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J Mascis + Kurt Vile at Subterranean | Live review + photo gallery

Posted in Audio File blog by Gavin Paul on Apr 6, 2011 at 11:22am



J Mascis and Kurt Vile at the Subterranean on April 1, 2011. Photo: Tim Jarosz

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Categories Indie/alt rock, Music, Rock, pop & hip-hop

Keywords acoustic, Gavin Paul, J Mascis, kurt vile, subterranean

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Descending the spiraled staircase Friday night at Subterranean, lo-fi skuzz's reigning wooly king, J Mascis, was trademark conductor-ish, taking a seat without mouthing a word...

To many, Mascis unplugged is a chain saw without a chain. And his long overdue solo album, Several Shades of Why, which he's taken to tour the nation with Philly-based protégé Kurt Vile as opener, is the same old tease if you're just waiting for the shred...

The dude obviously missed the point of the skeletal acoustic beauty that shines through when Mascis blesses fans with these solo tours. Friday, he equally balanced a handful of numbers off Several Shades with classics from Dino glory days...

Vile on the opening side was all guitar, all shred, all the time, wielding at least five different axes that completely drowned out some of his finer Vic Chestnutt quiverings...

Later Mascis threw us some chunks of fuzzy meat from time to time, stomping on a pedal on "Get Me" to loft a soaring scale, looping some hammer-ons on Several Shades' title track...

Still banter-less through a trio of back catalog encores, teasing one last bit of pedal-boosted electric fury on another Dino cut, "Tarpit," Mascis flashed a smile when a superfan assured him he loved the rocker "more than coke and pot..."

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