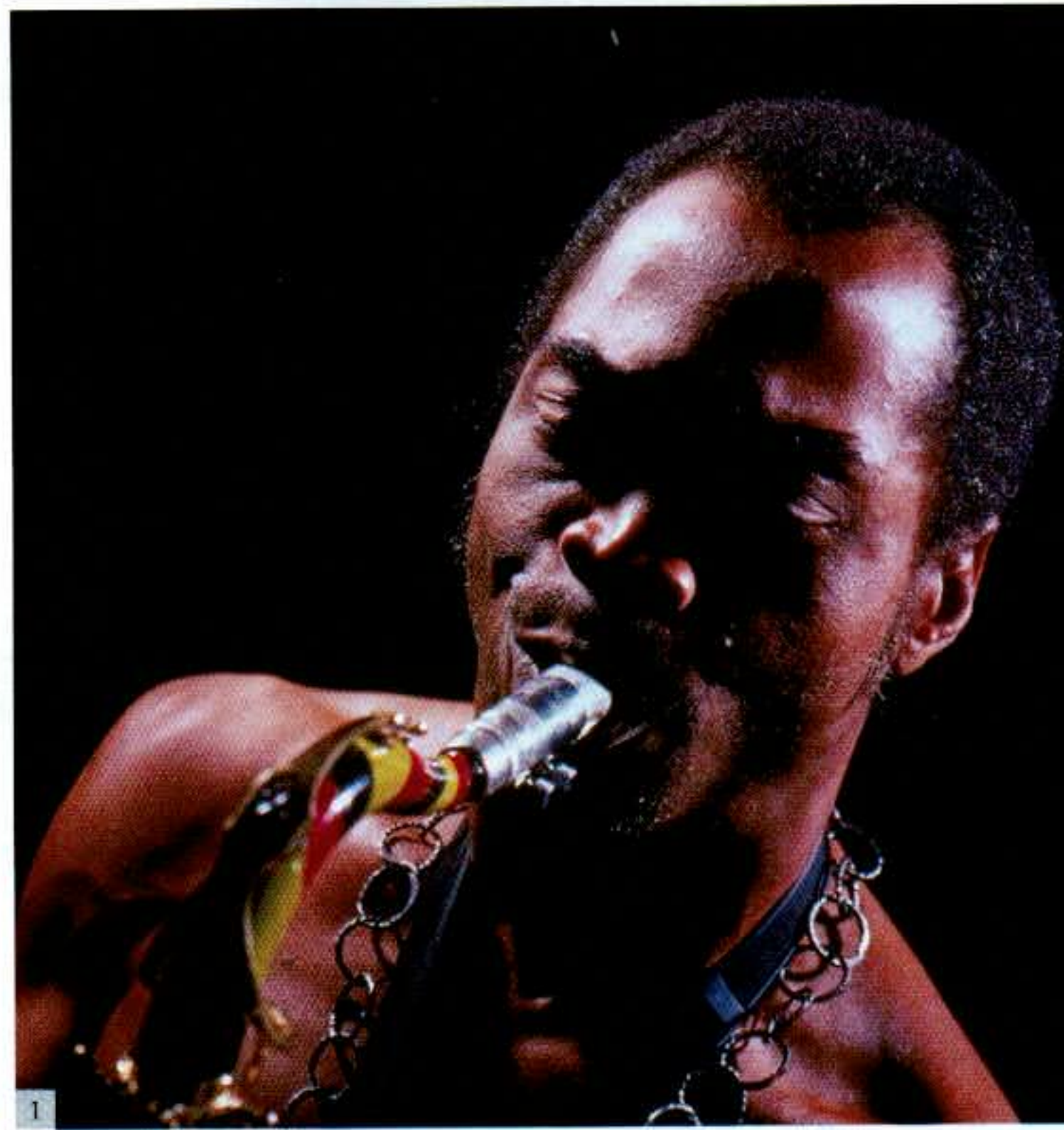
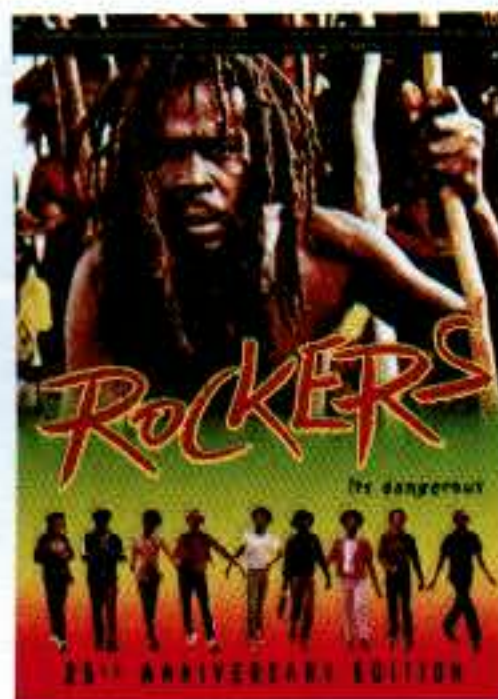
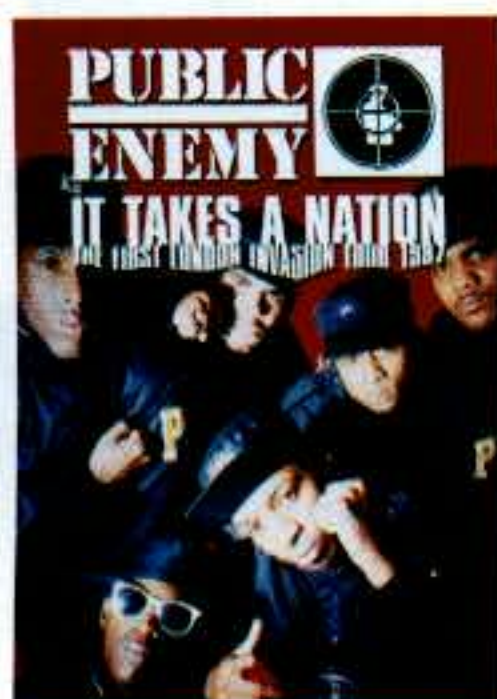


DVD ROUND-UP: BLACK MAGIC

Hip-hop, reggae, and Afrobeat masters are revealed with the DVD release of three classic music movies.



1. Fela Kuti from *Music is the Weapon*; 2. Jacob Miller from *Rockers*; 3. Public Enemy performance from *It Takes a Nation*

BOMBING BRITAIN

In 1987, Public Enemy was on its way to becoming the most important hip-hop group on the planet. *It Takes a Nation—The First London Invasion Tour 1987* (Slam Media, \$16.95) depicts PE's ascendance through footage from their first UK invasion. PE commandeered the cavernous Hammersmith Odeon for a three-day run in early November, pounding out highlight tracks from *Yo! Bum Rush the Show* and the upcoming *Nation of Millions* with astounding power and laser-guided focus. Candid press conference footage shows Chuck D at his most polemic and reveals a mostly sober Flavor Flav. Not suprisingly, Flav is a magnet for the camera, but along with Terminator X, Professor Griff, and the S1W, the entire group brings the noise that would soon be heard around the world.

Jonathan Zwickel
www.slamjamz.com

RASTA REDUX

The acting in *Rockers: 25th Anniversary Edition* (Music Video Distributors, \$14.95) might give the impression the cast did a few extra takes of the smoking scenes—then again, this colorful and righteous reggae revenge story doesn't aim for high drama. Shot in Jamaica, *Rockers* showcases the real sights and sounds of the island, swimming in slang so thick the film is subtitled. The exceptional soundtrack and scores of cameos by reggae legends are only enhanced by the anniversary edition's DVD extras, including an interactive slang gallery and music videos. All in all, this is a tightly packed reggae joint. *Patrick Sisson*

mvd2b.com

THE ARMAMENT OF AFRICA

The reason Nigerian Afrobeat star Fela Kuti never hit it big in America during his lifetime is because once he recorded a song he never again performed it live. But eight years after his death, Kuti's legacy is global. For those just tuning in, *Music is the Weapon* (Wrasse, \$34.98) follows Kuti and crew from the Kalkuta Republic compound to The Shrine, the club where he honed his sound. Interspersing candid stage interviews with phenomenal live footage—adding a documentary-style approach to Kuti's courage, politics and feminine passions (he married 27 women in one ceremony)—*Music is* Lagos unrestricted, bare and pure. Packaged with a two-CD set of his hits, this is a weapon in itself. *Derek Beres*

www.wrasserecords.com