



SPEECH

Hoopla (Mushroom)

Former frontman of Arrested Development, Speech has grooved out his second solo album, a vibey, easy to digest hip hop driven work, that is at

once smooth and peppy. Reggae inspires quite a few tracks, in particular *The Hey Song*, which hears Bob Marley's *Redemption Song* flipped around a little and Four Non Blondes' *What's Up* making several appearances in chorus.

Lyrics on *Hoopla* have that fresh, hyped energy for those who just want to enjoy a little positive music in an era when noir rules the airwaves. "Which music station's got the guts to play positive stuff?" asks Speech in one of the more succinct clap-happy tracks featured here. It's a rhetoric that ought to get indie radio jockeys onto their programmers quicksmart. Or maybe not.

Ruby Boukabou