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Matthew Robison – The Jesus Lizard Club

October 06, 2011 Christopher Duda [0 Comments \(http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/?p=2227#disqus_thread\)](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/?p=2227#disqus_thread)

The Jesus Lizard Club

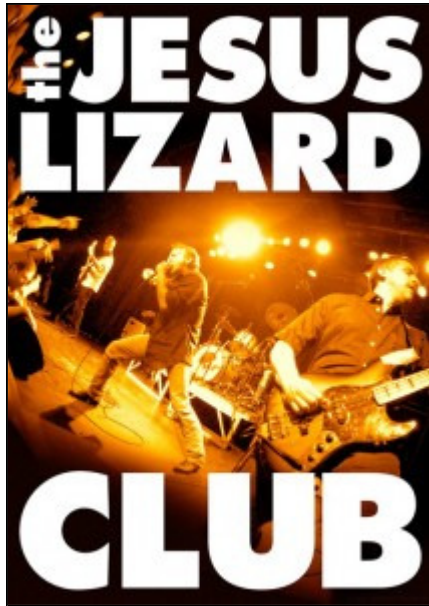
Matthew Robison – Director of Jesus Lizard Club
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By Christopher Duda-Wolf Country-SugarBuzz style

Live Photos by Mike White

Monkey Trick – Jesus Lizard

He's gone in her lips, a glow from her lip ignites the shapes she sees, in the shade
Only a little is used to come to a close, only a little is used to come to a close



[http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Jesus-Lizard-](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Jesus-Lizard-Club1.jpg)

[Club1.jpg](#)) Tonight at the knife stick up place, I spoke as a child and choked on that line
(Then I saw them), then I saw them, (then I saw them), then I saw them
What are they doing outside, what are they doing
What the hell are they doing outside, what are they doing
In so much brown and crap it's set in an odd light
This one it stops right here now, I think it's trouble you invite
In so much as they don't know what's right
This one it stops right here now, I think it's trouble that you invite
An absurd gag, a monkey trick, an Irish Bull, a childish joke
Ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow
Tonight at the knife stick up place, I spoke as a child and choked on that line
Then I saw the, then I saw them, then I saw them, then I saw them
I know they have them down there, I've seen them down there
Body parts all over this town, what are they doing

1. How did this project come to fruition? Were you a fan of Jesus Lizard prior to filming this concert?

I don't know how to talk about music anymore, but I went to that first Lollapalooza tour when I was sixteen, and I'd certainly been following what was happening. Of that ilk, I think the first thing I caught wind of was



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[content/uploads/jl1.jpg](#)) Butthole Surfers in '88 or so. Then, you know, Fugazi played for any age, and all of these great bands in the previous years had made a tour template, so you get bands like The Jesus Lizard who were good, good at touring and delivered the goods when they did. All that to say yes, I was/am a fan. There was a lot to like, and that's what is hard to talk about, because I don't wish to be nostalgic.

This came about because I have known Duane for a number of years, and I thought that there should at least be home videos for these guys. It is huge that these four guys got together again, and it was obvious from the videos coming back from Europe that they still have it. Really, nobody lost an edge at all.

It's important to note here that none of my features have had one cent as far as funding, and that includes one I did in Israel in 2006, which got really hairy with the war with Lebanon and all of that. This one is no different. So I just quietly got permission to shoot and stayed out of the way. Meanwhile, I worked with an engineer to determine how to get flawless audio. I had no access to HD cams, so there you go. In all, I think the two elements complement one another. Maybe The Jesus Lizard should never live in HD.



[_http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-)

[content/uploads/jl5.jpg](#)) **2. How did your approach differ from your release of *We Fun: Atlanta, GA Inside Out*?**

This was one night. *We Fun* was 18 months and every possible thing that could go wrong going wrong.

3. Were there any surprises in the making of the film and would there be anything you would do differently?

I would like to have captured rehearsals and to have been a fly on the wall, but that wasn't really how this was going to be. It would always be different with a budget. Maybe it would, though I have good luck with the ones I get a feeling about and just do.

4. What is your overall background and what are your future projects? Is there anything or anyone you would love to film? Would there be any interest in capturing the Scratch Acid reunion?

I worked on my first music video as a PA a little over twenty years ago. I started producing them about five years ago. I worked on some of the prison shows you see on cable. I have completed four features, and I am currently working on an animated project with Bootsy Collins. I'm producing a small narrative feature next year. As for Scratch Acid, I probably need to keep my camera out of David and David's faces for a little while. Between the release of this show and the limited vinyl release,



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[content/uploads/jl6.jpg](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/jl6.jpg))they've been as good a sport as one can be, but they didn't ask for the trouble.

5. How did you become involved with MVD?

They had the original *Athens* film, and it seemed like a good fit. I like what and how they do what they do, and with this one, I just sent copies to Andy Perseponko and Ed Seaman because they're fans. It was finished before plans were ever made to release it.

6. The verdict is out that Jesus Lizard has not lost anything in the 10 years since they last played. Was this known to you that they were still a force to be reckoned with or was it a complete surprise at how intense they still are and can be?

As I said, I knew they had it. One thing David Yow said in the days leading up to this show was that now you have all these bands with names like "The Killers," but then you hear them and they don't sound like they could kill anything. That's all The Jesus Lizard did/does. The wheels might come off but they're killing it all the way. They're still dangerous. One gets a sense of immediacy when zoomed on Yow mid-set.

7. Were you surprised that Yow kept his pants on throughout the show? Was there any concern that



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[content/uploads/jl4.jpg](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/jl4.jpg))Yow might not be the easiest person to keep a camera on?

He got the cock out. I'm fine with it. We had at least one angle on it.

8. Was it your choice to allow the buyer to have the ability to download each song into mp3 format?

Our idea, the band's decision. What's great is that the tracks sound great, have IDs and thumbnails, etc. We did it right.

9. The concert is shot beautifully and it looks like no expense was spared in making sure the sweat, spit and jizz were all captured. Was your budget greater than your last release and did you use high end equipment and cameras?

There are no budgets. Me and the other producer, John Baldwin, checked things out and decided it was worth it even if we failed. That's the question to ask yourself: Is it worth it to fail? Then, is it cool if this is the last thing I ever do? Getting out of a plane in Tel Aviv with \$200 and a camera helped me figure that out.

10. What is your background musically? Do you spend time exploring music both historically and keeping your ear to the ground for emerging underground scenes?



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[content/uploads/il3.jpg](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/il3.jpg)) I listen to a lot of music, and music was what I wanted to do until I didn't want to do it anymore. I don't know what it means to be underground anymore.

The most interesting thing I've read all year is *The New Yorker* feature on Odd Future. There's some perspective there on what underground may be now.

I don't have an iPod or a cell phone, but I have had both. I quit them about two years ago, so that'll change the way you listen to music. I'm into satellite in rental cars.

11. Why are labels ie-punk, grunge etc bullshit?

I haven't thought about labels/genres much in the last few years, but the problem with them was that they always lose their meaning. "Indie" means nothing.

12. What is your drink of choice?

Bombay Sapphire. Chilled, neat. Just one. After 5pm. Followed by beer. Beers. Import.

13. If you could practice polygamy and get away with it would you?



[http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/jl2.jpg)

[content/uploads/jl2.jpg](http://www.sugarbuzzmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/jl2.jpg)) Straight mono. Back to mono.

14. Name the 5 most important bands of the past 10 years??

Don't want to pitch any tents. Gotta stay open to possibilities. Any good set of beliefs should be ever-changing. The last decade may need rewriting at some point, too.

15. Who are your favourite film makers? Is there anyone you recommend that we keep our eye on?

Barry Lyndon is about as good as it gets.

16. Where do you expect to be in ten years?

Eight years beyond completion of the stuff I want to complete. I want to spend the second act reading and worrying less.

17. Parting thoughts?

Uni-Ball pens don't leak on airplanes. Thanks for your curiosity, Christopher.

<http://www.thejesuslizard.net/> (<http://www.thejesuslizard.net/>)

<http://www.deadlydesigns.com> (<http://www.deadlydesigns.com>)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA7oTXlyBv4> (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA7oTXlyBv4>)

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