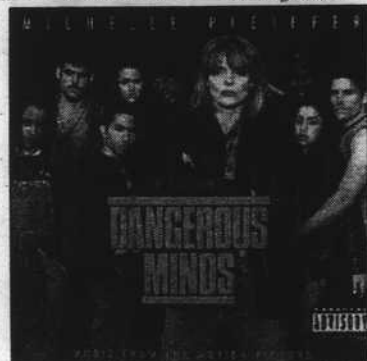


MUSIC REVIEWS

Various Artists
 "Dangerous Minds Soundtrack"
 MCA
 Grade: B-



Behind every great movie is a great movie soundtrack. Well, yes and no.

By now everyone's heard the main song (used five times in "Dangerous Minds") by Coolio, "Gangsta's Paradise." But this song, with its horror movie background and catchy chorus, is not typical of the soundtrack.

What is typical of "Dangerous Minds" is funky tracks backing nearly every song. Funk is what ties together the hip-hop, R&B and bass music on the album.

Hip-hop highlights include "Havin' Thangs," a previously released track from Big Mike of the Geto Boys. This song was a bomb when it came out and helped Mike on one of the best albums of last year.

As for new music, Rappin 4-Tay comes up with two tracks, "Problems" and "A Message for Your Mind." Both songs address urban struggles, the former using a piano hook and raspy "Players Club" voice, while the latter is backed with a catchy Jackson 5 loop.

"It's Alright" teams up Sista, who has a flow similar to Simple E, and the ever-impetuous Craig Mack. The Evil Dee track is good, but too heavily layered for the staccato vocals of Sista and Mack.

Other forgettable raps include the average "True O.G." by Mr. Dalvin & Static, as well as DeVante and Static's "Gin & Juice," which

although conjuring memories of the infamous Dogg Pound, does not measure up.

Two fast-paced bass songs are also present. Tre Black's "Put Ya Back Into It" is not very well done, especially considering the album's very next track is "Don't Go There" by 24-K, an all-female group. The call and response of 24-K, along with chants like "I ain't your ho," make this perfectly danceable and catchy.

The R&B tracks are a mismatch as well. While Immature croons with a great pleading love song, "Feel the Funk," Aaron Hall's "Curiosity" lifts a hip-hop back that does not move you.

Strangest of all is the Wendy & Lisa, of has-been Prince protege fame, who also scored the movie. Their song "This is the Life" is excellent with its soft keys and synth, but doesn't feel right with the rest of the album full of party songs.

The album is worth buying, if not for just "Gangsta's Paradise."

—Greg Schick



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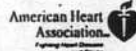


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