

LOUD QUIET LOUD: A FILM ABOUT THE PIXIES DVD (Music Video Distributors)

The year was 1990 and my girlfriend was playing the hell out of this one record. While it was catchy in parts, I just didn't get into it, as I was just too hardcore then. I never even bothered to get the name of the band. Fast forward to 1993 and I'm standing in an alley outside The Cameo Theater at the last American Pixies' show, when some dude in a purple flight jacket asks if I want to get into the sold-out show. I say, "Sure." He shows his pass, I get lead in, and when this gent later hits the stage, my jaw drops to find it's the guitarist, J. Santiago. Then, when some of those songs played, that I used to always hear from my ex's car stereo, I giggled like a kid. The following year I was washing clothes at a laundromat on a few months stay in Amsterdam (Holland) and I see a face that looks a little familiar. "I think I know you," I say. "Are you American?" he replies. Upon my answer, he says he's glad to meet a fellow Stater and tells me he's Frank Black and playing a solo gig. We chat for a bit and he invites me to see the show. I thanked him kindly, but I had a date with a sweet little Swede named Dunsvee, and some ecstasy. I regretted my decision when everywhere we went played techno - not to mention her puking half the night away. Upon my return to the U.S. I decided to grab *Trompe Le Monde*. I picked that album for the cover of "Head" by The J&MC. I'd soon bought every record, and have been a huge fan ever since. It figures I'd be after their breakup - I am late on a few things. Still, collecting their vinyl, discs and videos, I had to get the new documentary I'd heard about. Thanks to MVD, this quickly popped into my mailbox. The DVD is an hour and a half story of their reunion in 2004 - not their entire history, though it does fill you in. Here, you get a front row seat from almost the very day each band member hears the news of a get-together. Following them through their first show since the early 90s, on to their 'warm-up' tour, their Euro-tour and back to a full U.S. tour. You get to see the many ups, but also the downs (drummer, Dave Lovering's dad's passing and his needing to kick drugs, as well as the fact they still don't really speak to one another). One of my favorite things about this doc, besides the bright colors and the access to member's thoughts and views on the band, is that, except for about three tracks, the songs are played in their entirety. Extras include director's commentary, over 30 minutes of deleted scenes (including moments with Steve Albini and Sigur Ros), plus a nifty thick booklet. Seriously... this monkey's gone to heaven. (Feb 24, 2007)

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