



THE MOONEY SUZUKI

CBGB's Live June 29, 2001 – The Bowery Collection

MVD Audio

If there's one band that's lead the charge out of revivalist-minded American garages (not counting REDD KROSS years before the garage sound officially resurfaced), it's New York's THE MOONEY SUZUKI. While THE HIVES turned the underground rock scene on its ear from Sweden with a needed shot of reinvented hipness, THE MOONEY SUZUKI answered back immediately, proving that THE STOOGES and MC5 are the cornerstones of grimy punk rock and pop-flavored garage gonzo with their first two albums *People Get Ready* and *Electric Sweat*.

While THE MOONEY SUZUKI have perhaps turned things down a few notches after being yanked towards the upper tiers of the music echelon with their Columbia-released *Alive & Amplified* as well as advertisement contributions and even Jack Black's *School of Rock*, the band has maintained their scrap and banana peel savoir faire in the protective folds of Little Steven's Underground Garage on Sirius Radio.

CBGB's Live June 29, 2001 – The Bowery Collection jerks us back to the midpoint of THE MOONEY SUZUKI's budding career between 2000 and 2002 when they began to light up Manhattan and the outlying boroughs, including the world-famous CBGB's where just about any serious-minded band—no matter how straightforward or outrageous—sought to tack onto their performance resumes when it was still open. Fortunately for THE MOONEY SUZUKI, they could both play things straight or go out of their minds, which resonates loudly on *CBGB's Live June 29, 2001 – The Bowery Collection*.

One can grasp the intensity dripping out of their static-laced amps and ska strums that hail MC5, NEW YORK DOLLS and THE JAM in punchy swoops on standard tunes like "In a Young Man's Mind," "Half of My Heart," "Singin' a Song About Today" and "A Little Bit of Love." Of course, THE MOONEY SUZUKI simply knocks it out with their stamp and clap blues ode, "Oh Sweet Susanna." As live audio recordings seldom convey, *CBGB's Live June 29, 2001 – The Bowery Collection* actually makes you feel in the minute through THE MOONEY SUZUKI's shrill feedback and choppy backbeat rhythms. It's the energy of the moment they're most interested in expunging from this show, and how can you beat that? For those who wondered where these guys were headed on 2007's *Have Mercy*, *CBGB's Live June 29, 2001 – The Bowery Collection* is a restoration of faith that THE MOONEY SUZUKI toss one of America's best retro rock parties around.

- Ray Van Horn, Jr.