



## Scanner zine

Larger than life and twice as natural

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### TV PARTY - M



**BOB MOULD - Circle Of Friends (MVD)** There are few who progressed from US Hardcore to write, record and perform with such integrity and musical aplomb as BOB MOULD. He may not be thrashing out the apocalyptic, fuzzed chords of 'New Day Rising' while treading the boards like a caged and enraged rhino, but he is still playing a guitar that makes the hair stand up on the back of the neck and writing songs that are HIS vision - not a corporate record label's. And thankfully, those songs are still bombastic slices of top-notch tunesmithery.

This live show features a whopping 23-song set recorded on multiple cameras back in July 2005 at Washington DC's legendary 9:30 Club. The tracks span Mould's entire career from 'Zen Arcade' era HUSKER DU, through SUGAR and most of his solo

albums (except 'Black Sheets Of Rain' for some reason) right up to, and predominantly, the 'Body Of Song' album.

Besides Mould on guitar and vocals, there is a keyboard player (who adds some interesting textures, but sometimes stifles the guitar attack), Jason Narducy from ROCKETTS OVER SWEDEN on bass and one Brendan Canty on drums who you should know was/is the drummer in FUGAZI.

The show kicks off with a rather light version of the SUGAR song, 'The Act We Act'. This is a prime example of the keyboards stifling that huge guitar attack which makes the song so instantaneous. 'A Good Idea' follows, which sees that trademark ability of Mould; to make his single guitar sound like a rhythm and lead all at once. Other highlights include a hypnotic take on 'Circles', an absolutely blazing burn through 'I Am Vision, I Am Sound', the solitary song from his classic 'Workbook' album in 'See A Little Light' and the fantastic set closer of 'Man On The Moon' which employs those droning, ringing chords that only Mould seems to be able to play.

Then of course there's the HUSKER DU stuff. One of my favourite HUSKER tracks, 'Could You Be The One' sounds way too pop and light but 'Hardly Getting Over It' is sedate, mournful and colossal, more than makes up for it and provides what is arguably the highlight of the DVD. It's not all sobriety though as 'Chartered Trips' in particular destroys and displays Mould reverting to a mindset of over 20 years ago and reliving one of the great HUSKER tracks. Canty certainly brings something new to these older tracks and it works incredibly well. His drumming seems more tribal and pulsating than Hart's blitz of bright, bouncy drumming.

There is little, if anything, in the way of extras. Before the live footage starts, you get some brief interviews with all the players. Mould himself reveals that this band went on tour after just five practices. The interviews are all lightweight deals and see everybody considering Mould to be quiet and reserved - until they got to know him! Each player speaks of Mould with reverence and of their own good fortune be in this band.

Given how little official footage there is of Mould (besides this, I can only recall a live HUSKER DU video from years ago), this does make great viewing and given the fact the song choices span the man's entire career, it makes an obvious place for the curious fan to get acquainted with Mould while the diehard fan will simply lap the whole thing up - repeatedly. I know I have!!

| Rules = No Rules |