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ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME



GARY MILLER/FILMMAGIC

GEDDY LEE and his Rush bandmates will be inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame in Los Angeles in April, to the joy of fans.

Rush right in

The long-snubbed prog-rock trio finally makes the cut, with the help of fans

By **RANDY LEWIS**

Check the thermostat in hell — it appears to have dropped below 32 degrees. Proof? Long-snubbed Canadian progressive-rock trio Rush will at long last be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Rush's absence from the Rock Hall year in and year out has spurred more complaints from fans than any other uninducted act, but its followers can now change their jeers to cheers.

Rush and the other new inductees — Randy Newman, Public Enemy, Donna Summer, Heart and Albert King — will be welcomed into the Rock Hall on April 18 in a ceremony that will take place for the first time in Los Angeles at the Nokia Theatre.

"The three of us are especially appreciative of our loyal fans whose support and dedication has gone a long way to making this possible," Rush said in a statement. "P.S. And special thanks to our moms for voting 6,000 times!"

Many hip-hop fans expressed a similar sense of exhilaration at the induction of Public Enemy, the New York crew that "rewrote the rules of hip-hop, becoming the most influential and controversial rap group of the late '80s and, for many, the definitive rap group of all time," according to AllMusic.com.

Public Enemy's lead rapper, Chuck D., sent out a tweet Tuesday saying, "We are seriously thankful and share this achievement with our Hip-Hop and rap music idiom."



RICK LOOMIS/LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

HIP-HOP act Public Enemy, including Flavor Flav, top, is among the 2013 inductees to the Rock Hall, as is singer-songwriter and film composer Randy Newman, above.

Honorees who attended the Rock Hall news conference Tuesday at the Nokia Theatre were equally as thankful.

"Finally — it's only been 27 years," veteran producer and composer Quincy Jones said with a wry smile, referring to the length of time since the Rock Hall was created and how long he's been eligible for induction. "Maybe I'm old enough to be in now," the 79-year-old musician quipped after Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist Flea and Rock Hall Foundation President and Chief Executive Joel Peresman unveiled the inductees' names.

Jones is one of two 2013 recipients of the Ahmet Ertegun Award, named for the Atlantic Records co-founder who also was a driving force behind the creation of the Rock Hall. The other is longtime music industry executive Lou Adler, one of the originators of the Monterey Pop Festival, the founder of Ode Records and producer of hits for the Mamas & the Papas, Carole King and numerous other artists.

"A lot of the emails I've been getting are saying, 'Finally — and finally in California,'" Adler, 78, said, referring to the decision to bring the ceremony to L.A.

Heart founders and sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson expressed their feeling of "win- [See Rock Hall, D14]

Judging rock 'n' roll

Selecting inductees is an honorable but futile endeavor, writes pop music critic Randall Roberts. **D14**

Rush, Public Enemy among inductees

[Rock Hall, from D1]
"decision" in being welcomed into the Rock Hall. "We think we deserve it," Nancy said with a smile, "so we're happy to be here."

Ann Wilson said she tends to focus more on projects that are immediately in front of her rather than ruminating on the past and Heart's legacy. But she expressed satisfaction over the recognition of Heart's pioneering role as a hard-rock band fronted by two women. She said she was especially pleased to be entering the Rock Hall alongside Black and Newman.

"Years ago, when I was nominated the first time, I thought I might get in, but I didn't," singer-songwriter and film composer Newman

said Tuesday. "Then I thought I probably wouldn't because I didn't hear anything about it ever. I'm very glad I did."

Newman's name, along with those of singer-songwriter Laura Nyro and countless hip-hop acts, comes up often among critics who say they don't belong in an institution dedicated to rock 'n' roll.

"I never understood people being that strict and doctrinaire about music, of all things," said Newman. "There's tremendous snobbery, [but] it doesn't make any sense to me and never did. I always thought what I did was rock 'n' roll."

Rush had been the top vote getter in a new move this year in which hall offi-

cials allowed the public to weigh in on who ought to be inducted. But that was a largely ceremonial function, because the public's choices resulted in just a single ballot in favor of each of the six top vote-getters, then those six were tallied along with more than 500 other ballots from Rock Hall voting members. Came in point: The public's No. 2 choice, Deep Purple, was not inducted.

Rush fans will have to cede their annual cries that "The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has no credibility until Rush is inducted" to followers of Deep Purple, Jethro Tull, Yes, REO Speedwagon and the Moody Blues, who also typically decry the hall's choices every year that those bands fall short of induction.

"The thing you really appreciate about the fans is their passion — how angry they get when their act didn't get in," Peresman said. "I think if certain acts weren't to get in people would be storming the walls of [the Rock Hall's headquarters] in Cleveland, and that's great. You want that passion."

Acts that made the final ballot but did not make the cut for induction this year were the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Chic, Deep Purple, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Kraftwerk, the Marvellettes, the Meters, Procol Harum and N.W.A.

Elton John, whose vocal campaign to get Leon Russell inducted was successful two years ago, also spoke out

forcefully in favor of Summer's induction, calling her omission "a total disgrace" after she died in May. Even the hall's nominating committee chairman, Jon Landau, described Summer's absence from the hall as "an error" on the part of voters.

Summer's family inadvertently leaked the word of her induction in a congratulatory tweet sent Monday night from London, sent prematurely because they miscalculated the time difference between London and Los Angeles.

The induction dinner and concert will become an HBO special set to run May 18, Peresman noted.

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