

## FORT COLLINS WEEKLY

### Echo And The Bunnymen—Dancing Horses MVD Visual



There aren't many bands who have regrouped after an extended hiatus and gone on to be as or more successful than they were in their heyday. The Pixies are one; Echo and the Bunnymen are another.

The release of *Dancing Horses*, a live 20-song set recorded in 2005 illustrates the solid playing and continued songwriting that has kept the band's core duo of Ian McCulloch and Will Sergeant relevant 20 years after they first broke up. McCulloch's voice has held up amazingly well, despite his ever-present cigarette and years of alleged drug abuse—during the '80s his philosophy was known to be “no blow, no show.” And Sergeant was a progenitor of a certain new wave guitar style that was experimental, but still had solid rock chops and an edgy melodic quality that are even more finely honed today.

And the band hasn't been content to lazily trot out old favorites like “Lips Like Sugar,” “Killing Moon” and “Villiers Terrace” since their reunion a few years back. 2001's *Flowers* is a solidly-crafted record that retains the band's signature sound without mindlessly aping past success. And the video includes four songs—just enough—from the group's 2005 album *Siberia*, all of which fit in nicely with the older material.

In other words, this is no Whitesnake or Journey reunion. The band's music remains original and powerful enough to shame any number of today's popular indie/punk/rock musicians half the age of McCulloch and Sergeant. And based on a cross-section of the audience at the show recorded on this DVD, the band has won over quite a few new fans, in addition to bringing back more grizzled folks who first saw them in the early '80s.

But one of the best features on this video—in addition to the hour and half of music presented with crystal-clear sound quality—is a 50-minute interview with Sergeant and McCulloch. In it they candidly discuss their new and old band mates, playing new material versus old material, their new record and their influences. It's a rare snapshot into the workings of a notoriously stand-offish band.

Plus, the music rocks.

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