

Music

Cypress Hill blends spanish spice into new album



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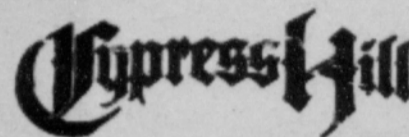
The roots of Los Grandes Exitos En Espanol –Cypress Hill’s Spanish language greatest hits album – were planted a long time ago, way before the current crossover pop success of artists of Latino heritage, according to the band’s Havana, Cuba-born Sen Dog (Sennen Reyes). “My mom used to make me sing in the church choir when I was a kid, so I know what it’s like to carry Spanish words in the melodies and rhythms.” Says the man who formed an early version of Cypress Hill, the Spanglish rap quartet DVX, back in 1988 in the L.A. suburb of Southgate

with Mexican-Cuban L.A. native Louis Freese (B-Real), Queens, NY Italian-American Lawrence Muggerud (DJ Muggs) and his own younger brother Ulpiano Sergio (Mellow Man Ace). “This is something we’ve wanted to do for a long time...ever since we came out, really,” Sen explains about this Spanish language release. Los Grandes Exitos En Espanol follows hard on the ‘98’s IV album, which added to their string of nine gold, platinum and multi-platinum RIAA certifications. To date, Cypress Hill has sold more than 12 million albums worldwide and over seven million in the U.S. alone. The album showcases together hip hop en Espanol at its finest with Spanish

language versions of 13 of Cypress Hill’s most popular songs drawn from their first four albums (an EP of remixes and B-sides, Released & Revamped came out in ‘96) – Cypress Hill (‘91), Black Sunday (‘93), III (Temples of Boom) (‘95), IV (‘98) – as well as a brand-new track, “Siempre Peligroso” (“always Dangerous”), featuring vocalist Fermin IV Caballero of Mexican hardcore hip-hop stars control Machete. “They come real hard and aggressive, busting mad, metaphors,” says Sen Dog. Who was turned onto the group by his brother. A pioneering Latino artist in his own right, Ace left DVX to go solo and scored the very first Spanglish hip-hop crossover hit in

‘90’s “Mentiroso” (“Lie”). Though not credited, Cypress continued to support him behind the scenes and wrote the (“lie”). Though not credited, Cypress continued to support him behind the scenes and wrote the original version of most of the material that appeared on his album debut.

Members also contributed to his follow up album. Mellow Man returns the favor here helping fine tune the songs’ Spanish lyrics as well as contributing a vocal to the album’s new version of “No Pierdo Nada” (“Nothin” to Lose” from IV).



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Gloria Estefan getting Award of Merit at American Music Awards

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gloria Estefan is joining some prestigious company. The entertainer will be the 27th recipient of the Award of Merit during next week’s American Music Awards. The tribute recognizes “outstanding contributions to the musical entertainment of the American public.” Previous Award of Merit winners include Bing Crosby, Irving Berlin, Johnny Cash, Ella Fitzgerald, Perry Como,

Benny Goodman, Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley. Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Loretta Lynn and the Beach Boys. Twenty other awards will be handed out during Monday’s ABC-TV special from the Shrine Auditorium. Whitney Houston, Britney Spears and Shania Twain lead American Music Award nominees with three apiece.

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