

DVD Review **Jesus Lizard**

Jesus Lizard

The Jesus Lizard

MVD Visual (DR-4567)

Grade: ★★★

Nobody invested more sweat equity into their live performances in the '90s than the Jesus Lizard. Confrontational, ruthlessly efficient and downright violent

on their instruments and locked into dense, unstoppable grooves that operated without brakes, the tight-fisted unit of singer David Yow, guitarist Duane Denison, bassist David Wm. Sims and drummer Mac McNeilly weren't out to entertain audiences. They wanted to scare the living daylights out of them.

And that's just what they did on this night in 1994 at the Venus Di Milo Club in Boston, Mass. Punk as punk

gets, the Jesus Lizard whipped up grinding, vicious maelstroms of sound that provided the bloody backdrop for grotesque songs that usually revolved around unusual murders. At his snottiest, an unhinged Yow spits, yelps and howls through harrowing tracks like "Boilermaker," "Mouthbreather," "Gladiator" and "Puss" with undisguised vengeance, while Denison releases snarling guitar salvos into the wild that sink their teeth into the necks of the innocents and Sims and McNeilly rhythmically punish everybody within earshot. Before viewing, make sure you have all your shots.

— By Peter Lindblad