

DVD review: *Live In Detroit*

IGGY & THE STOOGES

Live In Detroit

Music Video Distributors (DR-1485)

Live In Detroit commemorates the re-formed Stooges' first appearance in their hometown in 29 years. Composed of frontman Iggy Pop, guitarist Ron Asheton, bassist and newcomer Mike Watt, drummer Scott Asheton and sax man Steve Mackay, the band members turn in a fiercely energetic set with songs culled from their first two albums (circa 1969 and 1970). A consistently arresting visual presence, Pop comes off like an overgrown, half-demented adolescent. Shirtless, clad in tight pants, his skinny body contorted in a perpetually crooked pose, Pop is a frontman in hyperdrive, thrashing around the stage, barking like a dog, punctuating his songs with howls and screams, humping the amplifier, diving into the predominantly male audience and wrapping a microphone cord around his neck.

At one point the band invites the audience on stage where they proceed to party to the beat of "No Fun." For all his wild-man antics, Pop comes across as continually good-natured, gushing expletive-laden words of grati-

tude and love toward his audience throughout. The band members, exuding raw male energy, unleash a string of Stooges favorites, including "1969," "I Wanna Be Your Dog" and "Loose," plus one new tune, the title track of their 2003 reunion album, *Skull Ring*.

Live In Detroit has a number of bonus features, which include Watt's journal (in which he describes the thrill of being on stage with The Stooges) and a New York City in-store performance by the band (sans Watt), which features a more restrained Pop seated on a stool and delivering long monologues on the origins of each song and anecdotes about the band. Though the New York performance finds The Stooges turning in a vibrantly energetic set, the sound quality is rather poor — drummer Asheton sounds as though he's pounding on cardboard — and the whole performance was filmed using one camera angle, which is, incidentally, off to one side.

Also included is a photo gallery of the band from the archives of *Creem* magazine and three audio options to choose from. Taken all together, *Live In Detroit* is an impressive display of raw power — Stooges fans could hardly ask for more.

— Tierney Smith