

Tone Deaf or Trendsetting?

By Brooklynn Banks

Without fail, each year before America's favorite halftime show, fans comment, "I didn't realize there'd be a football game in the middle of ...'s concert." This year, social media booms with inserts of Puerto Rican "King of Latin Pop," [Bad Bunny](#). Winning Album of the Year for his sixth body of work, [Debí Tirar Más Fotos](#), Bad Bunny will grace the All-American stage Feb. 8 at Super Bowl LX. Despite viewers awaiting the battle between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks, it can be argued that more are excitedly counting down the minutes until the players clear the field and the stage lights come on.

But amidst the announcement of his performance, critics rave against him, including notable figures like President Donald Trump. "Terrible choice that sows hatred. I'm anti-them," he said when asked about the upcoming halftime show. This response comes after Bad Bunny's viral speech when receiving his Grammy last week. "Before I say thanks to God... I'm going to say: ICE out. We're not savage. We're not aliens. We're humans, and we are Americans ... the only thing more powerful than hate is love," he shared before receiving a standing ovation.

It is a fact that Bad Bunny, born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, is an American citizen raised in the U.S territory of Puerto Rico. His half-time performance is expected to present a unique mixture of both cultures, incorporating the most spoken non-English language in America: Spanish. In the Pre-SuperBowl Press Conference, he says, " English is not my first language. But it's okay, it's not America's first language, either."

But, the question could arise: Amidst the current political climate regarding violent ICE raids, resulting in protests across the country, is choosing this performer tone deaf of the Super Bowl committee?

Super Bowl viewer, Gregory Jones from Baltimore, Maryland, shares, “ I don’t feel like the nation is ignoring the issue at hand because the Super Bowl is meant to be the one time as a nation we can come together. Potentially, this is a way for us to come together. It’s a different individual than the typical performer, so having a Hispanic makes it that much more important. Bad Bunny’s performance might and should raise more awareness towards the removal of ICE.

The time came at 8:20 P.M. when Bad Bunny immersed viewers right in the heart of Puerto Rico, opening with his native language of Spanish, lively dancing, and bright instruments. Special guests consisted of Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin, with most of the performance remaining in the Spanish language. Deviere Tyler, from Chicago, Illinois, says, “I understand how this was a culturally relevant performance, but I also wish there were subtitles to foster a two-way street of communication between Spanish and non-Spanish speakers.”

Bad Bunny ended his vibrant performance, saying, “God Bless America,” as the scoreboard read, [“The only thing more powerful than hate is love.”](#) A beautiful tribute to his community, but not just his, what should also be considered ours, as Americans.

Sources

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