

hey, everyone! this year was odd. i got cut off completely from music right around july, so this list is more or less a compilation of my favorites from january until then. of course, there's some post-july stuff in here, too, but i think it's mostly first-half-of-2007. oh, yeah- that sucked. i'd never been so deprived of music in my life. on the plus side, that got me buying cds again. actually, i bought only two. meh. ok- onward!

*****ruminations

-50 cent ft. justin timberlake – ayo technology – what the hell? when i still listened to some “idm” shit (like in 2003 at most), a nintendo track like this would have fit squarely, irrevocably, COMFORTABLY in that genre, and nowhere else. now, it's a top 40 beat. what the hell? as always, timbaland brings pop music full circle.

-dubstep- i don't listen to it much too much now, cuz it careened down the same path as drum n bass did but in like one-fourth the timeframe. one good track per 10 pieces of shit. blah. i mean, there's still good stuff coming out, but damn, is it scarce...

*****ten favorites of 2007

m.i.a. – kala – totally crushes arular. shit- arular kinda sucks. this is what she was meant to make. how's she gonna top this?? key tracks- “paper planes” (the remix with bun b and rich boy!!!), “20 dollar”, and the outtake (inexplicably so) “hit that”. yeah!!

panda – los malaventurados no lloran – sweet, sweet mall-pop-punk. the video's dope, too!!

lil wayne- dying- i've hated on lil wayne since his cash money millionaire days. stupid fucking lyrics coming from one of the stupidest fucking rap troupes of all time. now, ten years later, i'm eating my words till i puke, cuz a) i like a lot of the solo productions the cmm went on to make, and b) lil wayne is mindblowingly good. this track is sublimely sublime. if he stays on this dr. octagon tip, then i'll have to concur with the tremendous hype he gets (yeah, i still hate on him a little).

polow da don, bangladesh, and to a slightly lesser extent, danjahandz – these producers are the wave of the future. they're basically timbaland and pharrell for the next generation. key tracks- 8ball and mjb – get low (producer: polow da don); m.i.a. – hit that, charlie mackenroe - amilly (producer: bangladesh); britney spears – gimme more (that's right- britney spears!!) (producer: danjahandz). one important note: why they choose to work with such atrocious “artists” is beyond me. rich boy? fergie? britney spears? money, i guess. ah, well. good beats, good beats.

dj blaqstarr – everything he did this year – there's no middle ground with baltimore club; it's either mindless shit or mindless fun. utmost respect to blaqstarr, then, cuz he took the bmore template and twisted it into something brand new, otherworldly, violent, scary, and absolutely thrilling. “supastarr” is probably the most explosive song of the year. the

way it drops is just hair-raising. the showcase mix he put together for mad decent radio was exhilarating, too. simply awesome.

diplo, flosstradamus, drop the lime, and paul devro – alright: diplo is the greatest dj of the decade, says me. no one can touch him. the pitchforkmedia mix he did this year (<http://www.zshare.net/audio/349211758b0938/>) is a masterpiece. flosstradamus, drop the lime, and paul devro are also always on point, each with their own distinctive styles and approaches, but what they all share in common is impeccable selections and great sequencing. diplo! diplo! diplo!

burial – archangel – breathtaking, heartbreaking. beautiful.

dizzee rascal – hardback – the craziest track from a pretty mediocre album (damn!). the throwback electro beat and the rough bassline are pure hype.

usher ft. ludacris – dat girl right there – basically the most ridiculously, ludicrously weird, and BANGIN, pop tune (if you can call it that) in a long, long time, and from rich harrison, the same guy that brought you “crazy in love” and “1 thing.” i listened to this for like an hour straight when i first heard it. if this blows up in the charts, then the mainstream is either genius or stupid or crazy, though i guess that’s all the same. key moment: the abrupt melodic swells that follow ludacris’ tweaked-out verse, which conclude with some seriously strained harmonization and crash into that outrageous beat once again.

frankie valli & the four seasons – beggin’ (pilooski edit) – total tear-jerker. you can’t listen to this without launching into a melancholic stupor. i think this was my tune of the summer.

and my number one for the year goes to...

prgz – woodgrain, rollin’ – i wish i knew more about this group/ these guys/ this collective, but i can’t find anything. anyway, these two tracks showcase something really special- at the surface they sound no different than the rest of their peers in the genre, but there’s a little something there that hooks you, then you listen to the track like another twenty times and you realize, “damn... this song was made for me.” i guess they might not strike everyone the same way, but yeah- these tracks are why i listen to music.

there you have it, folks! before i go, here’s some other crap i liked this year:

green velvet – shake & pop – BOUNCE!!!

rihanna – umbrella, especially the vandalism remix

lloyd – get it shawty – that melody... undeniable

daft punk – breezblock mix – 1997 – jackin’ house

jr writer – get em; lil mama – lip gloss – successors to the eclipse’s “grindin’”

tum tum – caprice muzik (+ remix ft. e-40) – huge bassline

boy 8 bit – watch out for his productions next year

kanye west – flashing lights – sweet
kid sister – control, switch board – lotsa fun
sebastian – live at pig radio – april 2007 – possibly the best crazy french house mix i've
heard. ends with daft punk's "da funk" – classy!!
headhunter – horny teen – need more freaky dubstep like this
jamal –screwheadz; electrosoul system & subwave – one – oh, drum n bass...

ok, that's it. i wish you all a happy, wonderful, fruitful 2008! take good care of
yourselves!!!

all the best,
luis

one more thing...

a quick addendum to my 2007 list:

t-pain - buy u a drank - i'm probably alone in thinking that this song is spooky, weird, and
good...

zzt - lower states of consciousness - ...but i doubt i'm alone in thinking that the intro
bassline and BLEEPs in this one are OUT OF CONTROL. just listen to the intro
bassline! it actually makes you wonder if your speakers are getting shredded.

that's it!!!