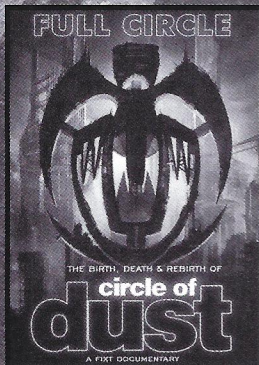


**"FULL CIRCLE:  
THE BIRTH, DEATH AND REBIRTH OF CIRCLE OF DUST"  
(FIXT)**

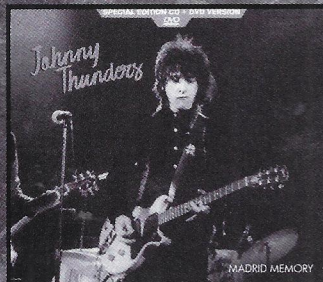


A moderately entertaining account of the Industrial Metal group from New York. I knew nothing of Circle Of Dust entering into this and while I can say this strand of music is not something I am partial to in any form, their story held my attention. Circle Of Dust is the brainchild of Klayton Albert, a 1980's Thrasher, who developed the project as a method to experiment with marrying the sounds of Thrash Metal, synthesizers, loops and an assortment of other electronic means of production. The film revisits the formative years of Circle Of Dust, from their basement development to early DIY tours

and their subsequent signing to a record company. There's a wealth of archive footage to provide context alongside current interviews with Klayton and his associates through the years. We're walked through Circle Of Dust's story, which has its inevitable ups and downs, break-ups, make-ups and so forth. The first run of the project lasted ten years, before regrouping once more in 2015, where the documentary again takes up the story. The film is directed and co-produced by Klayton and he does a thorough job of getting his story told. Most of the content is relatable on a personal level, although when the music's holds little appeal, for me it occasionally feels as though something is lacking. This is a double-disc DVD suite, with over four hours of footage across the set and is undertaken with a fan-like devotion. As a stranger, it provided a coherent chronicle of Circle Of Dust's back story and what they represent today.

**(FIXT INC: PO BOX 501, BURLINGTON, IA 52601, U.S.A.)**

**"JOHNNY THUNDERS:  
MADRID MEMORY"  
(MVD)**



Definitely one for Johnny Thunders completists here. This DVD/CD combo is taken from a recently unearthed 1984 performance in Madrid, Spain. Johnny is joined by Sylvain Sylvain, Jerry Nolan and Billy Rath, so quite the line-up for Heartbreakers and Dolls enthusiasts, of which I am both. Unfortunately the sound is piss poor and seconds into "Pipeline" Johnny's guitar is promptly

muted and remains lost in the mix for the duration of the gig. Sylvain is practically inaudible too and mostly what we get is bass, drums and slurred vocals. The concert footage, to its credit, was professionally shot by a local TV station, but there're chunks chopped out, sometimes mid song, which is a further nuisance. Notwithstanding the above, Thunders fans will still get a kick out of this as any unseen footage, however weak, remains of interest. Johnny is decked out in full matador attire, strutting like a peacock about the stage and more concerned with swagger than remembering how to play his own songs. Many classics from his and The Dolls repertoires are here, including "Personality Crises", "Born To Lose" and "Too Much Junkie Business". The songs are barely held together with the help of the band, but when Johnny goes solo and acoustic it begins to come apart at the seams quite rapidly. Some brain box came up with the idea of enlisting a local flamenco guitarist to back Johnny up on the solo numbers, completely unrehearsed by sounds of it, and it fails miserably. It's all a bit of a train wreck to be frank, but that was the story of this man's life and fans will know what to expect from past experience. By no means should this set be encouraged as an introduction to Johnny Thunders, but for those of us who've maxed out his other works, it does no harm at all having this in the cache.

**(MVD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP: 203 WINDSOR ROAD, POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, PA 19464, U.S.A.)**

**"RECORDS COLLECTING DUST:  
A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT THE MUSIC AND RECORDS  
THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES"  
(MVD)**

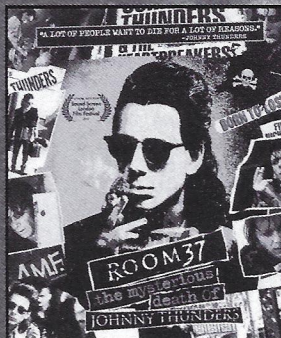


The second instalment of Jason Blackmore's set of documentaries examining Punk Rockers and the records that have shaped them. From memory, the first chapter focused on the West Coast of the United States and here he shines the spotlight on the East Coast. Luminaries like Ian McKaye, John Joseph, Curtis Casella, Roger Miret, Brian Baker and numerous others share their memories with us as record collectors and attempt to put into words what it feels like when music truly touches the soul. Blackmore takes the interviewees right back to year zero when they purchased their very first records, which for many predates Punk to Classic Rock and Pop music of

the day. People discover music in a myriad of ways; for some its immediate family, others more distant relations, neighbours and friends. John Joseph imparts a touching story of finding an AM radio in a dumpster and this soon became his salvation from the abuse he was suffering in foster care. Each of the subjects' hand-pick records from their shelves that carry the most meaning; whether that be the obscurity or monetary value, or the sentimental attachment. Al Quint from Suburban Voice fanzine selects a 7-inch that a close friend gifted him prior to losing her life on board one of the September 11th planes. Paul Bearer from Sheer Terror plumps for The Outcasts "Self Conscious Over You" LP as holding particular meaning for him. Bad Brains, Black Flag and Sham 69, perhaps unsurprisingly, all figure highly on the shortlist for many contributors. The film is light on pretension, which given the current fad around vinyl, was refreshing and it gets to the heart of why people obsess over music. At just under an hour in running length, it's as if Blackmore realises the somewhat narrow parameters he's working within and is mindful of running out of road, repetition setting in or the stories wearing thin. There's a genuine love for music in all its forms running through this and the producers strike the right balance between egghead collectors and those for whom music transcends its physical form.

**(MVD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP: 203 WINDSOR ROAD, POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, PA 19464, U.S.A.)**

**"ROOM 37:  
THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF JOHNNY THUNDERS"  
(MVD)**



Full disclosure; docudramas are not my thing and it wasn't until I popped this in the player that I realised this was one of 'em and not the documentary I was expecting. In retrospect, it's probably a good thing as I did question the wisdom in releasing another Johnny Thunders documentary so soon after 2015's "Looking For Johnny". The story is set in and around St. Peter's Hotel in New Orleans, where Thunders met his death in 1991. It combines zombie horror, thriller and drama to recreate the events leading up to the discovery of his body. Leo Ramsey does a pretty convincing job of playing the lead role, with Johnny's quirky mannerisms and eccentricities all on-point. Real-life soon converts to horror terrain when Johnny inadvertently drops some alleged LSD and begins hallucinating. The film deliberately blurs reality with imagination in an attempt to re-create a world through the eyes of a junkie under the influence of various substances. Confusing the issue further are the cast of drug dealers, criminals and general low-lives Johnny falls in with, as his assumed good intentions of coming to New Orleans go wayward. Johnny stumbles about the French Quarter from bar to bar as we trace the downward spiral that would ultimately cost him his life. The unexplained final hours are played out through a psychedelic haze that doesn't provide any concrete answers to the mystery, leaving it open to further analysis. Despite earlier reservations the zombie horror elements work quite well and are used in a smart way to navigate the unknowns in his story.

**(MVD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP: 203 WINDSOR ROAD, POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, PA 19464, U.S.A.)**