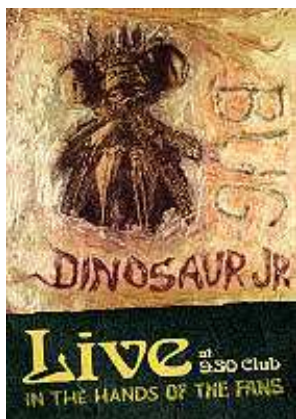


SCANNER WEB ZINE - THE PLACE FOR PUNK ROCK, HARDCORE, ANARCHO AND SCUZZY GARAGE ROCK 'N' ROLL

TV PARTY - D



DINOSAUR JR - Live At The 9.30 Club: In The Hands Of The Fans {[MVD](#)}

[\(http://mvd2b.com/\)](http://mvd2b.com/) Back in 1988, DINOSAUR JR previewed their third album by dropping what remains the band's best and most defining track, not to mention one of the most sonically explosive guitar workouts ever with the 'Freak Scene' single. The album, 'Bug', without question, influenced the whole Grunge movement that followed a few years later and with vocalist/ guitarist J. Mascis' drawled, somnolent vocals, proved to be the best thing that came out of the overrated and short-lived (thankfully) Slacker scene. Whatever it influenced or defined, one thing is unmistakable - 'Bug' is a towering slice of aural potency that comes on with the mind-bending collision of Neil Young playing on a Hardcore record after listening to advice from Husker Du.

This DVD, filmed live at DC's 9.30 Club, sees the original DINOSAUR JR line-up get back together to play the album in its entirety while being filmed by six fans who won a YouTube competition to film and interview the band.

The DVD starts with the legends that are Mike Watt and Keith Morris (OFF actually supported at the gig) espousing about the band, the original winning 'fan' YouTube entries and a few photo-ops. Under the direction of Dave Markey (the fella responsible for the *The Year Punk Broke* movie), it's all spliced together in an artistic but focused way.

Once it's showtime, the band amble on stage without any intro before J rings out those 'Freak Scene' chords with stunning effect. The song still has an absolutely sublime power and beauty, even 25 years since it was first recorded. Highlights from there include 'No Bones' that sounds gigantic and ominous - especially when considering the Grunge boom that followed a few years after the original album, 'Let It Ride' sees Mascis in particularly laconic and ambivalent tone of voice for possibly the Punkiest song on the album while an encore of 'Raisins' sees J's guitar bristling with a colossal power - but with three Marshall stacks circling J, it should be a massive sound. Have to say though, I did find the over-reliance on a wah-wah pedal to be a bit annoying in places ('Yeah We Know' in particular). Extras come in the form of an on-stage, pre-show interview with the band and Henry Rollins. Hank asks some good questions but the band don't respond as well as hoped (J especially is totally soporific). Possibly, given Rollins did this at each date on the tour that some of the questions lost some spontaneity... No matter, when some dude in the crowd shouts over Rollins, "Play the hits," Hank's reply is a gem - very subtle but a massive heckler-stopper! There are also the 'fans' interviews some of which are a bit gushing but Lou Barlow does make them interesting. Then there are a couple of additional songs - 'In A Jar' and 'The Wagon' - both of which are stunning with some almost transcendental playing between Lou and J. Rollins gives us a brief history lesson on the 9.30 Club and finally there's an interview with J from Dave Markey.

This is a really satisfying reappraisal of a great album and with the mass of extras makes an essential package. (18.07.12)

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