

Kickmag's 2009 Picks

1 .Q-Tip *Kamaal The Abstract*

Q-Tip does funky reflective fusion and it works.

2. Raekwon *Only Built For Cuban Linx 2* More than competent return from Wu-Tang grime master.

3. Al B. Sure *Honey I'm Home* Classy R&B from a New Jack Swing era survivor.

4. Teena Marie *Congo Square* More timeless soul from the original vanilla soul child.

5. Sa Ra *Nuclear Evolution: The Age Of Love* Freaky free funk in the middle of a calcified R&B mainstream.

6. Blackroc A hodgepodge of mostly New York rappers backed by the hillbilly rock of The Black Keys presented by Damon Dash

7. Chico Debarge *Addiction* Soulful sensuality from the Debarge tenor on par with *Long Time No See*

8. Chrisette Michele *Epiphany* Jazzy R&B sweetness mediated by pop sensibilities.

9. Jay-Z *The Blueprint 3* Hova representing for his hometown with his superior slick hardness.

10. Mos Def *The Ecstatic* Dante Smith may act most of the time but he still raps well.

11. Jesse Johnson *Verbal Penetration* Former Time guitarist releases first solo album in thirteen years and his chops are still intact.

12. Maxwell *Blacksummer's Night* Everyone's favorite male "neo soul" singer makes good again after an eight year hiatus.

13. J.Dilla *Jay Stay Paid* Another lovely but sinister posthumous release of divine beat science from the Detroit master.

14. Whitney Houston *I Look To You* A nice comeback record from the '80's and '90's pop darling

15. Living Colour *Behind The Sun* Funk metal kings assert their deadly acumen once more after scaring fake rock fans with the brilliant *Collideoscope*.

16. Meshell Ndegeocello *Devil's Halo* The R&B deconstructionist rightfully picks apart the usual musical assumptions proving again why she is the most important R&B artist of her generation.

17. Ledisi *Turn Me Loose*— The singer reinvents her sound with a much needed faster pace and fire.

18. Buckshot & KRS One *Survival Skills* The Boot Camp Click hustler and the legend collaborate on a back to the basics type of hip-hop album.

19. Melanie Fiona *The Bridge* Sassy but not tacky R&B from the Canadian newcomer.

20. Snoop Dogg *Malice In Wonderland* Party music from everybody's favorite West Coast rapper.

21. The Clipse *Til The Casket Drops* Potent cocaine rap.

21. Shabazz Palaces *Abstract* funky hip-hop from Digable Planets' Ishmael.

22. Souls Of Mischief *Montezuma's Revenge* A much appreciated reappearance of the West Coast's Wu-Tang Clan type crew.

23. Kam Moya AKA Superstition *Splitting Image* Down to earth lyricist willing to be himself in world of flossy rappers. Refreshing.

24. Wale *Attention Deficit* Punchy delivery from the D.C. rapper with one of the biggest buzzes this year.

25. Q-Tip *The Renaissance* Ok it came out at the end of 2008 but it's nominated for a Grammy and it should be. Soulful hip-hop without the extraction of the boom bap.