



The Jesus Lizard – The Jesus Lizard
(MVD Visual)
3 stars

Now, this is well over a decade overdue! Capturing the essence of one of the 90s-era's most antagonistic and tight indie-rock units, this DVD presents the legendary group in their best environs - live. Front wildman David Yow's feral howls and reckless ramblings are front-and-center to the band's remarkably tense, angular, and precise grooves, all performed with an almost jazzlike sensibility by masters Duane Denison, David Wm. Sims, and Mac McNeilly. The Jesus Lizard were like no others, taking the most out-of-control aspects of post-punk acts like The Birthday Party or Chrome (who they cover here with their medley of "TV As Eyes" and "Abstract Nympho") and filtering it through a punchy Chicago indie sieve. This 1994 show focuses on the band in their prime - wild, sweaty, and bordering on dangerous. If you missed them back in the day, now's your chance.

-- Todd Zachritz