

Five Questions with . . . The Jesus Lizard



Altercation: The DVD does a great job at capturing Jesus Lizard in their prime, the crowd is going absolutely nuts. Do you look back on the show and that time period in general with fondness?

Duane (guitar): Yes, absolutely. It was very satisfying to have consistently good crowds after years of working at it.

A: Do you think a band of the Lizard's intensity would be able to build a similar audience if it came out today, given the current musical climate?

D: I don't know about that. Back then, we were loud and abrasive, which is what indie rock was like at that time. When I listen to college radio now, or get stuff from indie labels, there's really not much that rocks very hard, to my ears.

A: Singer David has a new project called Qui coming out soon on Ipecac. Seeing as how your project Tomahawk is also there have you considered doing a tour together?

D: No, but we may do a tour where Qui and my new band USSA play together.

A: I know you write much of the music for Tomahawk. Were things more collaborative with the Jesus Lizard?

D: Maybe so. In the early days of the Lizard, we'd sit around with acoustic guitars and a metronome and hash it out at home, then crank it up in the practice space and see how it sounded. Other times, someone would come up with a riff or a beat and we'd just build it up from there.

A: Given the recent rash of reunions for the Touch and Go anniversary along the lines of Big Black, have you ever considered doing a one off?

D: Not really. I'd rather keep doing new stuff. Between rehearsals, sound checks, gigs, recording sessions, etc. I played some of those songs 3,000 times. That's enough.



Jesus Lizard: Live 1992

• MVD

Whoa, talk about a nostalgia trip! I had forgotten how intense the whole Amphetamine Reptile / Touch and Go scene was back in the day, where

the hell have all of the people packing these shows gone? On to have 1.2 kids and a Starbucks habit I suppose. Regardless, this DVD acts as a killer time capsule for a time when sludge rock and Kozik posters reigned supreme over eyeliner and bangs.

The main performance is more of a 'pro' shot affair, with a bunch of different camera angles and such. This leads to some cool off-the-cuff footage, including the security guard supposedly guarding the barrier rocking out instead as kids come flying onstage. Vocalist David Yow spits and howls his way through some brilliant yet largely indecipherable lyrics, while guitarist Duane Denison's trademark leads still ride a dark wave of melody while pummeling relentlessly. This is a band in their prime, with the audience members not so much participants as willing victims. If the Jesus Lizard's dominance of the Am-Rep scene was ever called into question, this live performance would certainly be called into evidence as exhibit A, and pity the poor, unsuspecting prosecutor.

While the primary performance is undoubtedly great, the bonus footage from a 1992 CBGB's show nails it somehow even better. One lone camera captures the action, but you can almost feel the sweat and beer from the crowd. The sound is also impossibly great for being so close to the stage at earbleed-central CB's (how the fuck did that happen?), with my lone complaint being that there are only around five songs presented from the show. Still, it is a bonus feature, so there's little room to gripe. Sneak this into the stack of your kid brother's 30 Seconds To Mars bootlegs and tell him it's a new band playing Taste of Chaos side stage this summer. Maybe a conversion with spontaneously occur, eyeliner will magically dry, and the future of rock will be saved. Maybe. **JT**