

<http://www.markprindle.com/weena.htm#cats>:

## At The Cat's Cradle, 1992 - MVDAudio 2008



I was at this concert! I think this is the first time a band has ever commercially released a live show I attended, so it's a real milestone for all of society. Unfortunately, as I was suffering from mononucleosis and concentrating mostly on my then-girlfriend Jennifer Corcoran during the performance, this recording could actually be from an entirely different show and I wouldn't know the difference. In fact, my entire recollection of the concert is, "Ugh, it's 'ReggaeJunkieJew.' Jesus, I'd better sit down."

It's too bad too, because they were funny! I already knew they were funny from the **Pod**-era concert I'd attended the previous year, but this 1992 show was every bit as filled with adorable and stupid stage patter. This was back when they still performed shows as a duo, with bass and drum tracks provided by an onstage DAT recorder. Bored to tears with having to tie their performances to a pre-recorded rhythm track every night of a 9 1/2-month tour, they entertained themselves by inserting personal chit-chat and jokey laughter items between songs.

Some of my favorite comments from this performance include:

(before launching into the first song of a tightly pre-programmed show): "Okay, this first song that we're gonna do tonight - it's a totally improvisational decision, a nice loose jam by Ween called 'Big Jilm.'"

"I think we're in rare form. I'm not sure."

"I think I just pushed 'record' on the DAT. I think I just recorded over 'Never Squeal On The Pusher.'"

"That's it! I've had it! I've fuckin' had it! Nine and a half months!!!"

"Yeah, you'd *better* clap!"

"I feel like an old Jewish man tonight."

(after Gene bungles the first line of "Don't Get 2 Close (2 My Fantasy)": Dean: "9 1/2 months on the road...." Gene: "And I forgot the words!!!")

(Dean, after playing an arpeggio riff that clearly wasn't "Wanted Dead Or Alive"): "Anybody know if that was Bon Jovi? A cowboy - something?"

(before "You Fucked Up"): "This is about that fucking bitch!"

(when the dramatic keyboard line of "Buckingham Green" kicks in on the DAT): "So fuckin' low. That's about the all-time low point we've achieved. It's what happens when you smoke too much opium."

(Gene, after Dean completes "Buckingham Green" with a 3-minute noise solo): "Wanna hear it again?" (pause) "Well, we're having a good time!"

The oddestball thing about the performance, and something I certainly didn't notice at the time, is that they only played *four songs* from **Pure Guava**, the CD they were ostensibly touring to promote. Even strangerer, these four songs did *not* include their soon-to-be hit single "Push Th' Little Daisies." But most weirdestly of all, they chose to perform *TWO B-SIDES* from the soon-to-be hit single "Push The' Little Daisies"! So thanks for that, Elektra Records must've been saying at the time.

No sir, the bulk of the show comprised material from their debut **GodWeenSatan: The Oneness** LP (10 songs!!!), along with a mere three from **The Pod**, the two B-sides I just mentioned, a redneck heavy metal song they'd later release on **Paintin' The Town Brown** and - against all possible odds - "Buckingham Green," a haunting folk-prog song that wouldn't see the light of studio day until **The Mollusk**, *three albums later!* How could they just sit on a song that great? Why wasn't it on **Chocolate And Cheese!**? Why didn't they give it a peppy beat and put it on **12 Golden Country Greats**? Man. Who knows with people like this!

Most of the song performances are fine. At times they use a messier, more distorted guitar tone than on the albums (particularly in "Don't Get 2 Close 2 My Fantasy"), and there is obviously less emphasis on sped-up and slowed-down voices, but otherwise they're pretty similar to their studio counterparts (barring the moments when Dean just splanks aimlessly at his guitar out of sheer boredom). "El Camino" suddenly turns into "White Rabbit" in the middle, Dean has to retune his guitar halfway through "Fat Lenny" (it's horrendously out of tune up to that point!), and "Papa Zit" sounds like it's being played wrong, but otherwise they're pretty studio to their counter similarparts (barring the door! Zombies!!!)

But enough of my hilarious train of thought gags. Choo-choo!

The CD also includes a bonus DVD of live and radio performances from '91-'92. Many of the songs from the CD are repeated here, but they also toss in two more **GodWeenSatan**s, one more **Pod**, another song they'd later recover for **Paintin' The Town Brown**, two oldies-but-not-necessarily-goodies from **Live Brain Wedgie** and **The Timmy Wasserman Tape**, and entertaining radio performances of The Doobie Brothers' "Listen To The Music" and a Jewish gag called "Shalom Absalom."

I like it. Hey, anything that brings back great memories of mononucleosis is fine by me!

Seriously though, does anybody know what ever happened to Jennifer Corcoran? I hope she's still alive, and preferably happy somewhere.

- Mark Prindle