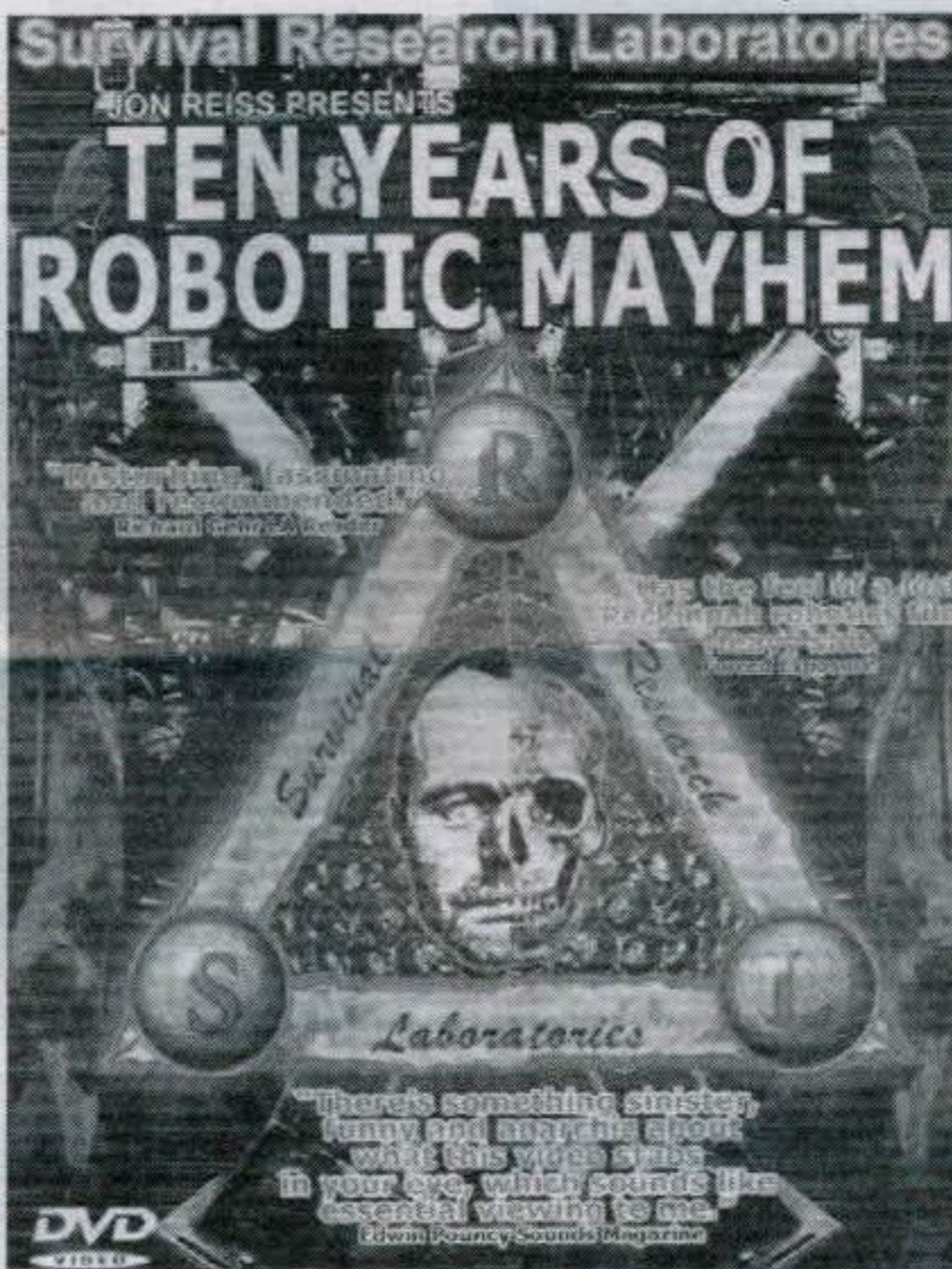


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THE WATCHER



I, ROBOT

Survival Research Laboratories releases
'Ten Years of Robotic Mayhem'

If you've seen the UK television show *Robot Wars*, then you've seen a safe and sanitized rip-off of the vision of Survival Research Laboratories and founder Mark Pauline. Unlike *Robot Wars*, the performance art of SRL is dark, legitimately disturbing, extremely distopian and intentionally threatens and taunts the audience, intending to make us feel uncomfortable, sick or in danger. The robots themselves are ugly by design, often draped in decomposing animal carcasses, attacking both each other and elaborate outdoor sets made of wood, glass, belching fire, sides of meat and curdling milk. *SRL: Ten Years of Robotic Mayhem* (\$19.95; available at www.musicvideodistributors.com) covers the first decade of performances, from 1979 to 1989, and though much of the footage was previously available through SRL's videos, this is the first mass-market release. The director's commentary is new, and though it suffers some from being taped via a conference call, it offers a constant flow of fascinating anecdotes from many of the original SRL members. The commentary also helps to keep the non-diehard audience engaged, since much of this DVD is made up of documentary footage of chaotic and nonnarrative performances, which tend to blend together after the first hour. A must-have for fans of punk history or anyone who enjoys the dark side of art and music.

Michael Houghton