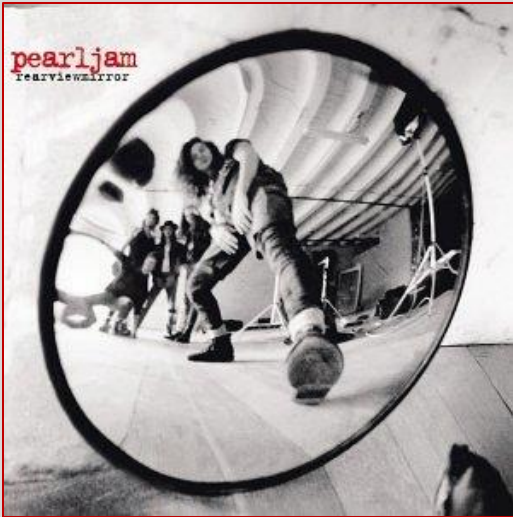


SPOTLIGHT

May 5, 2017



This year's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees were, in comparison to other years, light on controversy. Some familiar debates ensued of course: should hip hop be considered rock? (Inductee: 2pac.) Is critical appreciation as important as commercial success? (Inductee: Journey.) But the one nominee just about everyone agreed upon was the grunge rock band Pearl Jam.

With my formative years in the 90s, I am, of course a fan and the idea of Pearl Jam's *Rearviewmirror*, a greatest hits collection, seems at first unnecessary. I had all of this music anyway. Well, not quite. Like a good many who fell in love with Pearl Jam's first album *Ten*, I stopped buying their albums at *Vitalogy*. I still would have told you I was a fan, but my musical tastes had become more eclectic. A Pearl Jam song here or there might still catch my attention, and clearly they were rocking as hard as ever, but I had moved on.

Rearviewmirror provides a perfect place for us lapsed fans to catch up and with the space of a double CD, those great tunes from their earlier albums are strongly represented for the next generation of fans to be born. Great riffs and intelligent lyrics never go out of style. Frontman Eddie Vedder, though not the greatest singer in the world, provides each line with the emotional gravitas required.

There still may be some songs missing that fans may argue about (where's Deep? Crazy Mary?) but I don't think anyone could deny that this is a solid collection.

For all of you music lovers, Yellowknife Public Library has greatest hits CDs of all of this year's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominees.

John Mutford, library manager