

# Bonga's Beats - Making musical waves

 By [Bonga Percy Vilakazi](#)

24 Feb 2009

Our resident album reviewer Bonga Percy Vilakazi looks at some of the music and artists that have been making waves locally and internationally in the recent weeks. Including the Princess of Pop - Ms Britney Spears, the late African singer Gita Baloi, the legendary diva Bette Midler and the very soulful Raphael Saadiq.



## RAPHAEL SAADIQ - THE WAY I SEE IT

After being with two of the most successful and pioneering groups of our time (Tony! Toni! Toné! and Lucy Pearl), Raphael Saadiq released 2 solo albums (and a live one). The Way I See It is his third and by far the best that he's ever done. Not one to try and relive the past, Saadiq has 'come up' with yet another sound that would somewhat sound new and fresh, probably because of the way he's done things (arrangements, vocals, etc). If you loved the 60's music from Motown, you have to get this.

## Stand Out Songs: 100 Yards dash, Sometimes, Calling

## BRITNEY SPEARS - CIRCUS

With this album, Britney made the biggest comeback ever, a comeback bigger than Mariah Carey's Emancipation. The album has been a huge commercial success, but critics have slated it saying Ms Spears had failed to live up to expectations. But whether you're a fan or not, Circus is a must-have for pop music lovers. You can expect a lot of techno beats and Madonna-esque music.



## Stand Out Songs: My Baby, Womaniser, Kill the Light



## GITO BALOI - BEYOND

Before he passed away in 2004, the great Gito Baloi had recorded hundreds and hundreds of songs. The album Beyond is a collection of 10 previously unfinished songs that hadn't been released before his death. The music was reworked and developed in studio by some of the musical maestros that had worked with Baloi; like McCoy Mrubata, Pedro Da Silva Pinto & Rui Soeiro (of 340ml), Moses Khumalo, Dave Reynolds and many more. The beautifully crafted songs are a testimony to his legendary talent.

## Stand Out songs: Mina Nawe, Over the Seas, Sinto Me Bem

## BETTE MIDLER - THE BEST BETTE

Who can ever forget The Divine Miss M and the wonderful songs she's given us for the past three decades? The Best Bette is an awesome collection featuring some of her most memorable hits. But just like other compilations, not everyone will be completely satisfied. Other songs like You Don't Own Me (from the movie First Wives Club) and Nobody Else But You (from her hit TV show) are conspicuously absent from this CD. That being said, this collection is still worth the listener's money. Early hits like Do You Want to Dance?, In the Mood, & her signature songs Friends and From a Distance are balanced with newer recordings like Cool Yule.



**Stand Out Songs: The Rose, Do You Want To Dance, Cool Yule**

## ABOUT BONGA PERCY VILAKAZI

Bonga Percy Vilakazi is currently the Music Supervisor for the daily hit youth drama on etv, Rhythm City; where he is also one of the story liners. He is also a monthly contributor for Soul Magazine where he was the Senior Writer; and also frequently writes for True Love and Drum where he has interviewed a host of local and international celebrities including Tyler Perry, Toni Braxton, Deborah Cox, India Arie, Maxwell and Kenny Lattimore.

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