

## HIP-HOP, R&B & JAZZ



After years of making dreamy instrumental hip-hop, **DJ Shadow** has produced a full-length rap album with some of his favourite singers and MCs. There're still elements of cinematic funk and moody ambience on *The Outsider* (Universal) ⓄⓄⓄ, but they're sandwiched in between body-popping electro and post-rock with tough bass lines and fierce vocal flows. Mercury winner **Soweto Kinch** has been hooked on hip-hop and jazz ever since he was a nipper, and his long-awaited second album, *A Life in The Day of B19* (Dune) ⓄⓄⓄ, finds him dropping narrative raps over atmospheric beats and saxophone. Falls somewhere between *The Streets* and *Sway*.

Two women pushing the perimeters of vocal jazz are Norwegian crooner **Solveig Slettahjell** and Swedish chanteuse **Viktoria Tolstoy**. The former's intimate *Good Rain* (Act) ⓄⓄⓄⓄ features sparse electronic and acoustic arrangements by the Slow Motion Quintet, while the latter's *Pictures of Me* (Act) ⓄⓄⓄ is upbeat and incorporates elements of swing, funk and bossa nova. Smooth jazz fans will enjoy both, but pop purists might find Tolstoy's covers of Stevie Wonder and Van Morrison hard to stomach.

---