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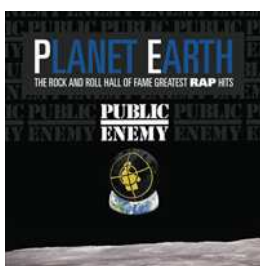
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Public Enemy - 'Planet Earth: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Greatest Rap Hits' (Wienerworld)



CD Reviews
Written by Gaz E
Monday, 22 April 2013 03:40

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Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and releasing this tie-in compilation several days later - a Record Store Day twelve inch vinyl edition squeezed in between - resulted in a busy ol' time for Public Enemy. Add to that heady mix more than a dash of controversy and I guess you have a yet another typically frenetic period in the timelines of Chuck D, Flavor Flav et al.

That Hall of Fame induction last week as the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles didn't come without its naysayers: should rap artists - disco even as Donna Summer was also a 2013 inductee - be allowed to (hip) hop onto the rock 'n' roll plaudit parade when they have their very own awards ceremonies that

could hardly be described as a two-way street? It's an argument for which the only answer is, like it or not, Public Enemy's name on the inductee list.

The Sex Pistols might have snubbed their invitation to attend after being inducted in 2006, calling the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum a "piss stain," but the importance of a politically-charged rap outfit like Public Enemy being inducted should not be diluted and, c'mon, if Run DMC and The Beastie Boys are in there then Public Enemy should be too, right?

At a time when bands' lyrics sounded no different to your local town's weekend warriors or the token sexist typical male's Sunday morning kiss and tell bullshit, outfits like Public Enemy spoke to people like myself - thinkers, readers, the disenfranchised - and made them way more rock 'n' roll in my eyes, more punk rock than the identikit London postcard-adorned plastic punks with their strict uniform guidelines. And this without even mentioning the collaborations with Anthrax, the sampling of Slayer: that song, 'She Watch Channel Zero?!' (from 1988's sophomore album 'It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back') would even influence, in name form, the lo-fi zine that would start me on this writing crusade. Not influential enough for ya? Get the Fuck Outta Dodge.

Controversy, also, comes hand in hand with compilations, Best Of's, Greatest Hits, and the like, accusations of cash-ins thrown around like molotov cocktails. While aimed at the folk looking to check out Public Enemy in the wake of the Hall of Fame induction 'Planet Earth', as explained by Chuck D on the inner cover of this compilation's worthwhile digipack release, is also the first collection from the band since it went independent in 1998, giving welcome exposure to some of the band's newer material which may have passed under the radar without the backing of a major label: this special limited release featuring two extra songs, 'I Shall Not Be Moved' and 'Everything', taken from the 2012 pair of critically acclaimed albums, 'Most Of My Heroes Still Don't Appear On No Stamp' and 'The Evil Empire of Everything' respectively.

There's also variant of 'Harder Than You Think' - the London Radio Edit - as a bonus on 'Planet Earth', the song itself (also included on this fifteen track album) providing the band with its highest charting single release ever - peaking at Number 4 in the UK - when it was featured in the London 2012 Paralympics campaign.

There'll be controversy in some quarters over the digital re-recording that litters the record, remastered too, though it's arguable that it matters less when concerning a band so in league with the remix.

With an entertaining booklet detailing the history of the band, and featuring a slew of Public Enemy magazine cover reproductions, 'Planet Earth' is a worthy addition to any record collection lacking in the band's material, and an above average introduction for those unknowledgeable on the musical subject at hand, hopefully providing a stepping stone, being a gateway drug, to the seminal albums from this most important of collectives. 'Planet Earth' is deserving of attention, but not an essential purchase from one of the most essential of bands.

<http://www.publicenemy.com/>

[To pick up your copy of 'Planet Earth- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame' - CLICK HERE](#)

