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A Look Back: The "Tribute to Ron Asheton" Concert

April 19th, 2011 marked the hometown return of the Stooges. Ann Arbor, Michigan is where the band began, so it was only fitting that the tribute to departed guitarist Ron Asheton take place there. But it was also the first time a representation of the *Raw Power*-era group, with James Williamson on guitar, had played within state lines since the final Stooges gig in 1974. So, this was A BIG DEAL. I was one of the lucky 1,700 to see the show in the flesh.

Iggy Pop, here a couple of days shy of 64, is a sight to behold. Running out to the opening riffing of "Raw Power" like it's 1973, Iggy still commands the stage like no other rock performer. Though he may be healthy, wealthy and surprised as anyone to be alive, he nonetheless comes off like the same outsider who sang about being dirt and having no fun, executing those songs with conviction over forty years later. And what a joy it is to see him playing again with James Williamson, even if the reunion is bittersweet, having only occurred due to the death of Ron Asheton.

You can't help but be wowed by the power that still hides in plain sight during "Gimme Danger," or smile like you haven't in years watching the on-stage pandemonium that takes place during "Shake Appeal," but it's the tribute that Iggy and Williamson worked up for the evening, "Ron's Tune," that is the emotional highlight. "You never get to say goodbye," Iggy sings in a requiem for, as he said moments before, "the first guy that would ever get behind me."

Welcome home, Ron. Welcome home, Stooges.

All profits from the show and the DVD release of the concert benefit the [Ron Ashteon Foundation](#).

Here's a peak at the DVD: