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The Jesus Lizard: Live DVD

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Unfortunately, I completely missed the boat on [The Jesus Lizard](#). Just as my interest in most underground music had begun to branch out, this phenomenal Chicago band was just calling it a career. Everything I have learned about the band to date comes from first-hand accounts of their live shows, relentlessly listening to albums, and scouring the internet for any information I can find on them. I do have faint recollections of seeing a few of their records in the BMG/Columbia House catalogs that I used to order from, however I was too busy buying Anthrax, Cannibal Corpse, and Exodus records to take much notice. I am in no way belittling my metal upbringing, but I clearly missed out on something special.



Luckily for me, a [DVD](#) was released earlier this year that Netflix finally had available, and I was able to get a small taste of what so many others had reveled in for years. After sitting through the entire live show, filmed in 1994 at the Venus de Milo in Boston, and watching the bonus footage of a 1990 show at

CBGBs in New York, I believe why Touch and Go Records says that "*To put it bluntly (or perhaps merely state the obvious), The Jesus Lizard were the greatest live band of the last decade of the 20th century. Mr. David Yow will forever be the frontman to end all other frontmen. The Chicago live music scene may never be the same again and for that, we are eternally grateful.*"

The Boston show isn't filmed extraordinarily well, but it's not deficient, either. Rather than the bells and whistles of many other music DVDs, the footage captures the band amidst a show that was probably on par with a typical Jesus Lizard show. To clarify par for the course, I would automatically be putting the band in a rather select group of bands who, when playing live shows, not only deliver in terms of stage presence, but also stunning attention to the songs themselves. Frontman David Yow constantly engages the audience, jumping into the crowd by the 2nd song and losing his shirt before the end of the 4th song. He paces back and forth on the stage, pausing every so often to stare into the crowd, and unleashes some truly guttural vocals into the microphone, making me sit back in amazement and wonder how such sounds can emanate from such a relatively small dude. It may be hard to understand what he's singing 95% of the time, but it's 100% clear that he is doing all he can to give the audience their money's worth. Even from this one show, it is clear to see why David Yow belongs in the discussion of the greatest frontmen in rock history.

With all of the attention sometimes going Yow's way, it is imperative to know that he could have just as easily been another nameless singer in a mediocre band. The beautiful

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