

CDREVIEWS

★★★★★ Eargasmic    ★★★★★ Certified Awesome    ★★★ Almost Famous    ★★ Mediocre    ★ Pssh!

Various Artists



✓ **Sí, Para Usted: The Funky Beats of Revolutionary Cuba**

Waxing Deep ★★★★★

Oodles of great Cuban music was produced in the '60s and '70s, but much of it went unheard outside of the island. Now, more than thirty years later, seventeen of those unattainable treasures have been compiled into this album, featuring funk, rock and son fusions like "Amor Mio" (Los Tainos), "Con La Luz De La Mañana" (Síntesis) and "Baila, Ven Baila" (Los 5-U-4), among other crème de la crème musicians. —Elena

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Various Artists



**Alma - The Soul of Brazil in New York**

Wave Music ★★★★★

There is nothing like Brazilian music to bring out the good vibes. Mixed by DJ True and Miller Cruz (the main record spinners at N.Y.C.'s amazing Alma parties), The Soul of Brazil taps into the eclectic Brazilian sound that made these parties successful. You get some funky wah-wah on Azymuth's "Partido Novo" and by the time you get to Karizma's percussion-filled remix of "The Caribou," there is no question about who owns the soul of Brazil in New York. —Rodrigo Salazar

Kinky



**Rarities**

✓ Sonic360 ★★★★★

In the seven years Kinky has been around, they have skillfully mastered their style—a fusion of tropical sounds, regional Mexican rhythms and electronic vibes. This adrenaline rush of a CD draws together Kinky's previously unreleased recordings from movies and live performances.

Included are tracks such as "Oye Como Va," Kinky's even bouncier version of Tito Puente's classic, which appeared in the movie *Man On Fire*, "Coqueta" with Intocable and the hits "Soun Tha Mi Primer Amor" and "Presidente." —Mariela

Lumidee



**Unexpected**

TVT Records ★★ ½

The queen of the summer '03 jam "Never Leave You" a.k.a. the "Uh-ohh Uh-ohh" song, is back after a 4-year hiatus with her sophomore album. With the radio-friendly "She's Like the Wind," this Spanish Harlem chanteuse is out to prove she's no one-hit wonderkind. Miss Dee goes after an Ashanti meets Foxy Brown vibe but the end result is just "aight." The songs will get their 20 seconds of fame and Lumidee's formulaic R&B/rap effort spells out summer success, but come fall, we'll be itching for something new. —Jennifer

Jarabe de Palo



**Adelantando**

Warner Music Latina ★★★ ½

Jarabe de Palo pioneered a form of pop-rock with underlying flamenco and Caribbean sounds that became wildly popular throughout Spanish-speaking countries via their 1996 debut. *Adelantando* follows the same formula, so they still wow us with contagious rhythms and well-picked

contributions from La Mari de Chambao ("Déjame vivir") and La Shica ("Adelantando"). Yet, we were left craving something else, something new, something different. Oh well, maybe next time. —Mariela

**Chulius & the Filarmónicos**



**MF\* Radio**

Gozadera Records ★★★★★

Julio Briceño stepped aside from his role as frontman of the electrofunk band Los Amigos Invisibles temporarily to release his first solo project. He's almost unrecognizable, (but equally charming) conjuring soft vocals with experimental rock, new wave and electronica soundscapes. *MF\* Radio* features twelve English-language tracks written mainly by Briceño, who also plays guitar, bass and keyboard. Highlights are the opening track, "Fishman," the single "Shine" and "With U." —Mariela

