

REVIEWS

QUEEN LATIFAH: THE DANA OWENS ALBUM

Deborah Magdalena



She stands with the same cool regal attitude today as she did back in the day. Except instead of wearing African inspired suits and tower hats, she's really a *Lady First* in a sexy red pantsuit and white fedora hat singing on the "Today" show.

Perhaps I'm not the best person to review Queen Latifah's new CD, *The Dana Owens Album*, since I've always been a huge fan. Even my 74 year old diva mother has always liked her regardless of the fact that she never really understood her rhythms – but now, with *The Dana Owens Album* she does.

My mom and I sat in her living room, sipping a glass of Chardonnay, eating Gouda cheese, while we listened to Latifah's covers of old standards. With her legs crossed, my mom bounced her head gracefully to Latifah's cover of King Pleasure's *Moody's Mood for Love*, the same way I bounced my head when I heard *U.N.I.T.Y.* for the first time. She smirked at Latifah's scatting on the funk vibe song *Hard Times* (a Dr. Buzzard's Original Savannah Band tune) the same way I smirked when I heard Ladies Fresh's human beat box. Listening to *The Dana Owens Album*, we were both ageless and transgenerational.

With this release, Latifah eloquently reminds us that jazz and poetry are the parents of hip-hop. We can see the evolution of the music, but also see the evolution of the rapper Queen Latifah and the singer Dana Owens.

Do you love true hip-hop? True poetry? Live jazz? Then you will love *The Dana Owens Album*. If Lil Jon is the only hip-hop you know then maybe you should skip it. YEAH!

[Buy The Dana Owens Album from iTunes](#)