

THE BIG TAKEOVER

iggy & the stooges

escaped maniacs (double dvd)

(Charly/MVDvisual)

I enjoyed *Live in Detroit*, the first live DVD of the reunited Stooges, for a chance to watch a miracle I've seen in person four times. But *this* is another kettle o' fish! The sound of this Lokerse Freestern, Belgian August 6, 2005 gig is 40 times better (it's so good you'll be make out **Iggy Pop**'s lyrics without aid of print for the first time!), and the dozen-camera footage is about *80 times* better, a visceral exhilaration that matches the most electric performer in rock's outrageous history. The one-man mayhem that Pop launches for 90 minutes, in stunning abandon of inhibition, remains the most animalistic event every witnessed in music history. And this massive, thrilled crowd eggs him on then devours him on his audience invasions. True, the Ig has done this his whole life. But it took the restart of The Stooges' hyper-driven (at mid tempo!) explosions to place Iggy's overpowering abandon (ass hanging out of jeans as ever, thank you!) profoundly in a sonic belligerence that could both match it, and push it to its greatest frontiers. If you think of Iggy with the **Asheton** brothers as mere rock reunion, nothing to bother about, you're as wrong as Alan Greenspan was about financial markets. This is a *phenomenon*, an aural bombardment and visual maelstrom. And the extent to which this concert puts you in the audience, as if it's taking place *now*, is flat-out *extraordinary*. (Four hours of bonus footage, including a Pop documentary, adds value, too.) (mvdb2b.com)

- Jack Rabid