

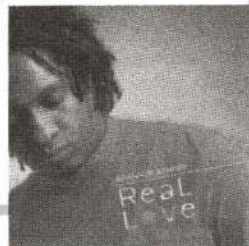
# Music Reviews

## Spanner Banner

### Real Love

Heartbeat  
by Lady Souljah

Rock the room tonight with *Real Love*, Spanner Banner's latest release on Heartbeat Records. *Real Love* contains 16 grooving beats ranging from Lover's Rock, Dancehall, to sweet R&B. Utilizing top Jamaican and American producers and musicians, Spanner Banner's CD offers something for everyone. *Real Love* features top entertainers: Sean Paul, Dancehall Divas Lady Saw and Tanya Stephens, Madame Dragon and Yankee B. Making this a real family affair, Spanner also enlists younger brother Richie Spice and older brother Pliers, superstar of the duo Chaka Demus & Pliers. A true delight with 5 CD bonus tracks, *Real Love*, "You got to get it, seen."

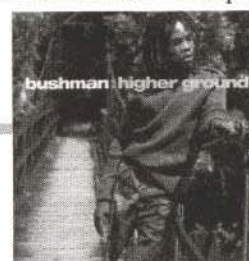


## Sizzla Black History

Jetstar  
by Lady J



Needing no introduction, Sizzla Kalonji has returned rejoicing and shouting about *Black History*, released on Jetstar. Currently riding the cultural wave as one of Jamaica's most promising dancehall deejays, Sizzla continues to prove that he is consistent in delivering consciously militant lyrics and outstanding vocal ability to the massive. Produced by Kalonji Production, *Black History* is, yet, another volcanic masterpiece of boom dancehall tunes that are nothing less than direct in nature. Telling us about "Upfullness," Sizzla speaks to "Rastafari Children" with hopes that "Things Will Be Better" when our hearts are "Happy to Love." The 14-track, Jetstar release is loaded with raw riddims that will keep you on upful heights. With the successful tour recently finished alongside Prince Malachi and Turbulence, Sizzla delivered an explosive live performance that retained a lasting impression with fans. This passionate singer/dj clearly maintains his triumphant posture with the release of "Black History"



## Bushman Higher Ground

Greensleeves  
by Lady J

Glorifying word, sound and Power, Bushman returns with his third album to take you to *Higher Ground*. Released on Greensleeves Records, *Higher Ground* is filled with pure Jamaican roots and culture sure to give you an uplifting blessing. Produced by the legendary King Jammy, featured tunes include "Robbery Aggravation," "Make a Change," "Fire Pon a Deadas," "Give Some More to the Poor" and "Ne'ver have it Easy." This classic inspires all with love, unity, livity and self-awareness. If you missed Bushman live at the Sierra Nevada World Music Festival this year, then check the Nyah Man chant righteously on *Higher Ground*.

## Janet Jackson All For You

Virgin  
by Shelah Moody



You've worked your butt off all year and still can't afford that dream vacation in Montego Bay. Bills, bills, bills! Your lover tells you he wants to sleep with as many women as possible. Thank God for the oasis called Ms. Janet! *All For You*, produced by her long time collaborators, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, may not have the painful and terrifying psychological edge of Janet Jackson's last Virgin release *Velvet Rope*, but it is perfect for dancing your troubles away and temporarily escaping from the unfairness of life. Isn't it somewhat comforting to know that Janet, the gorgeous, 35-year-old pop icon experiences the same trials and tribulations and indulges in simple pleasures as the rest of us? This album finds her checking out a guy's "package" at a party ("All For You"), trashing her ex ("Son of a Gun" w/Carly Simon) dreaming of the perfect boyfriend and even the perfect orgasm, ("Someone to Call My Lover," "When We Oooo") and reaching self actualization ("Better Days"). Those who have grown up with Ms. Janet and watched her blossom from shy child actress into super-entertainer will love *All For You*.

## Norris Man Better Your Soul

Jah Scout  
by Shelah Moody

"To better your soul is to synchronize your heart and soul with love," sings Norris Man. Produced by Colin McGregor with assistance by Rankin Scroo of Crucial Youth Production and Dia "Warrior" Fearon of Builders Music, this stellar 17-track album is the follow up to Norris Man's acclaimed first release, *Persistence* (VP, 2000). *Better Your Soul* is conscious reggae music infused with hip-hop, R&B and lover's rock, devoid of slackness or superficiality. Norris Man, aka Christopher Campbell, was introduced to American audiences via his 2000 tour with Anthony B and the Star Trail Crew. Norris Man's latest single, "When Dem Ego Done" recently became a smash on Jamaican airwaves. On *Better Your Soul*, the Kingston-born singer/songwriter, known for his soaring vocal riffs and syncopated phrasings and ad libs, sets out on a quest for truth and righteousness. The lead track "Change of Life," along with "Jah Love Us So Much," "Blessed are Those," and "Hold on to Your Faith" (laced with McGregor's ebullient nylon guitar strings) offer hope to the physically and spiritually downtrodden. Without being lewd or profane, Norris Man brings the sensuality back to contemporary reggae. "Don't Be Shy," (featuring Cecile's lush vocals) is a poignant tale of lost love rekindled. "She Grooves," featuring rapper Money B. of Digital Underground, sets the tone for intimacy. *Better Your Soul* establishes Norris Man as one of the leaders the roots and culture revival.

