



## LYRICIST LOUNGE 2

Rawkus

A bangin' album through and through, Lyricist Lounge delivers lyrically endowed joints with phat beasts to boot. The Lyricist Lounge had originally been a studio apartment in NYC but got shut down by the boys in blue. They then went mobile and have since become a

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it's wet, so leave your kid

of the Art." The few problems I have with this album are niggardly and do not, in the end, take away from the entirety of the project. I like parts of all the songs, and I am sure this album will lead nicely to their next record. The production problem with *Neutrinos*, as I see it (I have never produced or made a record) is that the band's flavor live, that of a quasi-lounge act rock party

band, is lost in the muddy layers of production. Principally Dennis Ellsworth's fine voice sounds a little muted. But again these are only small ticks on what is, in the end, a good dog.

-KJB

## CAPONE-N-NOREAGA

*The Reunion*

Sammy Boy

...all a solid effort by the Queens team that are back together. ...ted because Capone had to go to jail to serve time (ironically it was there that the duo met ...med up) C-N-N are both ...on wax again. One of the surprises of this album was ...ty of the beats, half of ...comes courtesy of the ...t, DJ Premier and Mobb ...avoc. Some of the guests ...Reunion are none other ...etown homeboys Mobb ...Nas with Foxy Brown on ...nt. Capone and Nore do ...e same old bullshit that ...rs talk about nowadays ...so manage to talk about ...heartfelt issues that put ...n above the average thug

-JMAMA

## RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

*Renegades*

EPIC



I have thought for a long time that Rage Against the Machine were the best and most important band (if a band can be important) we had in our time. That band is no more, and the above is only mentioned because, well, I am biassed in favour of liking this record. However, that has nothing to do with the record company.

In fact, I recommend, as the band does, you skip buying the CD and head to Napster or some other free music outlet and download this, their co da cover album, right away.

Napster users who downloaded copies were kicked off by the service only to have the band champion their reinstatement. The band does not want money going to their label if it is not necessary.

Say what you will of them, and their appearances on network television and their videos made by Michael Moore, who is an important voice on the left (is there a left anymore by the way?) but also a shameless fame whore (*The Cadre* will be in *Adbusters* sometime in the future by the way), but they have at least the appearance of

higher intentions than making it big as rock stars.

Zack De La Rocha, the lead singer leaving the band after this their final album in their current incarnation, spends a great deal of time in Chiapas, with the indigenous farmer and the Zapatista army, and though you might question his politics, or his comrades, you cannot doubt he is the finest of the rock/rap front men, and clearly has the most to say.

On *Renegades* the band embraces 12 of their favorite songs.

The album kicks off with Eric B. and Rakim's "Microphone Fiend," which is also free on Napster, and, in its original form may be the best rap song of all time, which they do properly, although it is no where near the quality of the original. "E-F-F-E-C-T. Smooth operators operating correctly" (Eric B. and Rakim may be the most underrated hip hop act of all time, by the way, just for superlative sake).

It gets better from there, Bob Dylan's "Maggie's Farm" gets new life, as does Bruce Springsteen's "The Ghost of Tom Joad." Cypress Hill's "How I Could Just Kill a Man" and the Rolling Stones's "Street Fighting Man" are admittedly just Rage versions of the originals, but then what else would they be. Stupid.

So, in closing I want to restate, clearly, that I would avoid buying this album, mostly because that is what the band suggests and I would download the files on Napster. Then, it is my further advice that you go buy their back catalogue used at an independent record store.

-KJB