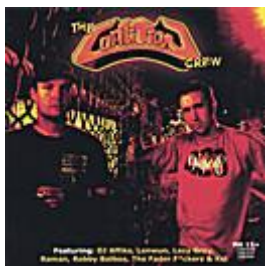


Mp3 The Coalition Crew - (self-titled)



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Underground Australian hip hop - has been described as "...bass heavy hip hop with heart..." (Beat Magazine), "...quite possibly Brisbane's most exciting new hip hop project..." (Time Off Magazine), "...a startlingly fresh debut..." (Rave Magazine) 13 MP3 Songs HIP HOP/RAP: Hip Hop, HIP HOP/RAP: Alternative Hip Hop Details: Review from ozhiphop(by Amayze) In recent times, it seems Queensland is the up and coming place to be when Australian hip-hop is concerned, with people like Remiks, Town Drunxxx, Robby Balboa, The Optimen and Serenity all making headway in the scene. But the new crew doing their rounds is the Coalition, made of resident emcee slash producer, Yuin Huzami (you and whose army) and bassist slash producer, Toxic AI. Their new CD, out now on Nice Mics Records, is sure to impress the heads, especially considering the long list of strong guest spots including DJ Affiks, Lenwun, Lazy Grey, Raman, Robby Balboa, The Fader F*ckerz and Kel. The CD kicks off with 'Who the Crew', one of the best intros to an album I've heard. The music flips straight in some nice cuts from DJ Affiks interplayed with some intricate bass lines from Toxic AI and some somber samples. Having not copped Yuin Huzami's solo effort, Make Beats, I was unaware of his style as an emcee, but from my first taste in the intro I was pleasantly satisfied. He definitely has a laid-back flow and is very easy listening, almost in contrast to other staunch product from up in Queensland (i.e. Ken Oath or Coxter). The second track 'Life is Short (2nd Time Round)' brings in Yuin Huzami on the beat and there's definitely some interesting samples here. The only saving grace to the beat is the bass line from Toxic AI that fits perfectly with the sample selection and the cuts from Affiks. But half way through, the track turns for the better, dropping the samples and leaving the second verse running over the drums and deep bass lines. 'Matter of Act' is the next track off the ranks, talking about cunts acting hard. Yuin brings one of best verses on this track with lines such as, "Hip-hop and true with the stomping group, proud to be Australian this ain't Compton

dude" 'Make Beats' brings the production back into Toxic Al's hands and he brings a dope trumpet loop and an overall well put together beat. This track also brings in the first of the guest appearances, Lenwun, who comes with more of a raw flow when compared to Yuin and some nice verses about hip-hop up in the sunshine state. Then comes another burner of a track called 'Sleepless', which sees Lazy Grey and Robby Balboa in the mix. What I was surprised with was how dope Balboa is on this track, clearly outshining even Lazy. Basically his whole 16 bars are quotable, but I'll try and extract just a few lines, "The hip-hop Amityville, yo my grammar is ill. I ODeD on my own make without gas, smack or a packet of pills, I pack raps with a passionate skill, attacking these whack cats that's out for the cash and the bills" There are a few interludes and some guest features after this track, but 'Escape the Norm' seems to stand out. Again Toxic Al brings some mad funky bass lines all the way through the track and Yuin drops some competent verses. The Fader F*ckerz come in with a short scratch session on track ten, and I was impressed by some of the skills shown here. If anyone has any info about them doing any solo projects, I'd appreciate hearing about them. There were a bunch of tracks that I loved at the very beginning of the release and it finished off with the same strength. 'Wild Animals' shows some Middle Eastern sampling mixed with some fresh animal noises thrown into the chorus. 'Innovate' is another dope track that sees Yuin dropping some very nice verses, "When you do acknowledge your worth, if you realize that it wasn't in your wallet or purse so, don't you know all the dollars on earth, couldn't make you truly happy got to follow your thirst" The album concludes with a new version of the funky track, 'Head in the Clouds', that has had generous airplay on Triple J over the past year. I personally liked this version a lot more and it concludes the album nicely. The Coalition CD I think is one of the best Australian hip-hop releases this year to date. There is a consistency kept throughout the thirteen tracks and I only had a few problems with it. The first thing that bothered me was the amount of guest spots on the release, by no stretch of the imagination is this a bad thing, but I personally don't like seeing too many guest spots on a solo release, especially considering it is only thirteen tracks deep. Which leads to my next point, that it is only thirteen tracks and I'm already fiending for more funky bass lines and nostalgic raps. Go out and get this CD. Best Tracks: Who the Crew, Make Beats, Sleepless, Escape the Norm, Wild Animals, Innovate 4.75/5

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