



- Left of the Dial Magazine

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**[The Fall/Live at the L.A. Knitting Factory, 2001: Hip Priest](#)**

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With gutter swagger, gargling wit, and murky semi-abandon, the Fall are once again caught live by what sounds like someone in the audience with a digital recorder trying to squeeze between jittery elbows, though the audio verite actually feels full, naked, and loud enough that Mark E. Smith, like a post-punk trickster, is practically lounging his way into your ears with ease, setting off tiny urban haiku grenades. As everyone knows, the Fall have not been seriously vitriolic and combustive for a long time, but this line up does have moments of dire distress, such as “Mr. Pharmacist” and the clipped “Dr. Buck’s Letter.” However, choice tacks include the infamous “Bourgeois Town” and “Cropdust” with its mumbled passages from the seminal Ginsberg beat poem Howl (“holy holy”) that come and go as quick as a blink of a bleary eye.

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- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
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