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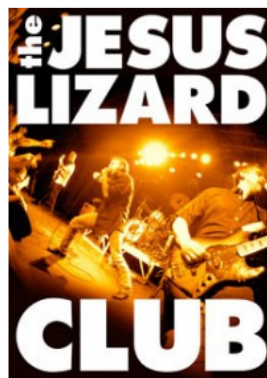
**MTUK MYSPACE**

Artist: The Jesus Lizard

Title: Club

Type: Live DVD

Label: MVD Visual



Although not everybody completely understood The Jesus Lizard they were well liked by a large cross section of people. Difficult to categorise but often described as Alt Rockers, the Chicago based quartet were popular with metal-heads, punks, noise enthusiasts, angular alt and post rockers, industrialists, Goths, grungers and practically everybody in between. Forming in 1987 and being primarily active until they split in 1999 they never really gained their potential despite at one time sharing vinyl space with Nirvana and having Steve Albini championing them. Perhaps they were just too out there to fully appeal to anybody in particular in the same sort of way as other disparate bands such as Butthole Surfers, Melvins and Primus. Of course after being dropped by their label Capitol, splitting up and reforming a decade after did them no bad favours and their reformation saw them more popular than ever. This is where this live DVD comes from, featuring a gig from the reunited band in Nashville (yeehaw) July 2009.

Even if you did not collect the bands albums seeing them live was where it was all at, mainly down to the manic almost ADHD riddled performance of vocalist David Yow. I managed to catch them twice (that I remember) during their original career, once at Reading Rock Festival when it used to be good in 1994 and once at The

Garage when Yow wearing a cowboy hat ended up being held upside down by the audience and proceeded to kick down a ceiling fan and massive holes in the roof. From memory they were not allowed back there after that event.

The singer is at the time of this DVD 48 according to what he says, although he looks older. Still that doesn't stop him launching himself into the crowd at the very start of opening number 'Puss'. During the course of the 22 set 65 minute show he spends as much time in the crowd as he does on the stage. The rest of the group keep very much in their position, Duane Denison slamming out the riffs from one side and David WM Sims with his seemingly massive bass thundering away at the other. Keeping time at the back and driving the pace we have Mac McNeilly although to be honest all attention is focused by the watcher (although not the camera) on the antics of the wild frontman.

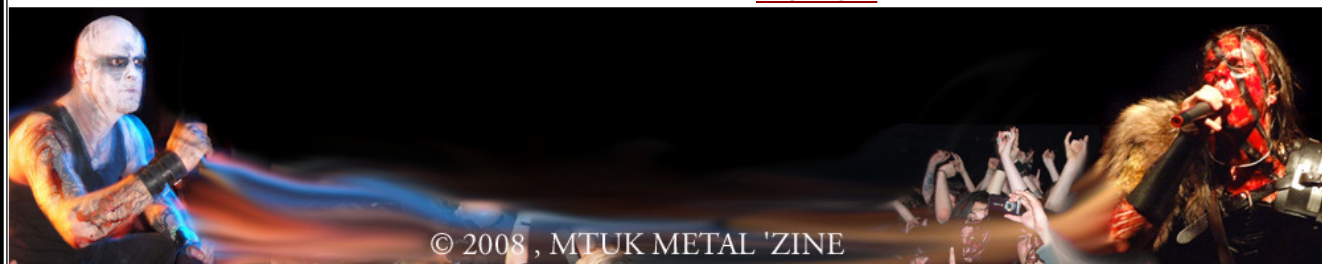
The songs are a good mixture from their past career. Since reforming there have been no new albums so it is left to the old songs to keep the crowd happy and that they certainly seem even when the singer takes the piss good humouredly out of them and accidentally kicks the odd punter in the head or breast. The skewed riffing and can swim, cant swim lyrics of 'Seasick' come out early in the set and have me firmly remembering the band coming as the song does from second album 'Goat.' The songs then come thick and fast and the music never stands still (just like the singer) for a second. With songs like 'Killer McHann,' 'Nub' and 'My Own Urine' nobody should (forgive the pun) feel pissed off. Yow tells the odd atrocious joke and ridicules the crowd (were they really getting paid that much for the gig) between some songs and his Yankee drawl whilst sermonising strikes like an American version of Mark E Smith at times.

Sound and vision here is perfect and this is nicely shot and professionally mixed. By the time we arrive at final song and Dicks cover 'Wheelchair Epidemic' it's difficult not to feel exhausted after having really been put through the motions. It's been cited that this reunion run could be the groups last, members have returned to other projects, Yow himself has just has just run his first solo art show in NYC. So Club could well be the quirky bands last document and if you remember them fondly it is well worth picking up.

<http://www.myspace.com/thejesuslizardpage>

Pete Woods

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