A palm tree

Description automatically generated Maxinquaye

Tricky



A dusty, burdening pulse echoes through this record. Tricky blends clunky Jamaican instrumental with a raw and painfully honest narrative from Martina Topley-Bird soothing the jagged beats. Tricky’s abrasive childhood and resonates through the dark undertones of songs like “Strugglin’” and “Brand New You’re Retro”, a menacing and highly distorted muttering is partnered with a bone-rattling bassline; distinctive of the early 1990s trip-hop scene. The iconic Isaac Hayes “Ike’s Rap II” sample is used masterfully by Tricky in the ground-breaking “Hell is Just Around the Corner” where Tricky delivers cryptic wordplay in an almost cocky tone, reinforcing his control over his rhythm. This sample was also used by Portishead in their song “Glory Box” from “Dummy”, another artist who revolutionised the grungy 90s hip-hop scene in the UK. Maxinquaye is a melancholic, yet violent project that is an undeniable turning point in UK music history and Tricky will remain one of the most influential, chaotic artists in trip-hop.

*8.7/10*