



RED
HOT +
FREE



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8. **"QUEEN"** (CLUB MIX)
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9. **"THESE DREAMS"** (RED HOT EXTENDED MIX)
Bright Light Bright Light feat. The Illustrious Blacks

INTERLUDES: M.C. PAUL ALEXANDER

Album Producer / A&R: Bill Coleman for Red Hot + Peace Bisquit





It was September 1990 when the first compilation in the groundbreaking benefit series from the Red Hot Organization was released. It was not only cool, but the first major tribute album. Better yet it was done to raise money and awareness to fight AIDS/HIV and fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Over 30 years later, *Red Hot + Free* arrives in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic while political, racial, and ideological tensions have spiked. And once again, music is the medicine — helping and healing.

“When Red Hot + Blue came out, the project and subsequent releases were forward thinking in concept, inclusion and marketing, uniting a wide variety of visual and musical talent to raise awareness. The subject of AIDS and discussing any queer sexuality in popular culture was a provocative stance in 1990,” says Bill Coleman, Album Producer and A&R of this latest volume, *Red Hot + Free*. “I feel honored to be a part of such a rich legacy. Weaving two things I love so much — music — with direct, in your face presence and activism. To be able to finish a project purposely called *Red Hot + Free* during this unprecedented state of lockdown, feverish times and when the stark reality of our own mortality has really hit home was kind of a big deal. The irony was not lost on me.”

While Red Hot + Blue was a jazzy joint uniting artists like Neneh Cherry, Sinéad O’Connor, Jody Watley and U2 for the cause, *Red Hot + Free* plays more like a sequel to 1992’s revered Red Hot + Dance that saw stars like George Michael, Madonna, Crystal Waters and Seal take their consciousness to the club, draped in a colorful album sleeve featuring the art of downtown maverick Keith Haring.

“Dancing is universal, and it really can bring anyone together. Music touches the soul. Dance floors are magical and alive.” says Coleman. “We all need relief — and release. I’m happy that Red Hot can provide a new soundtrack for a bit of that. Many of the songs and mixes

here embody the energy and levity of being free, finding one's freedom or simply rising above the daily trials and tribulations of the world and treasuring moments of solace and hope. Being able to feature the mighty and expressive artwork of D.C.'s, Clarence James, has also been a gratifying bonus."

That body and soul liberation begins this double album mixtape with New York nightlife icon Paul Alexander's Barry White-esque intro exhortation. "We were only brought here to make you dance," he intones in a simple — yet suave for the gods — mission statement.

Red Hot + Free blares open with an international 'cacophony of love' sound and the breezy mid tempo jam "Mon Cheri." This exclusive Red Hot collaboration from Grammy nominees Sofi Tukker and Amadou & Mariam is an ode to love — sung in Portuguese, Bambara and French. That earworm of a guitar hook and the endearing sing-song melody are buoyant. "Mon Cheri" feels like a spirit-lifting call to the church of the

dance floor uniting all. Taking the intentional message of Funkadelic to a global level — this is indeed one world under a groove.

That mission statement is revisited throughout this ready-made mix, starting early on with "U Try Livin' (Pressure)" — another Red Hot original by Black Guy White Guy x 808 BEACH, which is the writing / production collaboration of Kwame Kwaten (D-Influence) and Gil Cang with Coleman and his 808 BEACH partner, John "J-C" Carr. There is a timely testimony in this gospel-pop-house anthem. Uplifting, classic vocals and arrangements from Danny Madden, Anelisa Lamola, Audrey Wheeler, Cindy Mizelle, Keith Fluit and Elisabeth Troy provide that modern Staples Singers feel with a four on the floor bounce and swagger. "All I see is battlefields/Pushing people to their knees/More to life than struggling/I need to dance, I need relief...just wanna be FREE!" Indeed, while Red Hot's inaugural rousing righteousness may be rooted in clubbing through the AIDS crisis of

the '90s, the message of empowerment is very much relevant three decades later as we continue to shake off our respective shackles.

Goth pop goddess Allie X further ups the ante and mashes up tongue-in-cheek shades of Robyn/Dua Lipa/Spice Girls on the infectious and effervescent all-are-welcome bop, "Super Duper Party People." The stalwart Canadian ally delivers us a pumping house jam in a previously unreleased mix by French electronic maestro, Alan Braxe.

The funky stomp of "Start It Up" from Brooklyn's Body Language deals with the frustration that can occur when starting something new. This exclusive Red Hot extended solidifies the sensual mythos of the band's engaging production with an expressive song demanding to be both seen and heard.

Honoring Red Hot Organization's history with the LGBTQ community, *Red Hot + Free*'s queer representation includes CRICKETS, a supergroup led by JD Samson (Le Tigre), Roddy

Bottum (Faith No More) and Michael O'Neill (MEN) which takes you on an electro-disco euphoria thump while weighing in on "toxic masculinity" with "Elastic (808 BEACH Dangerous Power Mix)." Australian singer/songwriter and producer, Sam Sparro is proud to encourage us to "Break free. Be Free" from the "Pressure" on this urgent RedTop Mix — lifted from his critic's favorite *Boombox Eternal*. Acclaimed artist and musician Casey Spooner (Fischerspooner) grabs the limelight with a bit of sexy and lilting late night disco courtesy of UK duo Boys' Shorts.

Bright Light Bright Light picks up the rallying cry with a fortifying anthem co-written and produced with Scott Hoffman (Scissor Sisters). They get a hefty assist from NYC's-own bon vivants, The Illustrious Blacks, and a prescient proclamation of Sylvia Rivera fighting for our rights on an exclusive Red Hot mix of "These Dreams" (lifted from BLBL's Fun City) that is a shimmering meet up of advocacy and electro pop under the disco ball.

Austrian producer, Dubesque rolls out the techo-influenced, Swarovski-studded red carpet for Amanda Lepore to remind everyone who makes the rules on "Queen." The transgender icon pulls the lyrical receipts on this Danny Ayer collab reminding anyone within ear shot that, "I've been queen longer than you've been alive hunty, My perfume is older than you."

"Nina Simone once proclaimed that an artist's duty is to reflect the times. Our goal with *Red Hot + Free* was to do that in our own little way. Tapping a bit into my DJ and music supervisor lanes, I truly consider this collection a contemporary soundtrack of the times with a decidedly club and dance floor bent." explains Coleman.

Another original selection exclusively produced by Coleman and John "J-C" Carr for *Red Hot + Free* — is a cover of the 1994 Juliet Roberts club classic "Caught in the Middle." This jump off finds Emmy and Tony Award winning Pose star Billy Porter twirling back to the deep-house heyday that provided a foundation for

Red Hot + Free. The real "children" from that era and beyond will catch the double nods to Sylvester with the hi-NRG tempo and to the legendary Jocelyn Brown and Inner Life, with Porter and vocal ensemble ad lib riffing and channeling inspiration from "Caught Up (In a One Night Love Affair)" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." You can almost hear the character Pray Tell leaving his House of love with a trophy of brotherly advice, "Know your history!"

Coleman and Carr's original production of Porter's "Caught in the Middle" was the collaboration which initially jump-started production and concept of this *Red Hot + Free* collection back in 2019. It is just one of the tracks on the project that represents the black queer music movement that umbrellas and influences everything from the basements and pop culture to the runways and festival masses.

"We were super excited to get Billy on board, of course" says Coleman. "We've long admired his work and being able to cover such an

unexpected gem of a tune meant a lot. It's that 90's marker which pulls everything full circle without the burden of being overly nostalgic. Having contributions from those I consider modern heroes and provocateurs keeps the party vibes full tilt in all the best ways."

Our *Red Hot + Free* mixtape effortlessly flows from the death drop realness of Kiwi Dreams' revisited ballroom classic "It's Ovah" and perennial badass on the mic Cakes da Killa & Proper Villains' party startin' rave up "Don Dada" (Honey Dijon and Luke Solomon's Alcazar Remix) to the late night shimmy of celebrated actor and performer, Tituss Burgess' "Dance M.F." (Red Hot Extended Mix). A slinky low tea cool down featuring Imani Coppola reminding us to prance for today because "we never know how much music is left." There's a sense of invigorated freedom here for the queer kids of color.

"When Red Hot started, the multi-hyphenate career options of representation we see for everyone now really were 'these dreams.' Literally

roads not traveled. We're bearing witness to trails being blazed. "That's pretty fucking powerful." says Coleman, who came into his own as "an independent Black queer person in New York" in the late '80s and early '90s juggling numerous hats as journalist, DJ, artist manager, producer, performer, label owner and film music supervisor. "To have that sort of current representation on the album to me was very important."

Vagabon's musical mission to "Break the rules you think you are bound by" captures the kinetic dance energy that fuels *Red Hot + Free*. The triumphant tick of her banger "Water Me Down" with Filipina electronic producer Pamcy is a wonder. The Manila-based remixer lets her beats coddle Laeticia Tamko's vocals in an undeniable and warm bath of a groove. All the while, Utah-bred indie alt-pop quartet, The Aces enlist Brit duo selectors Snakehips to blast their indelible and euphoric "Daydream" into the electro bop rafters.

Red Hot + Free's celebration of one love and triumph are in full force on

the Dombresky remix of "Every Color" by Foster the People and Chicago duo Louis the Child. The call to arms rave up is a psychedelic ode to love and connection repeating a mantra we all need a little bit more of, "I can see every color in you. And I can feel every color in me."

There are two classics on *Red Hot + Free* that reach beyond any dance floor of any era. The Gloria Gaynor disco anthem "I Will Survive" — which will never ever go out of style, no way no how — gets a dubby update from remix master Eric Kupper (of Directors Cut — with the legend Frankie Knuckles). Kupper manages to create an unhurried journey through a song we all know and love with a stellar reimagining that retains the original's message of persistence with a modern feel.

Ultra Naté's timeless "Free" (considered one the best house vocal songs ever) — lives its life all over again in a festive Felix Da Housecat x Chris Trucher version re-recorded by Miss Ultra and produced exclusively for this Red Hot volume. The song's uni-

versal lyrical theme of “You’re Free! To do what you want to do. You got to live your life.” isn’t to be taken for granted. “All of those hopes for a better world still remain,” says Coleman. “Dance, move and shake it off as much as you can, while you still can. It’s cliché to profess, but yep, tomorrow’s still not promised.”

And so remains the mission of The Red Hot Organization — to create global anthems and collaborate with artists for humanitarian charities.

Red Hot founder John Carlin often reminds us, “Red Hot is the only company in the world that wanted to go out of business. 30 years later, we’re still here. Glad about that, but sad that AIDS/HIV awareness, humanitarian and LGBTQ+ rights still need to be fought for.”

This homegrown mixtape travelogue is about lifting spirits and feeding souls. After an extended period of isolation — whether physical, spiritual or mental, *Red Hot + Free* is designed to liberate your mind and body in whatever space that you are — or find yourself in. And as Coleman says, “wherever you wanna drop the needle, that’s where the party begins. playLOUD.” 🍷



DISCO 1

C R E D I T S

"MON CHERI" • Sofi Tukker and Amadou & Mariam

Produced by Sofi Tukker, Amadou & Mariam and Richard Bynon

Written by Amadou Bagayoko, Mariam Doumbia, Sophie Hawley-Weld, Tucker Raymond Halpern, Richard Bynon

Published by Reva Sons (c/o Because Editions), SACEM/Ticolini Music, administered by Third Side Music Publishing, BMI/Tukker Publishing, administered by Third Side America, ASCAP/ Copyright Control, SOCAN

Executive Producers / A&R: Bill Coleman, Béco Dranoff and John Carlin for Red Hot and Peace Bisquit

Production Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos, Justina Heckard, Arantza Benito and Georgia Villar

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"U TRY LIVIN' (PRESSURE)" • Black Guy White Guy x 808 BEACH

Produced, Arranged and Mixed by 808 BEACH (John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman) and Black Guy, White Guy (Kwame Kwaten and Gil Cang)

Featuring Anelisa Lamola

Additional vocals and vocal arrangements by D.A.C.K. a.k.a.

Danny Madden, Audrey Wheeler-Downing, Cindy Mizelle and Keith Anthony Fluitt and Elisabeth Troy

Written by Kwame Kwaten, Gil Cang, John Carr, Bill Coleman and Angelos Skordos

published by Copyright Control (PRS), Copyright Control (PRS), John Carr (PRS), Everyday Is Christmas (BMI), Obey Your Master Music (ASCAP)

Recorded at Gil Cang London Basement Studios;

Bass Hit Studios, NYC by Dave Darlington

Mixed by 808 BEACH (John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman)

Executive Producers/A&R: Kwame Kwaten and Bill Coleman for Ferocious Talent, Peace Bisquit and Red Hot

Production Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

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"ELASTIC" (808 BEACH DANGEROUS POWER MIX) • CRICKETS

(JD Samson, Roddy Bottum and Michael O'Neill)

Produced by CRICKETS

Remix Produced by 808 BEACH (John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman) for Peace Bisquit

Written by JD Samson, Roddy Bottum and Michael O'Neill

Published by Muddguts Records (ASCAP), Lesbotaur Music (BMI), Roddy Bottum Publishing (ASCAP) and Michel McIlvaine Music (ASCAP)

Remix Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

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"START IT UP" (RED HOT EXTENDED) • Body Language

Produced by Body Language

Re-edit by John "J-C" Carr for Peace Bisquit

Written by Matthew Young, Grant Wheeler, Angelica Bess

Published by Angry Mob (BMI)

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"SUPER DUPER PARTY PEOPLE" (ALAN BRAXE EXTENDED MIX) • Allie X

Produced by Oscar Gorres for Wolf Cousins Productions

Remix Produced by Alan Braxe

Written by George Pimentel Alves Bezerra, Oscar Michael Goerres, Oliver Elliot Goldstein, Alexandra Ashley Hughes

Published by Dream Machine Publishing/Prescription Songs/ Kobalt (SOCAN), Wolf Cousins (STIM) / Warner Chappell Music SCAND (STIM), Stranded In The Jungle Music (ASCAP), Ollie G Music/These Are Songs of Pulse (ASCAP)

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"PRESSURE" (REDTOP MIX) • Sam Sparro

Produced by Sam Sparro

Remix Produced by Jens Bergmark (RedTop) for Peace Bisquit

Remix Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

Written by Samuel Falson

Published by Pulse Music Publishing, BMI

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"FREE (LIVE YOUR LIFE)" (FELIX DA HOUSECAT X CHRIS TRUCHER REMIX) • Ultra Naté

Produced by John "J-C" Carr, Danny Madden, Ultra Naté and Bill Coleman

Remix Produced by Felix Da Housecat and Chris Trucher

Remix Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

Written by Ultra Naté, John Ciafone and Lem Springsteen

Published by BMG Rights Management US LLC (ASCAP), Universal Music Publishing Group (ASCAP)

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"CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE" • Billy Porter

Produced and Mixed by 808 BEACH (John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman) for Peace Bisquit

Co-Produced by Danny Madden

Written by Danny Poku and Juliet Roberts

Backing Vocals: Cindy Mizelle, Audrey Wheeler and Keith Fluitt

Additional Arrangements: Vivian Sessoms

Published by BMG Songs, Inc. ASCAP / EMI Music, BMI

Recording Engineer: Dave Darlington at Bass Hit Recording, NYC

Production Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

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"EVERY COLOR (DOMBRESKY REMIX)" • Louis The Child & Foster The People

Remix produced by Dombresky

Written by Mark Derek Foster, Robert David Hauldren, Frederic Kennett

Published by Sony/ATV Music Publishing Allegro (UK) (PRS); Sony/ATV Music Publishing (UK) Limited (PRS)

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DISCO2

CREDITS

"DAYDREAM" (SNAKEHIPS REMIX) • The Aces

Produced by Keith Varon

Remix Produced by Snakehips

Written by Alisa Ramirez, McKenna Petty, Katie Henderson, Cristal Ramirez, Keith Varon, Nick Bailey

Published by Oremgals Publishing (BMI)/Oremgals Publishing (BMI)/Oremgals Publishing (BMI)/ Neighbor Kids Publishing (ASCAP)/Everything Zen/These Are Songs of Pulse (ASCAP)/Poptimistic Music/Where Da Kasz At (BMI)

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"DON DADA" • Cakes da Killa & Proper Villains (Honey Dijon & Luke Solomon Extended Alcazar Remix)

Produced by Proper Villains

Remix & Additional Production by Honey Dijon & Luke Solomon

Mixed by Lance Desardi for Builders of Paradise

Written by Cakes Da Killa and Proper Villains

Published by Defected Music & Terrorbird Publishing

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"IT'S OVAH" (KIWI DREAMS 2020 MIX) • Kiwi Dreams ft. Darrell Martin and Omri Anghel

Produced by Darrell Martin and Omri Anghel

Written by Darrell Martin and Omri Anghel

Published by Martin and Peterson Music Publishing (ASCAP) / Hard Tribal Publishing (ASCAP)

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"DANCE M.F." (RED HOT EXTENDED MIX) • Tituss Burgess ft. Imani Coppola

Produced by Dan Edinberg, Michael Mangini and Tituss Burgess

Remix Produced by 808 BEACH - John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman

Remix Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

Written by Tituss Burgess, Imani Coppola, Dan Edinberg

Published by Tituss Ink Inc (ASCAP), Coppola Imani Francesca (BMI), Daniel Edinberg (BMI)

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"WATER ME DOWN" (PAMCY REMIX) • Vagabon

Produced by Laetitia Tamko

Remix Produced by Pamcy

Written by Laetitia Tamko, Eric Littmann

Published by Copyright Control (ASCAP), Eric Littmann Publishing Designee

Participants: Laetitia Tamko (synthesizers, drums, vocals) Eric Littmann (synthesizers, drums) Oliver Hill (violin)

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"I LOVE MY PROBLEMS" (BOYS' SHORTS DANCEFLOOR REMIX) • Casey Spooner

Produced by Casey Spooner and Julian Stetter

Remix Produced and mixed by Boys' Shorts (Tareq & Vangelis R.)

Written by Casey Spooner, Julian Stetter and Evan Hughes

Published by The Rio de Janeiro Institute for Beauty and Drama, ASCAP

Additional vocals by Evan Hughes

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"I WILL SURVIVE" (ERIC KUPPER DUB MIX) • Gloria Gaynor

Produced by Eric Kupper

Remix Produced by Eric Kupper

Written by Dino George Fekaris and Frederick J Perren

Published by Perren-Vibes Music Inc (ASCAP), Universal Polygram
International Publishing Inc (ASCAP)

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"QUEEN" (CLUB MIX) • Dubesque ft. Amanda Lepore

Produced by Dubesque and Danny Ayer

Written by Philipp Mair Vargas, Danny Ayer, Michael Banks, Amanda Lepore,
Bill Coleman, Angelos Skordos

Published by Copyright Control / Ayer Music / Incognito Street Music c/o Secret Road
Music Publishing Inc., BMI / Songs by Aenon, BMI / Amanda Lepore Publishing, BMI /
Everyday Is Christmas, BMI / Obey Your Master Music, ASCAP

Executive Producers / A&R: Philipp Mair Vargas and Bill Coleman for Peace Bisquit

A&R Coordination: Michele Ruiz and Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

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**"THESE DREAMS" (RED HOT EXTENDED MIX) • Bright Light Bright Light
feat. The Illustrious Blacks**

Produced by Rod Thomas and Scott Hoffman with John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman

Mixed by BLBL and 808 BEACH (John "J-C" Carr and Bill Coleman)

Written by Rod Thomas and Scott Hoffman

Published by Mute Song / Kobalt (PRS)

Production Coordination: Angelo "Pepe" Skordos

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