

## ECHOES

08

MAY 20 / JUNE 02

2000

CAT: NILE

DRUM &amp; BASS / BREAKBEAT

## LOW RIDERS

BY ELIA RULLI

## VARIOUS RUE MARTEL [YA BASTA!]

It could be the big time for this French label. Probably not, but it could be. What stands in their way is their insistence on putting innovation and musicality before commerciality. No, Ya Basta! probably won't be pulling a Yellow Productions and becoming one of the hottest cutting edge labels at the front of HMV. Although hot and cutting edge they certainly are. Blending timeless sounds and musical cultures from around the world with production from the here and now they are getting underground connoisseurs very excited.

This nine-track CD is a compilation of some of the tracks they've released thus far and is a good example of the cross-section of sounds they cover. The common thread connecting all of Ya Basta's artists and output is pure summer vibes. Whether it be the easy-esque bossa nova and beats of Hi Fi Trumpet or the jazz skyline of PCS Mind Food. A variety of sounds, taking in dub, Brazillian flavours, reggae and ragga and yet more dub. But the highlight of both this compilation and, at the moment atleast, the label is the wonderful Gotan Project. With only one sly 10" released into the ether, the buzz on them is huge. One listen to Vuelvo Al Sur and you should understand why immediately. This is basically a tango with some subtle breakbeat added on top of the accordion and guitar. With beautiful vocals from Cristina Vilallonga just blessing this production, the song is already considered something of a classic. The funny thing is, this doesn't sound too different at all from straight up tango, but all the cool DJs love it.

All in all, the album is a light, enjoyable affair with a couple of outstanding groovy moments and one absolute showstopper.

ELIA RULLI \*\*\*