



...MEDIA VIEWED BY FIRE...

[CD Reviews](#)

[DVD Reviews](#)

[Book Reviews](#)

[Concerts](#)

[Interviews](#)

[Staff](#)

[Archives](#)

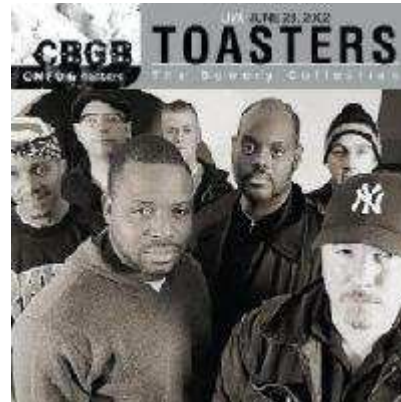
[Contact](#)

[Home](#)

[1340MagBooks.com](#)

[Links](#)

[Editorial](#)



The Toasters

Live: The Bowery Collection

CBGB Records/MVD Audio

[www.mvdaudio.com](http://www.mvdaudio.com)

This Site Best  
Viewed in  
Firefox



The legendary Toasters reunited early in the new millennium. On June 28, 2002 they returned to legendary club CBGB's, the very club that they played their final show at nearly 15 years earlier. How's that for replacing a bad memory with a good one? MVD Audio brings us the The Toaster's live album as part of The Bowery collection and the band sound even better than they did in their drunken younger days.

While I'm by no means an expert on The Toasters catalog and history, one thing is for sure here and that is the fact that they are possibly the most even keeled band on the planet (further evidenced last year on Warped tour stages across the country). Seriously, throughout this whole set they never get overexcited or sloppy or slap happy, they just do their thing and do it with feeling and precision accuracy. I can't help but think that if the Mighty Mighty Bosstones had paid better attention to this band they'd have hung onto their fifteen minutes a lot longer.

1340Mag on  
MySpace



The Toasters play an excellent set of reggae inspired rock that would have been as comfortable in the sixties than it is in the new millennium. "Shocker!," "Shebeen," the fifties crooner style "Mona," "Run Rudy Run," and "2ToneArmy" are all here and all sound excellent. Prior to "Shebeen" the band launch into a semi-tirade about the long succession of mayors who have destroyed the NYC nightlife and I have to say that it's hard to argue the opposite. Thankfully the band don't get overtly political, noting simply that they'd like to drink without being told what

hours they can do it in. The end of the show is the definite highlight here as the band leave excited fans with "Ploughshares Into Guns," noting it's vague biblical reference and chastising the audience for not knowing what is happening in World Cup soccer action. Priceless. The Oi style is perfect and I think I have a new favorite Toasters song.

**Bottom Line:** If you are unfamiliar with The Toasters (or are only slightly familiar, like I was) this is a great place to start. It is a gamut of songs from their career with the sound of masterful musicians playing it. This is how reggae really sounds.

**Key Tracks:** "Shebeen," "2Tone Army," and "Ploughshares to Guns"

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

[<<Back To Reviews](#)