

### **It Takes a Nation: The First London Invasion Tour 1987**

Public Enemy live DVD Available now from Cornerstone R. a. S. When Public Enemy bum- rushed the gates of popular music in the late ' 80s, few were prepared for the bombastic alarm- bell of raw chaos the group blasted out, a furious geyser of pent- up frustration wrapped around a message of radical social change. Fewer still were prepared to deal with Chuck D's thoughtful — if pointed — political messages, which understandably caused anybody with half a brain in the Reagan- era establishment to fear for his gated community.

Twenty years later, with the never- ending parade of wanna- be gangstas both white and black shouting bold- sounding yet chickenshit hosannas to nothing more revolutionary than getting their own

blingly piece of the establishment pie, it's hard to imagine what PE might have sounded like to a youngster in 1987. Shot on the first Def Jam tour of Europe between the releases of

*Yo! Bum Rush the Show*

and

*It Takes A Nation Of Millions To Hold Us Back*

, this video provides a snapshot of that raw power, the sheer force of the group's fearlessness. When Chuck D shouts, " The revolution will not be televised" to a shrieking crowd of London youth, over the klaxon sound of sirens and Terminator X's beats, you

*believe*

that a revolution really is imminent.

A video worth seeing to this day, featuring songs like " Bring The Noise," and of course, " Public Enemy Number One,"

*It Takes A Nation*

is quite simply spine- tingling, no matter which side of the gates you reside on.

– Kurt Brighton

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