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Their blues were due to a reggae junkie Jew

By John Petric

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[Ween Live at the Cat's Cradle, 1992](#)

is a tale of two boys and a drum machine.

Ween, now seen as a rockin' full band, started out its brilliantly obnoxious life in smirky alterna-punk as a duo, Gene and Dean. This CD/DVD affair is fabulous testimony to how the two had it right from the beginning.

Part of the DVD was filmed at Stache's on North High Street in March of '92.

"There was a lot to hate about us..." Dean Ween writes in the album's liner notes. But not really. There was a lot to love, as this longtime Ween aficionado can attest to.

First of all, the songs were great. "Cover It With Gas and Set It on Fire," done by just the two of 'em, with Dean's low gruff answered by Gene's insanely hysterical high response, works maybe even better than it would have with a full band. "The Goin' Get Tough From the Getgo" may just very well be the cleverest phrasing ever in the history of rock—nothing less, my friends.

The audio disc is 21 songs of madness recorded at the legendary Cat's Cradle in Chapel Hill, N.C. But it's the DVD that totally absorbed me, and half of it was shot right here because you can recognize Stache's ceiling tiles.

"Don't Get 2 Close (2 My Fantasy)" is hilariously rechanneled Ziggy Stardust, with the chorus of "Don't be afraid to clutch the hand of your creator" delivered in mock self-serious pomposity. Gene's theatricality and Dean's guitar playing, along with some bass and drums programmed on a tape deck behind them, created a sight and sound one couldn't forget.

Ah, the insanity of "Reggaejunkiejew," which, as Dean announced, was about "this 4-foot-10 Jewish white Rastafarian addicted to heroin" who stole Gene's girlfriend off to Jamaica. "Imagine the scenario," says Dean, "endless source of inspiration."

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The lyrics: "What can you do/when your world is invaded by a reggae junkie Jew?/When all the things that made you happy/make you blue?"

The most ridiculous thing about it is that Gene strips the low E string off his guitar and drags and kicks it around the stage at the end of the song. Never seen that, boy.

But Gene is a mighty fine guitarist. He riffs Hendrix, he riffs Eddie, he riffs country, and the boy knows how get home to his root note.

So as you watch these two cracked, fabulously immature lunatics destroy every genre and subgenre of music we hold precious, just remember, it's just two guys with some talent and some real good songs in the raw.



Likable in spite of themselves: Ween as the duo appeared in the early '90s

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" i think you have gene and dean mixed up at the end. "

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