

## DVD Review: *Iggy Pop: Lust For Life*

[Iggy Pop](#) is one of those names that seems to have been around for ever. I can't remember when I first heard of him, but I do remember knowing who he was in 1977 when people were excited by the fact that David Bowie was playing keyboards in the band that he was currently touring with. Part of his renown came from the infamy associated with the rumours of his cutting himself on stage with glass or that he vomited on stage, but the other part was that he had been performing punk rock before punk rock even existed. However for all that, I actually knew very little about the man or his history.

The documentary film *Iggy Pop: Lust For Life* was shot in 1986 when Iggy showed up on the charts again with a song of the same name. It features interviews with both Iggy and the Stooges' lead guitar player, the late Ron Asheton, concert footage from 1986, and archival footage of the Stooges dating back to their early days in Ann Arbor Michigan playing on campus at the University of Michigan. Released by [MVD Entertainment Group](#) on DVD for what might be the first time, the forty-five minute film gives those who don't much about the man and the band aside from the name and the reputation not only a substantial amount of information about them, but also a sampling of their musical career to that point.

The first surprise is finding out that Iggy and the Stooges formed in 1969 and were playing the two to three chord punk sound that became the hallmark of bands like the Ramones and the Sex Pistols. Interestingly enough, Iggy sites in an interview one of his earliest influences being the electric blues of Chicago. He talks of a trip he made to that city in the mid 1960's and how the music blew him away with its honesty and rawness. In the same interview he said that as a little white guy he couldn't very well do what they were doing, but it did inspire him to try and find his own way of being that honest in his expression.



One of the funniest pieces of archival footage that makes up part of the film is an out take from an interview Iggy did on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) back in 1977 with a very uncomfortable looking [Peter Gzowski](#) on one of Canada's earliest late night talk show, *90 Minutes Live*. At one point Gzowski asked about punk rock and Iggy responded by saying that only dilettantes referred to it as punk rock because punk was a derogatory term. When Gzowski pressed him about the rumours of his having vomited during a show he calmly replied that it only happened once when he wasn't feeling well. As he knew he was going to be sick, he said, he decided to try and make it as artistic as possible - and proceeded to jump and

demonstrate how you can be physically sick artistically. (minus the puke)

Watching him during that interview it was hard not to believe that he had a serious drug habit. There was just something about the way he handled himself and his speech patterns that led one to believe he had to be using something. In the interviews with Ron Asheton, who sadly died on January 09th/09 after the Stooges had only recently reunited, he not only talks about the early days of playing together, but the fact that it was heroin use that caused the band to break up for the first time back in the 1970's. He doesn't mention anybody's name specifically, but it was pretty obvious he was talking about Iggy.

These interviews were shot in 1986 when Iggy was having some commercial success with his release *Blah Blah Blah* and the song "Real Wild Child", but he wasn't playing with Ron



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