

By Stephanie King

I don't drive, but if I did, it would be purely so I could motor around with the windows down on the hottest, stickiest day of the year, the bass ramped up to its maximum, pumping out this powerhouse of a - yes, I'm going to use it - choon.

Opening with a pounding beat and rhythmic handclaps à la Lil Mama's <u>Lip Gloss</u>, <u>Dominique</u> Young Unique

announces her presence with a drawling Hello world, it's ma world, y'know

. This irresistible anthem for the super-talented and disgustingly young (she's 18) Dominique sounds capable of conquering it.

She delivers her lines with machine-gun speed and tough enunciation as a <u>James Brown</u>-style guitar lick ripples through the beginning, a cheeky counterpoint to her playful bad-girl-on-helium vocals. In the first third of the song, the stomping hand claps give way to a crackly breakdown and a combination of both muffled and razor-sharp beats. Matched by her expertly controlled rapping,

Show My Ass

comes off as a confident, well-produced example of virtuoso MCing, but perhaps nothing special.

But instead of sticking with this tried, tested and quite tired formula, the song slides into a trippy break of ultra-feminine sighs, before launching into something altogether gutsier. Sticking with the same rap, the song undergoes a series of refreshing changes to its backing track, as the handclapping shifts to a bass-heavy club beat, like Snap's <u>The Power</u> on amphetamines, overlaid with breathy girly vocals.

The song accelerates into hyper-drive as a 90s dance beat takes over with all the high energy euphoria of <u>C & Amp; C Music Factory</u> with a shot of <u>Salt-N-Pepa's</u> hard sexiness. This build-up is pulled back to the grubbier bass-driven beats, pushing each syllable of Dominique's rap to its limit. As a maniacal

Buggles

- -esque new wave sample drives her chant of I'm doing this right
- , the song leaps into a frenzied celebration.

Throughout, Dominique fires out her relentless rap, each change in backing accentuating different stresses and phrasing in her confident, perfectly timed performance. Finishing with a single, dynamic vocal, her brassy, elongated vowels stretch out into the perfect urban battle cry.

Dominique Young Unique is an irrepressible MC with bags of personality and talent. Produced by <u>Yo Majesty's</u> David Alexander, the track shares some of their street-smart vocals and quirky samples, but none of their harshness. A playful and irreverent rap of the highest order, Show My Ass is dynamic, creative and above all, very, very fun.