



October 31, 2007

**“CIRCLE OF FRIENDS”** (MVD Visual/Trixie/Granary)—Of the 23-song set list on “Circle of Friends,” the 90-minute Bob Mould concert DVD filmed at the legendary 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C., in October 2005, more than half of the numbers are drawn from Mould’s work in other bands. That seems fitting since this show is as much about Mould’s music as it is about the kind of band he assembles to take on tour. The band, consisting of fellow out musician Richard Morel, Brendan Canty (of Fugazi fame) and Jason Narducy (of Verbow renown), tears through the six Husker Du and seven Sugar songs as if they, like Mould, were the found members of those outfits. The 10 songs they perform from his solo releases, a majority of which are drawn from his most recent “Body of Song” disc, are also well received by the enthusiastic “hometown” crowd. Mould, who is not known for being especially chatty onstage, does appear to be grateful for the fervent reception the songs are being given and cuts loose a bit during the introductions of the band. If you want more insight into Mould the man, watch the 10-minute intro in which he and his band member open up about their formation and tour. The DVD contains no special or bonus features.

- Gregg Shapiro