

PUBLIC ENEMY– Planet Earth: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Greatest Rap Hits (MVD Audio)

Best-of collection for one of hip-hop's greatest acts



JM: I'm not going to wade into the debate of whether or not Public Enemy actually belongs in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (they do). But

their recent induction is obviously the impetus behind this new collection of re-mastered hits. And if it took a Hall of Fame induction to get these songs on vinyl again? Well, hell, it was worth it.

Yes, it's frustrating that only 11 songs from their expansive catalogue are represented here, and that it largely ignores their revolutionary first two albums (what, no love for the groundbreaking *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*?). But there is not a single track on this record that doesn't deserve to be here. From the stellar opener, "Welcome to the Terrordome," to the triumphant "Fight the Power," there is no filler at all on this album.

Lyricaly, the band could not be touched, deftly rapping about politics and social issues, and coming out with some of the most original samples of their era. At a time when the genre seems to focus way too much on shout outs to luxury brands, a song like "By the Time I get to Arizona"– still remarkably relevant even now, decades later– rings out like a clarion call for progressive action.

Though it may have its faults, Planet Earth is still a superb celebration of one of the most important bands to come out of the '90s... in any genre.