



WHATS NEW?

Comics Blog: A Panel With No Borders
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Movie News
[First Glimpse - a Michael Bay Transformer](#)

Movie News
[Snakes on a Plane Trailer Debuts](#)

Movie News
[Singer Not Helming Logan's Run?](#)

DVD News
[Lord of the Rings Triple-Dip](#)

Movie Review
[Superman Returns](#)

DVD Review
[Superman: The Ultimate Max Fleischer Cartoon Collection](#)

Comic Book Review
[Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen #98](#)

DVD Review
[Superman: The Movie](#)

DVD Review
[Superman II](#)

Movie News
[Son of Grind House](#)

Movie News
[Superman = More Popular Than Jesus?](#)

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[Butler is Priest](#)



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[REVIEWS](#)
[CLIPS/TRAILERS](#)
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[FORUMS](#)
[CONTACT](#)

Home [▶](#) Reviews [▶](#) DVD Review [▶](#) *Moistboyz: Live Jihad*

Tuesday, 27 June 2006

Moistboyz: Live Jihad

Written by Brent Simon

Monday, 26 June 2006



Despite their obvious musical craftsmanship and ecstatic performance energy, I never really “got” Ween, the gleefully dirty-minded satirists of the alt-rock '90s. Comprised of Mickey Melchiondo and Aaron Freeman, aka Dean and Gene Ween, there was always an unnerving shock-for-shock's-sake quality to their misogynistic and race-baiting frat boy humor. It felt like really smart and well-crafted dumb music made predominantly for a set that might not mistake it for empty theater.

Offshoot Moistboyz, then, simply extends the pair's anarchic, jovial political incorrectness (after all, what better way to drum up attention these days than toss around the word *jihad*?), and finds it invading fresh new subgenre terrain (a relative term here, considering they've been spitting out occasional releases for the past decade) in the form of thrashing rap metal. Caustic single “O.G. Simpson” was the duo's initial claim to fame, but that doesn't show up in the course of this 75-minute show, filmed live at the Bowery Ballroom in New York City in mid-September of 2005. Spanning material from all four Moistboyz records, multi-instrumentalist Mickey Moist (Melchiondo) and pants-slung-low frontman Dickie Moist (that would be Freeman), pausing occasionally to quote from *Pulp Fiction*, together with their backing band rip through a sweaty show full of smirky crassness (sample lyric: “Shit stains cooking in the crack of your ass!”) but also undeniably catchy punk-metal catharsis.

Directed by Marc Schmidt-Casdorff, the concert is full of both the forceful vigor that marks the best of punk rock as well as a pointedly subversive theatricality. The fact they're straight-facedly playing characters comes through loud and clear. The hard-charging set list is comprised of: “Great American Zero,” “That's What Rock & Roll Can Do,” “The Tweaker,” “U Blow,” “Lazy and Cool,” “Officer Please,” “White Trash,” “1.0 (Fuck No),”

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THIS MONTH IN PRINT



POLLS

What is your favorite genre of videogame?

- Fighting (Mortal Kombat, Soul Caliber, etc.)
- First-Person Shooters (Halo, Counter Strike, etc.)
- Role-Playing (includes MMOs)
- Simulators (flight, racing, etc.)
- Strategy (includes RTS and turn-based strategy games)

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FEATURED CLIP



“Keep the Fire Alive,” “The Year of the Maggot,” “Captain America,” “Crank,” “Carjack,” “In the Valley of the Sun,” “Roy,” “The Spike,” “Good Morning America” and “Fuck You.” Strangely, a cover of Hanson’s “MMMBop” is not included.

Moistboyz: Live Jihad is presented in a regular Amray case, with a Dolby digital audio track that ably handles the high-register demands of the show. It’s presented in full screen, but enough creative shots and angles are commingled so as to give one a fresh sense of the stage and space. An unfortunate lack of extras makes this screeching document pretty much a wash for Ween/Moistboyz newbies, but one imagines there’s a sneering, and perhaps even erudite, devotee out there that will be more than happy to provide you with a rolling commentary track should you need/want one. B- (Show) D+ (Disc)

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