

E=MC2 BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE LIVE

" Too often overshadowed by the posthumous canonisation of Joe Strummer, Mick Jones' contribution to popular music in the decade following the demise of *The Clash* arguably outweighs that of his old partner. In the early 90's, while Joe Strummer, lazily referred to in revisionist journalism as the 'genius behind *The Clash*,' was barely scraping the charts with his failed *Latino Rockabilly War* project, *Big Audio Dynamite* were touring the US with *U2* and *Public Enemy*, two of the biggest and most politically minded acts of the last century (both heavily indebted to *The Clash*). Indeed, if asked to place *BAD* in pop history, it is between *U2* and *Public Enemy* that the band sits most comfortably.

Capturing the band in their second incarnation, 'E=MC2,' from Cherry Red Records, sees the dance-rock outfit touring their album 'The Globe.' Despite the departure of several founding members, the new line-up performs a tight set, which successfully mixes live elements with triggered samples. Highlights include 'The Globe's,' lead single 'Rush,' (5 whole minutes of rock's most inspired two-chord guitar playing since *The Talking Heads*' 'Road to Nowhere,') 'Medicine Show,' (a dance-based number that recalls Jones' own 'Should I Stay Or Should I Go,') and *BAD*'s semi-ironic cover of Prince's 1999.

With the tragic death of guitarist Nick Hawkins, a year ago last October, and Mick Jones seemingly turning his back on dance and hip-hop with the, more or less, straight-up rock band *Carbon Silicon* and his production work with everyone's favourite cliché of the moment Pete Doherty, it is honest to declare Big Audio Dynamite (very sadly) dead. Thanks to Cherry Red's new release, however, we don't have to bury them yet."

By James Harker at www.theclash.org.uk