



The Jesus Lizard *The Jesus Lizard* MVD Visual



Although they appear to be off over-looked nowadays, the Jesus Lizard was trailblazing art-punk-metal years before bands such as Tool made it acceptable for punk rockers and metal-heads to go off and explore. They may have been out of commission since 1999, but the group recently received the DVD treatment, in the form of a vintage 1994 show from the Venus De Milo Club in Boston, entitled...*The Jesus Lizard*. The quartet was certainly one of the best club

bands of the era, as their shows were always wildly unpredictable affairs—especially due to their part man/part wild animal front man, David Yow, who had a sweet tooth for spending as much time in the audience as onstage.

The pro-shot DVD captures the heat n' sweat of a Jesus Lizard performance from this pre-Internet/pre-widespread sucky music era perfectly. The Lizard truly marched to the beat of their own drummer—both on record and on stage—as no one sounded or looked like them (as evidenced by Yow's penchant for sporting cowboy boots, not exactly in line with the group's mostly flannel/Doc Marten-sporting following). Additionally, The Jesus Lizard featured one of the more underrated rock guitarists of the era—Duane Denison (who now plays alongside Mike Patton in Tomahawk)—whose playing was always incredibly varied stylistically. While his

playing is exceptional throughout, proof of Denison's uniqueness can be easily spotted in the tune "Nub"—how many alt rock guitarists had the cojones to pen a tune that prominently featured slide?

The group's albums weren't exactly challenging Hootie And The Blowfish and Bush for the upper reaches of the charts—penning easily digestible by-the-numbers ditties was never their strong-point—and as a result, The Jesus Lizard's music takes a few go-rounds before you can start making heads or tails of it. But challenging music never hurt anybody, and fine renditions of the group's best songs, including "Destroy Before Reading," and "Puss" (a track which was originally issued as a split single with a little-known band called Nirvana), proves once and for all that The Jesus Lizard was among the best live bands of the '90s. The Jesus Lizard may be dead and gone, but this DVD (which also includes a few bonus tracks from a 1992 CBGB's gig) shows what a mighty beast this band was back in the day.

—Greg Prato

When one thinks about '80s era female-fronted metal, in many cases, pop outweighed the metal (Lita Ford, Vixen, etc.). But this wasn't entirely the case, as evidenced by the emergence of Doro—first as the leader of Warlock, and later, as a solo artist. Instead of adopting an overtly melodic sound aimed directly at radio (modeled after such acts as Bon Jovi), the music that Doro specialized in was tough Euro metal (namely, Judas Priest and Iron Maiden). While she never enjoyed the mainstream success as the aforementioned female hard rockers, Doro carved a niche for herself over the years—building a large and loyal worldwide following that remains faithful to this day (something that can't be said for all '80s era metal acts).

To celebrate 20 years in the music biz, Doro and her band assembled a guest-heavy show in her native Germany, which serves as the backbone of the recent double disc DVD set, *20 Years: A Warrior Soul*. Joining Doro on stage include members of Motorhead, Saxon, former Accept singer Udo Dirkschneider, former Plasmatics bassist Jean Beauvoir, and former Iron Maiden vocalist Blaze Bailey, among others. Strangely however, instead of having Saxon or Beauvoir perform a classic of their own, they're assigned covers of other '80s rockers—Judas Priest's "You've Got Another Thing Coming" and Billy Idol's "White Wedding," respectively.

Overall, the show (which is included twice in this set—first as a movie, which was released theatrically in Germany, and as a complete concert) won't let Doro's legion of diehard admirers down, especially such favorites as "Love Me Forever" (featuring Lemmy and Mikkey Dee) and the set-

Doro 20 Years: *A Warrior Soul* Locomotive



closing "All We Are" (which sees all the special guests on stage at once). Whether you'll prefer the movie or the straight-ahead performance will depend on your level of Doro fanaticism—the movie is loaded with interviews and behind the scenes footage, which often cuts into the performances.

And if the two versions of the 20th Anniversary performance isn't enough, there is a third bit, 'Warrior Soul: On The Road,' which as its title states, offers more behind the scenes and live footage (with an added emphasis on Doro's band mates, and what living on tour is like). *20 Years: A Warrior Soul* serves as a fitting tribute for a singer that has admirably stuck to her guns throughout the past two decades. —Greg Prato