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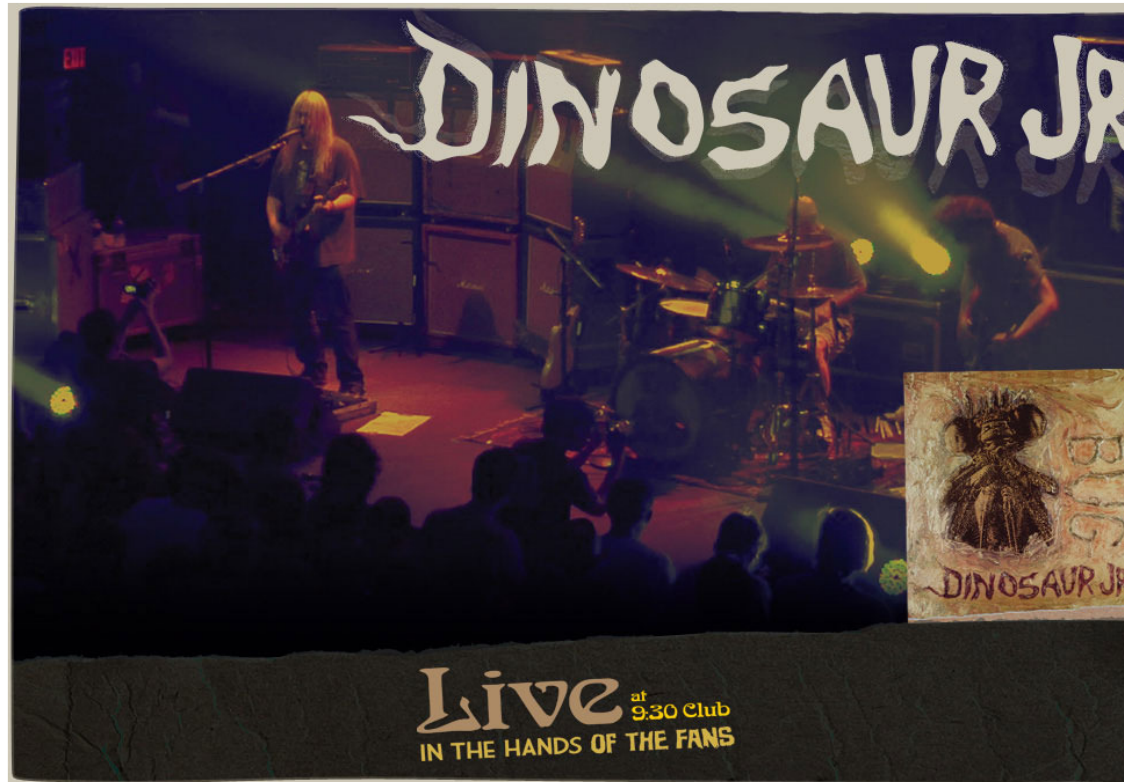


WIN a copy of Dinosaur Jr. – Bug Live At 9:30 Club In The Hands Of The Fans [DVD or Blu-Ray]

February 20, 2012 in [Music](#), [With Video](#)

CONTEST HAS ENDED!

The winner has been contacted. It was the entry submitted under the name “ills.” It won because about cats drinking beer.



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THE BACKSTORY

the first 3 albums and decline of Dinosaur Jr

Dinosaur Jr formed in 1984 out of the ashes of Westfield, Ma hardcore band **Deep Wound**, with guitarist, **Lou Barlow** moving over to man the bass and drummer, **J Mascis** taking over guitar and songwriting duties. Originally, the duo recruited drummer, **Emmett Jefferson “Patrick” Murphy** (aka: Murph) and asked **Charlie Nakajima** to carry over his role as vocalist from Deep Wound, for a quartet known as “**Mogo**“. That lineup was short-lived (only 1 show), as **Mascis** quickly dissolved the group as a round-about way of kicking **Nakajima** out of the group. The remaining trio reformed under the name of “**Dinosaur**” with **Mascis** and **Barlow** opting to handle the vocals themselves. **Dinosaur** recorded their self-titled debut LP for \$500 and released it on the now-iconic **Homestead Record**. Even then, they were pushing the envelope as far as style, jumping from more traditional hardcore punk elements to low-fi folk and distorted country throughout various tempos. It’s a classic release

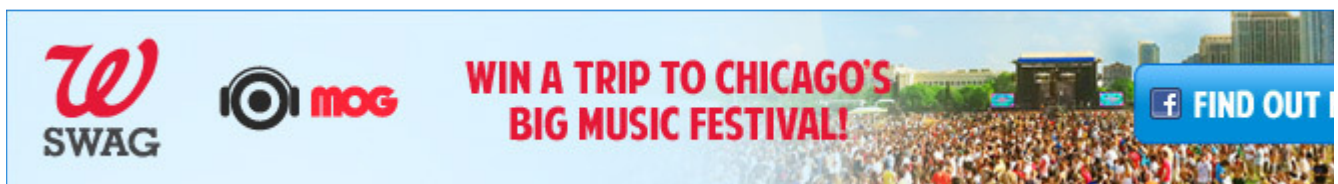
I still listen to regularly and when I saw **Mascis** play “**Repulsion**” during a solo show last year, it sounded as relevant as ever. At the time of its release, the album wasn’t exactly a smash hit, but consistently-ahead-of-their-time **Sonic Youth** did take a shine to them, after seeing their live performances, and took the young group on tour with them in **1986**.

The following year **Dinosaur** moved to **SST records** for the album ***You’re Living All Over Me*** but to a lawsuit, it was shortly after this point when they were forced to officially change their name to **Dinosaur Jr.** While their debut explored a nice range of territory, their sophomore release found those elements really coalescing into a unified sound that would eventually make the name **Dinosaur Jr** an identifiable musical reference all its own. **Mascis** confidently took the reigns with his unmistakable vocals and swirling distorted blanket of guitars screeching like **harrier jets** over a so throbbing foundation of **Barlow’s** bass work and **Murph’s** tank-like pummeling beats and tight drum fills. The release helped with their notoriety, but issues were already appearing with the trio. There was some conflict created from **Mascis** micromanaging **Murph’s** drum parts and, while the release featured **2 Barlow**-penned tracks, **Lou** had already found another musical creative outlet with his recently formed side-project **Sebadoh**.

1988’s BUG (SST), which continued with the soaring guitar work and shrieking feedback, essentially became a one man operation for **Mascis**. The frontman left little room for collaboration, writing all the material by himself and, instead of allowing his cohorts to find their own voices within the track, used hyper-specifics to instruct both **Barlow** and **Murph** on how/what to perform on their own respective instruments during the recording sessions. Critically, **BUG** was successful (especially in the UK), but it would be the last album to feature the original lineup, before **Barlow’s** expulsion from the group shortly after. As legend has it, **Lou** was given a similar treatment as **Nakajima**, with **Murph** selling him the idea that the band was breaking up, only to have an immediate tour and a replacement bassist to play it waiting in the wings. As far as potential reunion tours go, the original **Dinosaur** lineup was right up there with the **Talking Heads**. As far as tours featuring a group covering their seminal albums from start to finish was concerned, the album that epitomizes the downfall of that original union was even less likely. Regardless of any potential factors to the contrary, that’s exactly what happened when the **80s** power trio took **BUG** on the road last year and, fortunately for anyone who missed it or would like to witness it again, there’s actually video evidence (complete interview footage) available to own on **DVD** or **Blu-Ray** beginning this **Tuesday Feb. 21st**. [Read rest of this entry →](#)

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