



Jan 2008

FACES TO WATCH

Who's Hot and Rising For The Year Ahead

Any new album worth your attention arrives during the packed fourth-quarter holiday season, right? Not quite. The earlier months of the year are an ideal time for rising acts to grab their share of attention and, they hope, sales. That's true for upcoming releases and new promotional boosts for sets already ready on hand. Here are 10 hot faces to watch from genres including pop, rock, country, R&B, hip-hop, Christian, jazz and dance that have caught the attention of Billboard's discerning writers and editors.

Anané'

Tommy Boy Records

Dance music is full of wannabe divas over-singing and attempting charisma. But newcomer **Anané**, with roots in Portugal and the island nation of **Cape Verde**, takes the stage decked out like **Diana Ross**, then proceeds to get down like **Lauryn Hill** fronting the Fugees.

After a string of singles on dance indie **Vega Records**, her debut album, "**Selections**," is scheduled for a May release on **Tommy Boy**.

Framed around three covers well-known to the club community, but obscure to everyone else-ESG's "**Standing in Line**," BunnyMack's

"**Let Me Love You**" and Yoko Ono's "**Walking on Thin Ice**"-the set is otherwise original, segueing from thick club grooves to summery ca-lypso to psychedelic dance-rock.

The album's first widely re-released single, "**Shake Dat Booty**", a reggae-inflected track produced by **Da Groove Doctors** (Jay Dabhi, Moises Modesto and **Duane Harden**, the man who wrote the mega hit "**Love Generation**" with Bob Sinclar) and of course the legendary **Louie Vega**, puts the girl back in control of the oft-sung across-the-dancefloor flirtation.

"As soon as I put that track up on my My Space page, girls started e-mailing me," she says. "The message is, 'I'll still shake it, but on my own terms.'"Combining earthiness with glamour and roots-deep house music knowledge with pop-wise diversity, **Anané** could be the first up-from-the-nightclub superstar since Madonna.

KerriMason