The Clash - Hits Back (2013)



CD1: 01 – London Calling 02 – Safe European Home 03 – Know Your Rights 04 – (White Man) In Hammersmith Palais 05 – Janie Jones 06 – The Guns of Brixtion 07 – Train in Vain 08 – Bankrobber 09 – Wrong 'Em Boyo 10 – The Magnificent Seven 11 – Police on My Back 12 – Rock the Casbah 13 – Career Opportunities 14 – Police & Thieves 15 – Somebody Got Murdered 16 – Brand New Cadillac 17 – Clampdown CD2: 01 – Ghetto Defendant 02 – Armagideon Time 03 – Stay Free 04 – I Fought the Law 05 – Straight to Hell 06 – Should I Stay or Should I Go 07 – Garageland 08 – White Riot 09 – Complete Control 10 – Clash City Rockers 11 – Tommy Gun 12 – English Civil War 13 – The Call Up 14 – Hitsville UK 15 – Radio Clash

Joe Strummer - vocals, guitar Mick Jones - vocals, guitar Paul Simenon - bass, vocals Topper Headon - drum Terry Chimes - drums

A tie-in to the exhaustive 2013 box set Sound System, the 2013 compilation The Clash Hits Back is a novel approach to a career retrospective: it mirrors the 24-song set list for the band's July 19, 1982 concert at Brixton Fairdeal, then adds eight bonus hits at the end. The Clash Hits Back slightly tweaks the running order of the original set -- "Bankrobber" arrived five songs into the concert but appears eighth here -- but that doesn't matter much, as this swap doesn't alter the impact of the original set. The Clash were plugging Combat Rock so songs from that LP -the singles "Rock the Casbah," "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" and "Straight to Hell," plus "Ghetto Defendant" and "Know Your Rights," adding up to just under half the album -- sit alongside a heavy chunk of London Calling and early hits, plus a few stabs at Sandinista!. What's added at the end is a mix of their high-octane early material ("White Riot," "Complete Control," "Clash City Rockers," Tommy Gun," "English Civil War") and their more adventurous studio recordings ("The Call Up," "Hitsville UK," "This Is Radio Clash"), adding up to a strong overview of all the band could do. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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