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A Review of Raw Power Live: In the Hands of the Fans by Iggy and the Stooges

Almost 40 years on, Raw Power still rings true

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By [Ryan Cooper](#), About.com Guide

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I first saw Iggy and the Stooges on their first reunion back in 2003, when they played a venue in Detroit that, despite corporate sponsorship, will always be known as Pine Knob. That show will stick in my head because it was postponed for several days in the wake of the blackout that took out power for much of the Northeast US for several days.

I always suspected that Iggy's sound check had something to do with it.

Reunited, but not Reformed

The reunited Stooges shows that age has done nothing to slow them down; Iggy is still full of fast frenetic punk energy and the Asheton brothers were still full of fury. Even in the wake of Ron Asheton's 2009 death, the band, with a lineup rounded out by legendary musician Mike Watt (who, at 53, is the baby of the group), the Stooges are a force to be reckoned with.

In September of 2010, the Stooges (with a lineup consisting of Iggy Pop, Scott Asheton, James Williamson, Steve Mackay and Mike Watt) took the stage at the All Tomorrow's Parties festival where they played their classic album *Raw Power* in its entirety.

One of the greatest albums of all time, the music on *Raw Power* is beyond reproach. If you don't own it, then A., what the hell is wrong with you and B., right the wrong now and buy it ([Vendor's site](#)). How then does it hold up to live performance, by a bunch of pretty old, weather-worn rockers?

Admirably.

From beginning to end, this band just devastates the set with their energy and intensity, and Iggy is just as in-your-face as ever. At the opening of "Gimmie Danger," he sneers out "We're the Stooges. Thanks for showing up," and his remark just drips with sarcastic charisma ([Listen/Download](#)), and on "I Need Somebody," he bullies and harangues Scott Asheton into hammering out a blues line ([Listen/Download](#)). It's these perfect moments that make for legendary live shows.

While the entire set is flawless and energetic, it really rides a wave of ebb and flows in exactly the same way that propelled the original album to greatness. The set hits a big high with "Your Pretty Face is Going Hell" ([Listen/Download](#)), before letting up just enough for you to catch your breath before bringing it home with "Death Trip" ([Listen/Download](#)) and "I Got A Right" ([Listen/Download](#)), two incendiary tracks laden with lascivious and grooves that are just as brutal as they are smooth.

It's truly a legendary live show, worthy of recording, and this particular recording is so clear you can almost hear the sweat dripping off Iggy's leathery visage.

The energy of this performance of *Raw Power* continues to prove the relevance of the Stooges, both for their musical legacy and their continued power as live performers. All in their 60's (with the exception of Watt), they continue to tear live music apart in a way they helped invent. They are largely unstoppable, and had they not named the album this already, "raw power" would still be the best description of what they do.

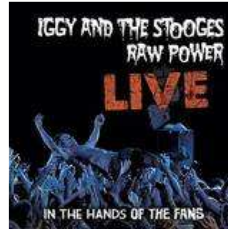
Soon, the album will be re-released as a film as well, shot by a handful of lucky fans who won the right to get up close and personal with the psychedelic Stooges (hence the title). By all means, pick it up if concert films are your bag, but if not, there's no sense in waiting. Get this live recording and bear witness to the raw power that is Iggy and the Stooges.

Release date: April 26, 2011

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