



Chuck D

Biography

As leader and co-founder of legendary rap group Public Enemy, Chuck D redefined rap music and Hip Hop culture with the release of PE's explosive debut album, *Yo Bum Rush The Show*, in 1987. His messages addressed weighty issues about race, rage and inequality with a jolting combination of intelligence and eloquence never seen before. The group's subsequent seven albums were released over the next thirteen years, all meeting with critical acclaim from publications as disparate as *Time* and *The Source*, and worldwide sales in the millions. At the close of 1999, *The New York Times* named Public Enemy's music to their list of the "25 Most Significant Albums of the Last Century."

The numbers that reflect their extraordinary career are staggering. The band has embarked on over thirty-five tours, performing over 1400 concerts to fans in fifty-two countries. Three albums are certified multi-platinum; three more are gold with four gold singles and a platinum-selling home video.

The critical and commercial success of Public Enemy opened the doors for Chuck to deliver his message through a number of different mediums, extending his reach to all segments of the population. He has hosted his own segment on the Fox News Channel and published a best-selling autobiography, *Fight The Power*. He is a highly-sought after speaker on the college lecture circuit (lecturing at universities ranging from Harvard to Howard), is a prominent member of music industry non-profit organizations MusicCares and Rock The Vote (which honored him with the Patrick Lippert Award in 1996 for his contributions to community service) and started the record label SlamJamz. He served as national spokesperson for Rock The Vote, the National Urban League and the National Alliance of African American Athletes, and appeared in public service announcements for HBO's campaign for national peace and the Partnership for the Drug Free America. He is also a regular guest on numerous television shows including *Nightline*, *Politically Incorrect* and CNN.

Most recently, the media has anointed Chuck as the spokesperson and major proponent of music on the Internet. In September 1999, he launched Rapstation.com. The site boasts a TV and radio station with original programming, a slew of Hip Hop's most prominent DJs, celebrity interviews, free MP3 downloads, social commentary, current events, and regular features dedicated to empowering rap artists with the knowledge to turn their craft into a viable living.

Chuck has also launched a radio station on the Internet, Bringthenoise.com, and in a landmark move, made Public Enemy the first multi-platinum selling act to release their album via the Web before it was available in retail stores. He challenged and expanded the traditional methods of retail distribution, arranging for the album to also be the first-ever to be released on a Zip disk. Chuck's involvement in the Internet has landed him on the cover of *The Net*, *Wired*, *Bomb* and *Yahoo Internet Life* magazines, and he was the guest editor of the 1999 year-end issue of *Red Herring*, one of the tech industry's leading business magazines. He has also been a guest contributor to *Time* magazine. His outspoken advocacy of the Web has also been profiled in *Forbes*, *Time*, *USA Today* and *The Industry Standard*, and he was named to *Upside* magazine's "Elite 100" list of Internet leaders, alongside the likes of Bill Gates and Steve Jobs.