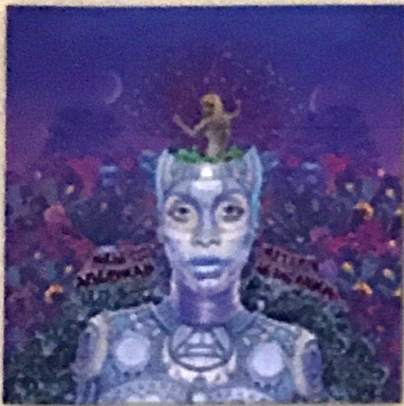
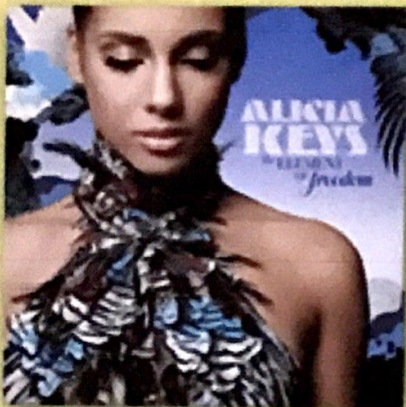


By Jessica Buck

**Erykah Badu: New Amerykah Part II: Return of the Ankh**

Genre: Neo Sou

Erykah Badu has always come forth with original and amazing music from start to finish. The unique old school beats alone draw you into each song, and then you hear her voice. Badu, who never tries to sound or be like anyone else, has kept her love for music alive and is definitely pouring out all emotions in her latest project. Her soulful voice will keep you hooked, with several slow and upbeat tracks to choose from. I already have her album on my iTunes and cannot stop listening. Erykah Badu's new album is a must have album for spring/summertime jams.

**Personal Fav: Soldier****Alicia Keys: The Element of Freedom**

Genre: R&amp;B

One of my all time favorite artists, Alicia Keys is back with another hit album. The Element of Freedom is in stores now and fans are going nuts over it. My love for Alicia goes way back because her sound is accepted by all age groups. Many of her tracks have been featured on the hip-hop radio stations as well as the old school R&B stations that our elders listen to everyday. This album is no different, with a ballad written by Aubrey Graham, also know as Drake, and a duet with the beautiful and talented Beyonce. As I listened to the album all the way through, I could not help but think that the background for many of her songs has to do with her relationship wit Swizz Beats, but that is just my opinion. Regardless, Keys has received much deserved hype from this album, and there is no question that fans all over the world will enjoy.

**Personal Fav: Unthinkable ft. Drake****Gorillaz: Plastic Beach**

Genre: Rock/Hip-Hop

Taking a break for a few odd years, Gorillaz have returned with a new album entitled Plastic Beach. Gorillaz is known for their crazy music videos in which they are all portrayed as cartoon rockstars, and this album does nothing but back that idea up. A mix between hip-hop and rock, Gorillaz have the style and flow that anyone can be attracted to. Because of their consistency in #1 hits, it would only make sense that Snoop Dogg, Mos Def and De La Soul would want to work with them to make this new album epic. Their first single "Stylo" was an instant hit, and from listening to the rest of the album, I can tell that they will potentially be expanding their already huge fan base.

**Personal Fav: Superfast Jellyfish Feat. De La Soul**