

ON TRACK

Whether you're a DJ or a casual clubber, out or closeted, a religious zealot or one a 'dem non-denominational types, no one is immune from the five week stress-fest that envelops New York from Thanksgiving Day through the dawn of the New Year. And if you're anything like me, in the last week of December you find yourself pinballing from party to party and—zip! zoom! zing! tilt!—before you know it, you're already four days into January and two days behind on sleep. Keeping up on the latest releases can be tough during the yearend torrent, so I made it my mission to ensure the following gems don't go unnoticed amid the post-Xmas come-down and pre-New Year's run-up.

Martha Wash is returns with "You Lift Me Up." Four years out from her last original single (2000's "Catch the Light"), the former Weather Girls/Two Tons of Fun icon



Martha Wash

shines in all her gospelized glory on this Purple Records pressing thanks to the solid production and—gag!—*musicianship* of the cut's studiomen **Michael Hearn** and **Maurice Johnson** as well as its remixer, **Digital Fingers**. Welcome back, Miss Wash! (Then again, you never really left us to begin with.)

JVM serves up a smart slice of male vocal magic with its latest offering, the AA-sided "Blood Foolish Mind Games," featuring 2K4's breakout performers **Casey Stratton** and **Jason Walker**, respectively. House music monolith



Casey Stratton



Suzanne Palmer



Angel Moraes

BY GREGORY T. ANGELO

Junior Vasquez turns in a pair of robust and decidedly different dance-floor productions: "Blood" could potentially blossom into a perennial Fire Island anthem, while "FMG" is a straight-up big-room banger that represents the realization of a track that has had Miss V's devotees buzzing since he premiered the cut during his Earth days.

Peter Rauhofer has given the nod to his crew at Star 69 Records to print up two *more* re-rubs for **Suzanne Palmer's** smash single "Luv 2 Luv" (in case you're keeping score, that brings the track's official remix tally to eight). For this go-round, old-skool stalwarts **Angel Moraes** and **David Morales** step up to the plate and turn in a pair of sharp re-dos that endow Palmer's omnipotent smash with a warm, pulsing vibe that takes the single to yet *another* level. It's a classy capstone for "Luv 2 Luv"—a track that will undoubtedly be remembered as one of New York's top 10 dance tracks of 2004. Wanna know who else made the list? Find out next week... **N**



JUNIOR VASQUEZ

After blasting through recent special events at Spirit and Crobar, the legendary La Vasquez sets up shop at Chelsea institution Roxy to usher in 2K5 with Junior's Eve—a marathon night-and-day set featuring a special performance by Tamyra Gray.

- 1 Deepa Soul
As I Am
- 2 Marth Wash
Let the Spirit
- 3 Ellis D.
Bongo Massive
- 4 Jason Walker
Movin' On
- 5 Ryan Cabrera
True
- 6 Darren Hayes
Darkness
- 7 Whitebird
Words That You Say 2005
- 8 RuPaul
Work Out
- 9 Vanessa Williams
You're My Everything
- 10 Junior Vasquez
The Phantom of the Opera