

& The Stooges and guests

ite to Ron Asheton

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At the time that most of America was deep into peace and love and Britain was seeing the prime of the Prog and Heavy Blues scenes Detroit was spawning a couple of bands that were as far from the Motown corporate soul ideal as you could get and, along with the MC5 and the band that would become Alice Cooper, Iggy and The Stooges were the epitome of that urban angst, anger and alienation that surfaced 7 years later in the UK when Punk found its voice or the New York scene birthed The Ramones and Richard Hell.

The band was founded by Iggy and his buddy, guitarist Ron Asheton, who then brought his brother Scott in on drums and their friend Dave Alexander on bass. The history of the band is well documented but when Ron died in 2009 it brought to an end the heart of the band – Ron was officially described as 'irreplaceable'. He actually was replaced by James Williamson but Williamson had been a Stooges member on and off since the 'Fun House' album so seemed a natural addition.

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So to this show. If you don't dig the Stooges there isn't a great point in reading any further – this is initially a Stooges live show featuring numbers from the first three apocalyptic albums (no Iggy solo stuff here) and recorded in the Grand Ballroom where the band made their first stumbling entrances as the 'Psychedelic Stooges' in 1968. If you do dig the Stooges then this is an essential item for you both as a great live Stooges show and a fitting tribute to Ron Asheton.

and here is: Iggy, Scott Asheton on drums, James Williamson on guitar, Steve Mackay on sax and Mike Watt (ex-Minutemen & JFA) on bass and there are guest appearances from Henry Rollins and Denze Tek (Radio Birdman) and even a string section for a few numbers.

The numbers here are pretty well what you would expect – most of the 'Raw Power' album, '1970' and 'No Fun' along with 'I Wanna Be Your Boy' from the first album and 'Fun House' and 'LA Blues' from the "Fun House" album. It is stripped and power driven rock from the first days of Iggy careening across the stage to 'Raw Power' with the rest of the band looking solid and cool behind him and the crowd going mad in front of him.

Iggy's energy is ridiculous as he hardly slows or stops through nearly 2 hours of Stooges magic but the rest of the band are the ones who get exhausted keeping up with him. The production quality is excellent and they have avoided silly cinematic tricks while the sound is similarly fine.

And a long while back, if you dig the Stooges this is essential for many reasons but if you are a music fan you should be hearing this to gain a better understanding of just how powerful and rare music can be.

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