

CULTUREBUNKER

THE JESUS LIZARD - "Live DVD" - MVD Visual [Aug 07]

My friend Jeff Death was touting a new band called Qui and as soon as he said the words "David Yow," their singer, I was in. Jeff started to explain who Yow was, and I cut him off. How could any self-respecting music fan not know the primal yow-ling of David Yow, his bands Scratch Acid and The Jesus Lizard being icons of the independent music scene, renowned for their heavy bass and drums, blistering guitars and the aforementioned Yow's throat-bursting songs. The Jesus Lizard's work with engineer Steve Albini cemented their thundering sound, their indie credentials, and combined with their often violent, occasionally indecent live shows, The Jesus Lizard are legends. Now you too can witness the power (get to your phones!). This 1994 show came on the heels of their great works, "Head" (1990), "Goat" (1991), "Liar" (1992) and "Down" (1994). You will hear classics like "Fly On The Wall" and their first single "Nub," the band sounding powerful and looking dangerous. Yow gets shirtless and sweaty immediately but does not, alas, produce "little David" like he did in the 90s, resulting in him being arrested for indecent exposure after a show. After the 1994 set, there is a David Yow interview from Hype TV that not only gives you a good look at Yow the humble frontman but also Yow the staunch indie icon. Yes, The Jesus Lizard went to Capitol in 1996, but as Yow explains in the interview, they tried to use the local networks and shows to promote the band and to make a living but the dominance of MTV and the realities of the size of the USA and the cost of touring forces bands to at some point make a decision: pay the bills or fold up the tent. At any rate, this great uncut interview reminds one of how conservative the 90s really were, when The Offspring and Green Day were breaking America. Yow praises Nirvana and thumps Green Day, calling them The Knack with English accents. As an added bonus, 5 songs recorded at CBGB in 1992 round out this package, including a cover of Dicks' "Wheelchair Epidemic," Yow giving low-five to his Austin brothers. This DVD is highly recommended because it did what a good video should do: remind you how great a band is. --- Leeds 9/11 [top](#)
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