



### EDITOR'S PICK

**Surface, Deb Hunseder (Jody Gray & Deb):** "Your world will get turned upside down, get turned around, but you'll be alright." So begins Deb Hunseder's first solo CD. *Surface* covers a wide range of musical genres, making it suitable for a variety of settings. Guitar and drums give "A New Song" an alternative-rock feel, while Hunseder's voice lends it a touch of pop. The combination is sure to get hips a-swaying and feet a-tapping at a bar. "Come on Over" would make a great anthem for a girls-only Sunday barbecue. The song has a country twang, but the lyrics "Girls in bikinis/Come on/Come on over and have a warm one on me" set it apart from your usual country melodies. "Invisible Girl" is a sad confessional about loneliness, which might make it cathartic when you're home alone on a Friday night. Whatever your mood or locale, *Surface* should have just the track for you. ([debhunseder.com](http://debhunseder.com))  
— Maria Ginsbourg

# Diversity Rules

These artists offer a wide spectrum of musical styles. | By Margaret Coble



Long live Northern State

This month's featured CDs are spread out along the spoken word to hip-hop, queer to straight continuums. Lenelle Moïse, a fiercely out dyke of color, is obviously influenced by the jazz and hip-hop canons, but presents her material in more of a performance-art, slam-poetry style. Georgia-based trans man Katz, aka Athens Boys Choir, goes a little further in the homo-hop direction, incorporating guitars, a cello, and various turntable samples and beats. The queer black men of Oakland's Deep Dickollective have been leaders of the homo-hop movement since day one, with a West Coast-conscious rap style born of the spoken-word and slam-poetry traditions. Finally, we throw in the straight white girls of Northern State, who return in glorious form to their old-school meets feminist rap roots.

#### **Madivinez, Lenelle Moïse (Self-released)**

Incorporating singing, scating and storytelling into her theatrical spoken-word delivery, Northampton-based Haitian American slam poet and performance artist Moïse titles her debut CD after the Creole word for "dyke." The title cut poignantly recounts her discovery of the word "madivinez," resulting in her whole-hearted embrace of it as her identity: "Glamorous. Holy. Haitian dyke heart/Something I want to be." The rest of the disc's 15 tracks are similarly piercing, covering territory both intimate and political, meeting at the intersection of race, class, gender, sexuality and culture. Opening with a vivid and powerful piece about Hurricane Katrina, "September 4, 2005," a detailed person-on-the-streets narrative encapsulating the ex-

perience of having lived through the horrendous manmade disaster, the album goes on to feature the mostly sung and scatted "Atlantic Soul," the cunninglingus-themed "Distractions," and "Ave Maria" reminiscent of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Personal faves include the album-closing, jazzed-up rendition of "We Shall Overcome," titled "Second Coming," and the badass, not-taking-it-anymore anthem, "The Fuck You Now Manifesto." Amen, sister. ([lenellemoise.com](http://lenellemoise.com))

#### **Jockstraps and Unicorns, Athens Boys Choir (Twinkle Toes Records)**

Being an out tranny in the South can't be easy, but Katz, the sole member of Athens Boys Choir, eloquently makes art out of experiences good and bad on this, his fourth CD. The album opener, "Athens, GA," sets the scene geographically as well as musically, with old-timey piano, whistling and tap-dancing taps accompanying his verbal vignette depicting life in his hometown. Tracks like "Daffodils and Macramé" and "Homocoming King" are strictly spoken, no music at all, while others ("Erasing Too Hard," "If You Can Dream It") offer guitar, cello and/or turntable accompaniment. Katz's clever trannyfication of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back," titled "Tranny Got Pack," is a humorous, booty-shaking highlight, with "Technology Rulz" being the album's other danceable groove. Don't miss the hidden track, a satirical analysis of a Fred Phelps soundbite that pokes fun at the infamous hatemonger. ([athensboyschoir.com](http://athensboyschoir.com))

# Q+A

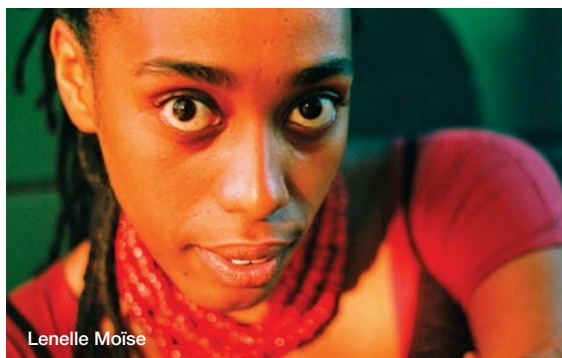


## On Some Other, Deep Dickollective (Sugartrack Recordings)

It may seem odd to feature a hip-hop band consisting of several gay black men in a lesbian magazine, but Deep Dic (as they are often abbreviated) has a surprisingly large dyke audience. Why, you ask? Well I'd venture to say because they are good. Brilliant, even. With a West Coast-flavored style that they call "chocolate-colored rainbow sound," Deep Dic takes on issues of race, class, queerness and masculinity on this fifth album release via tracks such as "Butchqueen," "Negroosophy" and "Ghetto Rainbows." The album is littered with more abstract interstitial pieces, called "Innerlubes," often sampling film and TV soundtracks, like "He's Trade (Innerlube Six)" and "Let Them Eat Cakes (Innerlube Seven)." The album-closing cut, "For Colored Boys" ends the song cycle by riffing off of choreo-poet Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," making it a goosebump-inducing anthem for black fags everywhere. If you like your rap smart, queer, and danceable, then definitely give this a spin. ([deepdickollective.com](http://deepdickollective.com))

## Can I Keep This Pen?, Northern State (Ipecac Recordings)

With guest appearances by performance artist Murray Hill ("The Three Amigas"), guitar phenom Kaki King ("Fall Apart"), and harpist and electronic whiz Katie Cassidy, plus production help by Chuck Brody (Wu Tang Clan, Yoko Ono) and Adrock of the Beastie Boys, the new album from Long Island MCs Sprout, Hesta Prynn and Spero gets back to their old-school rap roots and at the same time branches out to some more rocking sounds on this third studio album. "Mic Tester" and "Ooh Girl" start things off in the group's typical girl-gang rap style, while cuts like the friendship anthem "Better Already" are on more of a Le Tigre electro-rock kinda vibe. "Away Away," a love song of sorts, falls into a more mellow, downtempo category, along with the mesmerizing "Run off the Road." And surprisingly, politics find their way into a few cuts, too, such as the President Bush-referencing "Cowboy Man" and the apathy critique "Cold War," which asks the question: Whatever happened to "Fuck tha Police?" Indeed. Love it! ([northernstate.net](http://northernstate.net)) ■



Lenelle Moïse

## Denise and Donna

| PODCASTERS |

Blogging fans have a new duo to love: Denise and Donna, hosts of *The Lesbian Lounge* on [GayInternetRadioLive.com](http://GayInternetRadioLive.com). A year-old weekly show that covers "all things lesbionic," *Lounge* goes from gossipy news to interviews with Hollywood celebs and, er (shameless self-promotion here) *CURVE* editors, plus the U-Haul moment of the week and personals critiques such as "Denise Cruises the Personals." We chatted with Denise about her show, which listeners can log in to via the *Lounge's* chat room and get on air during the show. Radio never sounded so good; tune in Wednesdays at 9 p.m., ET, if you want in on the fun. — Diane Anderson-Minshall

### Tell me about starting out.

We had come from another Internet station and the transition was almost seamless. I had honored my contract with them, and within a week, had a contract with G.I.R.L. Radio, gathered up Donna and said, "Let's go up to Orlando and meet the team!"

### How many people are tuning in?

It's hard to accurately gauge how many are listening to the live show on Wednesday night, because we can't track folks listening through MySpace, or [igayradio.com](http://igayradio.com) or Out In America's 200 Web sites. We do know we're averaging at least 400 to 500 downloads per week of the podcast, though.

### Tell us how you got started.

I was doing an adult-oriented show for another station, and after 26 weeks of being someone the station created, a rather obnoxious female Howard Stern-type, I realized I didn't like faking it. So, as I neared the end of my contract, I developed *The Lesbian Lounge*, which was my way of spreading information globally for gay and lesbian business owners and families. My target was women who didn't have time to go out for their entertainment and information. I wanted a show that focused on lesbian businesses, music; Donna's forte [is] hangouts, news and events. This way, if women have kids, or they work days or they're sick of the bar scene, they can tune in to us while they e-mail, or pay bills online or whatever. You can listen to us ... at home in [your] boxer shorts.

### Where are your listeners?

Right now, our strongest following is in Florida, and the East Coast, mostly because we do many local events. We've been fortunate enough to hook up with POWER UP in Los Angeles to help promote their films, so we're slowly gaining some West Coast listeners!

### What's next?

We're getting a lot of requests to do live broadcasts. ... We'll also be releasing our very first CD. Check us out at [myspace.com/thelesbianlounge](http://myspace.com/thelesbianlounge). ■