



Common Enemy - Living The Dream?



[Craley](#) ([43](#) reviews)

Posted: 03/28/2010

Staff Rating: (3.00/5)

Reading, Pennsylvania's Common Enemy have been around for quite a long time, twelve years to be exact. The band has gone through multiple line-up changes, including three different singers. They have toured all over the Midwest, East Coast and Europe. Now, after a bunch of releases; four splits, two full lengths and one EP (if I counted right), the band brings us "Living The Dream?". I have seen Common Enemy on shows for years, but never really took much interest in them. At some point I picked up their split with Eyes Of Hate titled "Circle Pit Split", but still wasn't very impressed. "Living The Dream?" makes me want to check out more of their past material.

Common Enemy play fast, snotty and fun. It's light-hearted hardcore punk with topics ranging from skateboarding, partying, horror movies, life and personal politics. Songs like "Still Having Fun", "Beer Bong", "Thrash House Party", and "Party Harder" pretty well outline what this band is about. The lyrical content reminds me of Gang Green while the speed and style sounds somewhat similar to Outbreak on their album "You Make Us Sick". Gary Critical's vocals are higher pitched nasally yells that fit well with the pace of the band. At twenty tracks, it comes as no surprise that the songs are very short. While some are too short to be memorable, others manage to stick out with each listen. There is even a cool and somewhat surprising guest vocals of Jason Navarro from Suicide Machines/Hellmouth.

This really was a pleasant surprise for me. I had assumed I had heard enough of Common Enemy to make an easy opinion on this, but they are better than I thought. It still isn't anything ground breaking or incredible, but it is a nice change of pace. Playing hardcore and punk for the sake of having fun seems to have disappeared in recent years. Common Enemy has managed to stick do it and after twelve years are still writing solid yet simple material. I will definitely be paying much more attention to them next time they play in my area.