

True2Life!

LIVE LOVE LISTEN

Inspired by the January release of *Notorious* (Fox Searchlight/2008), Brooklyn New York's True2Life crew Slangston Hughes, Concise and k.Words composed a tribute to The Notorious B.I.G. Although the album's key emphasis is to pay homage to one of the greatest rappers of all time, it does a bit more.

Live Love Listen Volume 1 (True2Life Music) is the remix. It is a retrospective exposition through various eras and genres of music as the spirited trio embodies the essence of today's hip hop resonance. Aiming to capture the 1990's hip hop mood, the album features original beats and lyrics, with revamped sounds of old school hip-hop greats extending as way back as the Sugar Hill Gang. Using excerpts from Biggie's songs, True2Life creates their own versions of "The Warning" ("Who The Fuck Is This") and "Suicidal Thoughts" ("All My Life") as they attempt to capture rap at its best and still incorporate the new flavor of today. "Struggle and The Dream," and "Can't We Just All Get Along" are musical portrayals of messages conveyed about Biggie's life in *Notorious*. The winner, "Can You Feel It", really takes you back. From the style of Slick Rick to the b-boy instrumentals, the track is a ride through the heart of New York.

Revisiting the style and ambiance of various genres of music, from Motown, jazz, funk and soul, to R&B, reggae, punk and rock, the group harmoniously recreates the tunes that influenced their music. The diversity of beats and lyrics creates a funky and innovative sound, making this album a piece that will have grandma, mom, and the kids head-bopping.

BRITTANY SNYDER

