



As a kid, I always thought Lydia Lunch was kinda intriguing. The "singer" had a knack for provocative pictures on her album sleeves, plus she looked like a sexier, more experienced version of the little Goth girls I knew. But, when I finally heard her stuff, I found it to be far more challenging than expected. Noisy, atonal and artsy beyond measure, Lydia Lunch is not for everyone. The sultry, post-punk chanteuse has been in several bands and is renowned for her collaborations with the likes of Nick Cave. At 17, she formed the infamous Teenage Jesus and the Jerks, an experimental "no wave" outfit that

fused punk aesthetics with experimental jazz structures and performance art. Often referred to as the precursor to Courtney Love, Lunch's brash spoken-word tirades, feminist outlook and proclivity to show skin have endeared her to many in early

alternative circles. But for me, her art is just plain difficult and hasn't gotten better with age. A new DVD comp *Video Hysterie: 1978-2006* (MVD) features several vignettes from different phases from Lunch's storied career—like Teenage Jesus and the Jerks, Eyed Spy and Shotgun Wedding, plus collaborations with various underground personalities. Nowadays, alternative music refers to a whole spectrum of watered-down commercial rock. This is definitely not that. Lunch's video repertoire

represents the true meaning of the term, ranging from über-sleazy ("Doggin'") to completely un-glued ("Summon"). Overall, it's boisterous, annoying stuff, but at the very least, it's interesting to watch—kinda like a freeway pileup at rush hour.

**by Jim Kaz**