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**Iggy & the Stooges: Escaped Maniacs (MVD Visual, 2 DVDs, NR, 5 hours 34 min.).**

After vocalist Iggy Pop and guitarist Ron Asheton had not even spoken to each other in some 20 years, the band reformed in 2003 due to increased awareness of their groundbreaking sound and a tour the Asheton brothers (Scott plays drums) did with current bassist Mike Watt (FIREHOUSE, The Minutemen) and vocalist J Mascis from Dinosaur Jr. Original bassist Dave Alexander died in 1975 of alcohol-related problems. The Stooges evolved out of Detroit after James Osterberg, soon to be known as Iggy Pop, aka the Godfather of Punk, decided to expand from playing drums in well-received high school and college bands, and took a trip to Chicago to investigate the blues scene. In one of the bonus features, Iggy recalls a trip to a Ford motor plant at age 9 and falling in love with the heavy industrial sounds. Starting in 1969, the band made three legendary albums, sparked by such songs as "I Wanna Be Your Dog" (sort of lust for abasement) and the lost youth of "1969." Iggy became friends with David Bowie, who influenced "Raw Power" (by this time the Stooges' music was heavily influenced by John Coltrane), the third and final major label album. (Iggy would collaborate with Bowie off an on during his solo career, including such wonderful songs as "Lust For Life," "China Girl" (Bowie had a hit with it) and "The Passenger.")

Here, the 65-minute concert is presented in two forms of the same length; the director's cut is more more tightly edited visually. Iggy, who was 58 at the time, is shirtless from the start and a couple of times his low-riding jeans threaten to fall in this Aug. 6, 2005 show from Lokerse Festival in Freestern, Belgium. Iggy jumps into the crowd during "I Wanna Be Your Dog" and then invites some two dozen crowd members to dance on stage during "Real Cool Time" and "No Fun," with various crowd members sharing the microphone with him during the latter. The band's molten sound -- Schott Asheton drums like a heavy machine, Ron Asheton plays sizzling guitar and Watt is a terrific bass player -- is expanded by saxophonist Steve MacKay for "Fun House," "Skull Ring" and "Dead Rock Star" (the latter is the most melodious song of the night and Iggy starts by singing in sitting down).

Good as the concert is, what makes this release terrific is the extras, especially the 61-minute retrospective of Iggy's career, including new interview footage and some from 1986. There even are clips from an appearance of Iggy and Bowie of "The Dinah Shore Show" and an Iggy appearance with Dave Letterman. Additionally, there are three 2006 interviews with the band members. Ron Ashton's (29:38) is the most revealing, as he recalls how the band's split developed when Iggy began hanging out with famous people

such as Nico, when half the band got turned onto heroin and his own affair with Bowie's wife Angie. Scott Asheton (21:06) also delves into his own past and his family, which includes a teenaged daughter and two older stepsons who are musicians. Iggy's interview (68 min.) touches more on his creative process and even how his well-known torso has changed through the years. He also discloses he at first did not like the idea of Watt on bass, but quickly changed his mind. There also is an interview (22:36) with Iggy's friend Esther Friedman of Frankfurt, Germany, who tells of Iggy's days in Berlin with her and Bowie and her seven years as tour photographer. Finally, the DVD has more tales and stories available via DVD-ROM on your computer. **Grade: A+**