those who have a back. ground in other electronic style first per especially happy hardcore - six weel CD should be a hit. With track and dela such renowned hardcore produc "Thi as Da Predator, Scrumbleheads the red Thundergods, it is some of theh manage and the hardest music, hardon complis

People looking for the hark they co tracks on the block should be could do stores buying this right now. R ommended for bullies and form return metalheads. (Grade: B+) Wednes

— Jason Benn two laps

Urban Jungle Aphrodite Egil Records

Aphrodite proves with his latest release that he is not an innovative DJ; he is a great track selector. This album contains famous tracks such as "Brown Paper Bag" by Roni Size and "Dub Moods" by Aphrodite. At any drum 'n' bass club in the country, these tracks would be guaranteed to move the crowd. One of the more notable tracks is 'Man of Steal" by Vinyl Syndicate, which samples the Superman theme and then drops into a dark jungle pounder.

Much of this album's appeal comes from Aphrodite's compiling numerous drum 'n' bass remixes of famous hiphop tracks like "Gangsta Gangsta" by NWA, "I Got Five on It" by Da Luniz mix of drum 'n' bass styles or more underand "Me or the Papes" by Jeru the Damaja. Much of the criticism of electronic music in general, and drum 'n' bass in particular, is that it is too mechanical. The basis for this criticism is often the lack of vocals and bassdriven melodies, but this is no problem on Urban Jungle, owing to the combination of the aforementioned hip-hop remixes and hip-hop-drum 'n' bass hybrids like "Brown Paper Bag;" "Rock the Funky Beat," which samples a Public Enemy song; and the classic Jungle Brothers tune "Jungle Brother." These songs come together to create a hard-edged drum 'n' bass mixed CD with a generous amount of classic vo-

cal tracks for non-purists.

ground tracks will be disappointed with this release. Aphrodite seems to have taken a more salesoriented attitude into this production. While the CD sounds good, those with an eye on the motivations behind such works will inevitably take a dim view of this CD.

Still, it is great must for people with a tast hard-edged sounds wir Wen cannot stomach Omz Santana or death med be b Hip-hop enthusiasts would do well to that Lee was out this CD; it may in filing the them a different side ment ca miliar tracks. (Grade) civic le



A = instant classic D = don't buy it

B = a cut aboveF = burn in effigy

C = average

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