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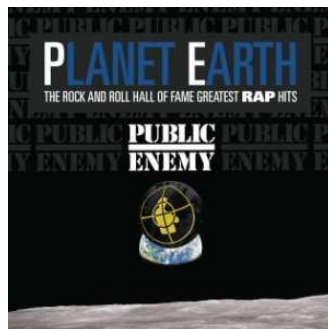
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Public Enemy – Planet Earth: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Greatest Rap Hits

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Genre: HIP-HOP / RAP

Considering their influence and impact, it is surprising that Public Enemy have only just been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Back at their height in the late 1980s, the media swirled around the infamous rap crew, with the establishment seemingly scared of their highly political hip-hop missives. This was in a time before [gangsta rap](#) had really taken hold of the world, and the Black Power rhymes of Public Enemy's

Chuck D, as well as other acts, really hit a nerve on both sides of the color line.

Never afraid to speak truth to power, Public Enemy found themselves falling out of favor as the 1990s progressed, yet rather than falling back and accepting the role of one-time veterans, they continued to release music, moving from [Def Jam](#) Recordings to eventually put out their own music. With such a long career, and so many classic tracks, the problem with a Public Enemy greatest hits release is, just what do you leave out?

Notably absent from this 15-track selection, for example, is 'Don't Believe The Hype,' a genuine classic from P.E. However, there are plenty of vintage moments here, as well as some newer classics, including 'Harder Than You Think' from 2007's 'How You Sell Soul To A Soulless People Who Sold Their Soul???' Elsewhere, this album steps right up to date with 2012's 'I Shall Not Be Moved' and '...Everything,' but as expected most of the real heat comes courtesy of their earlier work.

This collection opens with 'Welcome To The Terrordome,' before moving through fellow early 90s classics, 'Can't Truss It,' '911 Is A Joke,' and 'Shut Em Down.' 'Fight The Power' follows as Chuck D and Flavor Flav trade lines and make the most of their different deliveries and vocal cadence, Chuck playing the elder statesman to Flav's energetic hype-man. Next up, 1994's widely overlooked album, 'Muse Sick-N-Hour Message' gets a look-in with 'Give It Up.'

'By The Time I Get To Arizona' still hits with the same power it did back in 1991, while, surprisingly, the only track included from their widely regarded classic album, 'It Takes A Nation Of Millions To Hold Us Back,' is the superb 'Louder Than A Bomb.' Although Chuck has widely said that they felt delays in releasing their debut album left much of it sounding out-dated in the fast-moving golden-era hip-hop climate, the classic 'Public Enemy No. 1' is certainly strong enough to stand against the competition today, just as it did in '87. 'Shut 'Em Down' (like 'Harder Than You Think') makes a return remix appearance, as Pete Rock's classic reworking gets a showcase on this collection.

While this collection certainly has a few notable exclusions, the set-list is still a very solid one for fans of Public Enemy. With so many classic tracks under their belts, this album could easily have spread across two or three discs. As it stands, this selection offers a solid look at Public Enemy over the years, making it ideal for those fans who want a snap-shot of the influential hip-hop act, or even want to get up-to-speed with the work of this legendary act.



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