

Whatever happened to...

J Mascis

Digging Up a Dinosaur

NOW J Mascis's tinnitus-producing stage work with Dinosaur Jr. during the '80s and '90s is the stuff of legend. However, the indie-rock icon is surprisingly reluctant to talk about the past—maybe because he's always done his talking through that unholy-loud guitar of his, whether with Dino Jr. or with his new group, the Fog.

When Dino Jr. convened this April for a reunion show on TV's "Late Late Show" (an L.A. club gig came next), it marked the first time the trio had played together live since 1989. Yet, with the performance just days away, they still hadn't stepped foot in a rehearsal space. "I think I've got it together," said Mascis at the time, slowly and dryly. "So it's up to those other guys." The guitarist has been similarly blasé about the big promotional push and tour that followed his band's return to the stage: "I'm not too psyched, but I'm hoping for the best." And the best scenario? "Money, I guess."

While it's anyone's guess how long the Dino Jr. reunion will last, three of the band's discs—*Dinosaur*, *You're Living All Over Me*, and *Bug*—have been rereleased to help boost ticket sales at tour dates in both the U.S. and Japan.

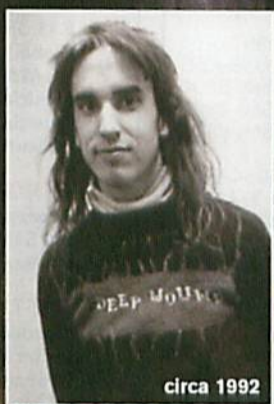
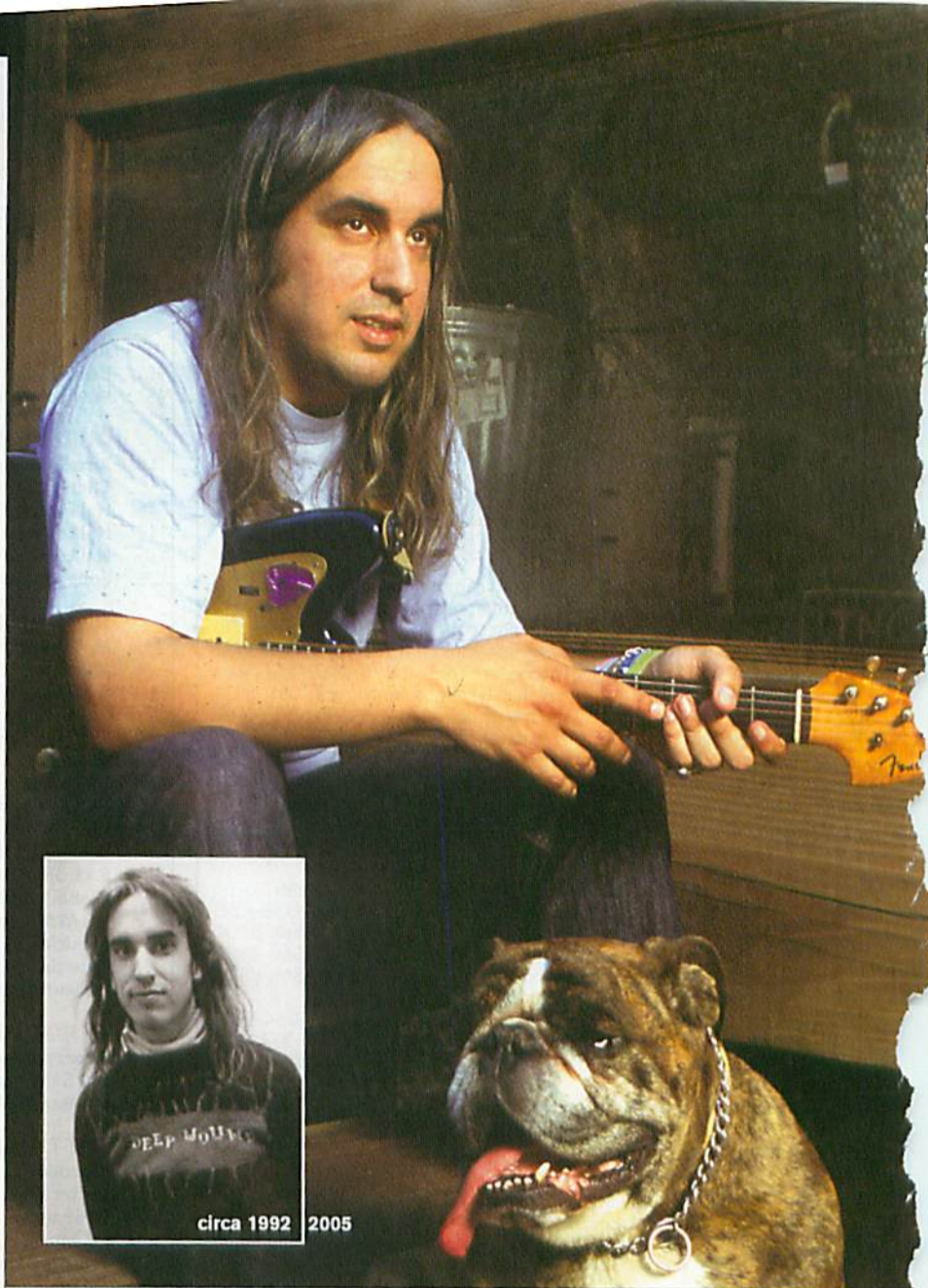
THEN Mascis, who turns 40 this year, was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he lives still. While his home studio currently houses about 40 guitars, his first purchase remains the most memorable: "I went to this store, Slimy Bob's Guitar Rip-Off or something, which had advertised a Fender Stratocaster for \$400," he recalls. "But when I got there, he didn't have that—only a more expensive Strat. So I bought the Jazzmaster instead. Classic bait and switch."

In 1984, Mascis founded Dinosaur Jr. with high school pal Lou Barlow, and the band soon enjoyed national success with the fuzzy assault of their sophomore effort, *You're Living All Over Me*. After booting Barlow in 1989, Mascis carried on, inking with Sire Records to release *Green Mind* and 1997's *Hand It Over*—Dino Jr.'s last studio release.

Mascis's frequent soloing tangents often confused those in the too-hip indie rock scene. "It was kinda like we came out of the hardcore scene," he says, "but nobody from the hardcore scene liked our music. Still, I've heard people say that, since no one was playing them at the time, our solos were kind of interesting."

Though Mascis is a prolific songwriter, he wouldn't mind giving up the craft for the right guitar gig. "It would be much easier to be just a guitarist," he says. "If I found some lucrative guitar-playing gig, I'd sure be tempted to take it."

—KATHERINE TURMAN



circa 1992 2005

LOST LICKS "Out There" From Dinosaur Jr.'s *Where You Been* (Sire) "I used a Gibson Les Paul Junior and a '61 SG through a '59 Fender Bandmaster; that's the basic rhythm sound. The solo is a Jazzmaster through a Big Muff, and, like all my solos, it's improvised. I like the intro because, to me, it sounds pretty good. I won't be playing it on this tour, though, because Lou [Barlow] wasn't in the band when this album came out, and so he doesn't know it. This is a reasonably popular one, I guess. Some of our songs have been used in skateboarding videos, and 'Out There' was in *Wayne's World 2*—it's playing on Drew Barrymore's desk or something. I don't really remember that scene."

Capo III

Verse
Moderate Rock ♩ = 140

Gtr. 1 (dist.) * (Em) Gm F Eb
(D) (C)

Let ring throughout P.M. -

*Symbols in parentheses represent chords respective to capod guitar; symbols above represent sounding chords. Capod fret is "0" in TAB.

Words and Music by Joseph Mascis; Copyright © 1993 by Spam As The Bread Music; All Rights Administered by Zomba Songs, a division of Zomba Enterprises, Inc.; International Copyright Secured; All Rights Reserved; Reprinted by Permission of Hal Leonard Corporation

ULTIMATE MUSIC; INSET: JENS JURGENSEN