

Angel's Nu-Soul Explosion

Beach Buzz on beachmusic45.com

A look at the January 2013 Smokin' Top 45 indicates a continued strong presence of songs from artists that are considered part of the Southern Soul genre. The combination of Donnie Ray (3 tunes), Ms. Jody (2 tunes), LJ Echols and Johnnie Taylor represent 15% of the overall chart. Country music, with Little Big Town, Zac Brown Band, Josh Turner and Billy Currington make up another 9%. Traditional Beach artists, however, are certainly dominant (as they should be), representing a healthy 58% of the total. The remaining 18% comes from a variety of the current R&B, Blues and Pop markets. An interesting cross section that is an ongoing indicator of the broad diversity in what gets played in the world of Beach music.

One individual that we consider to be a Beach artist since he first came South from the Big Apple several years ago is Angel Rissoff. He has maintained a strong relationship with the Beach music world ever since his 2005 Angel Where Have You Been album took this market by storm. Angel has continued to roll out hit after hit over the last seven years while appearing at live venues in the region as much as his schedule has allowed.

He was actually involved in songs that became Beach hits earlier in his career while an integral part of Little Isidore & The Inquisitors as well as being Little Leopold. He also spent several years as a member of Kenny Vance & The Planotones.

Angel's latest album release, Nu Soul Stories is the third edition of what has become a trilogy, following up his 2006's Nu Soul Explosion and 2008's Nu Soul Stew. His deep, soulful resonating voice has never been better on the latest, thirteen tracks of hard driving R&B with a bluesy mix that is pure entertainment. One outstanding advance track that got quite a bit attention early on was I Thought I Knew Her, although it has not as yet, in my opinion, gotten the full chart recognition it deserves. The rollicking 29 Ways and smooth grooves on Fine Wine have both gotten significant play rotation. Angel turns out strong renditions of Open The Door To Your Heart (which has also seen some chart action) and You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling (featuring Darlene Love). Two of the legendary Rascals, Eddie Brigati and Gene Cornish, come on board with Angel to re-create the magic of one of their originals, You Better Run. Every Man is a definite lights down low belly rubber while Shag Time, written just for our genre, has also started to see some radio and club play. Angel continues to demonstrate the ability on this album to blend the Soul/R&B sounds of the '60's and '70's with what works in today's market. I for one am certainly glad that he has chosen to stay very involved in the world of Beach music!

Neal "Soul Dog" Furr, Beach Buzz, beachmusic45.com

Carolina Sounds Beach Show

"My long-time friend Angel Rissoff has put together a collection of sixteen songs that run the gamut from Southern Soul to Northern Soul with some extras tossed in the mix to make this a true "Compilation CD".

There are several original tunes here, like Angel's "Soothe You", "More Where That Came From"; Danny Draher's "Big Fun Tonight", the talented Ratso's "The Spark"; "Never Known Love" from Rosalinde Block Party, "Dixie Dog" brought to us by Murray Weinstock and the legendary Dr. John; Bobby Harden's "You're Gonna Be Just Fine" and a song that I've been playing for months - Fonda Feingold's "Love You Should Have Stayed".

As a bonus, you also get Gary "Gotta Gota" Lovett's version of "You're So Fine" and The Soul Survivors' "Mama Soul". Being a big Sam Cooke fan, I am often wary of people covering one of Sam's songs. Angel's rendition of "I'm Gonna Forget About You" is right on the money. Now, there's one song on here that defies categorization. "Mighty Cootie Fiyo" from The Junior Mintz Blues Machine with help from Rissoff is a song that definitely grabs your attention. It's reminiscent of Lou Bega's "Mambo Number 5" and I can see a dance floor full of line dancers have a good time with this song.

OK, I can hear a few of you saying, "I have never heard of some of these artists!" Well, there's a first time for everything, my music loving friends. Like Mr. T could say, "I pity the fool who don't find something on this CD they like or want to dance to." This CD should be available in the usual well known sources for Beach Music. If you have trouble finding it, email me and I'll tell you how to obtain a copy."

Butch Halpin