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# cd reviews

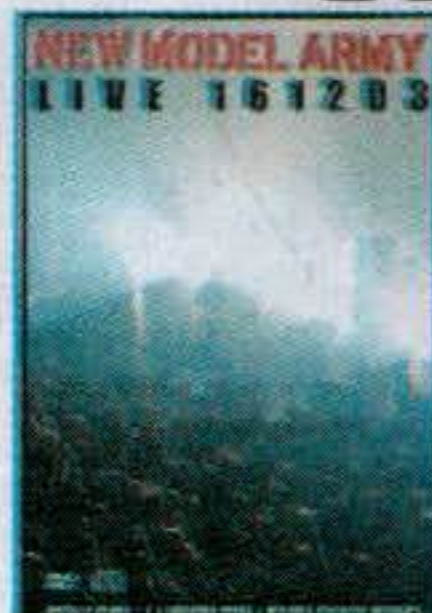
Ministry – *The Last Sucker*  
(13th Planet/Megaforce)



The supposed final hurrah from Ministry, *The Last Sucker* is promised to also send one final f-u to President Bush and his cronies. And what a send-off it is! If you've heard any Ministry in the past decade, you know what to expect – grinding, growly industrial metal with serious intent to injure. Go into this expecting nothing more, and this is one enjoyable burst of adrenaline after another. It's pretty well established that mainman Al Jourgensen can write a catchy tune, even in his early days (haha), and *The Last Sucker* has that, all rolled into a fiery speedball of rolling guitar riffage and drums that go far beyond human. This is evidenced in the intense hardcore of "No Glory," which is easily as good as anything in Al's extensive back catalogue – think *Psalm 69* or *Thieves*. And the tinny production of his recent work is also thankfully gone, perhaps thanks to some new engineering blood. What we have left is a powerful and ultra-aggressive set of political tunes that maintain a detectable amount of electronic programming amidst an onslaught of furious hyperspeed thrash. And Al has assembled a cast of like-minded metal and industrial pioneers (members of Prong, Killing Joke, and Fear Factory) to augment his gigantic middle finger to our current administration. Wow, all this and a scandalously blistering cover of the Doors' "Roadhouse Blues" that smokes. Need some caffeine? This should get ya to work in the morning in record time. And may I suggest *The Last Sucker* for that aural goosing that much of the USSA needs.

— Todd Zachritz

New Model Army – *Live 161203*  
(Secret Films via MVD)



Emerging from the rich post-punk scene in England amidst the Thatcher administration, NMA have seen some turbulent times come and go, but they're still persevering, as evidenced by this document of a rare gig from 2003. Lead singer/guitarist Justin Sullivan's road-wearied, working-class delivery is bold and impassioned, and the band conjures a fine

mix of moody, often-heavy rock and folksy sounds behind him. "What A Wonderful Way To Go" is strong and beautiful, while 80s standby "51st State" is still fiery – and more than relevant today. "No Rest" is another amped-up highlight, as is the climactic and hopeful closer, "I Love The World." Lyrically, Sullivan is still concerned with Imperialism and its' effect on the world's balance, and this stance has landed him in hot water with the US government (denying NMA's touring visas in years past). Undoubtedly, this has hurt the group's following in the US, but New Model Army's music has nonetheless withstood the test of time, and this fine show, coupled with an informative and insightful interview with Sullivan himself (as a bonus feature) is more than worth a closer look.

— Todd Zachritz

The Secret Meeting – *Ultrashiver*  
(Noiseplus Music)



Combining the talents of California darkwave-electronic duo Collide and former Curve programmer Dean Garcia seems like a pretty promising match, as both acts have specialized in swirly mixtures of moody yet sensual grooves and aggressive electro-rock. *Ultrashiver* is quite possibly some of the finest and most developed work yet, from either camp. Ranging from the subtly-layered vocal melodies of the percussive

"Touch" to the delicate and melodic closer, "Imaginate," which bursts into a swell of epic noise and drums grooves alongside the sweetly mysterious vocals of Karin, this trans-continental collaboration flows beautifully. Echoes of Curve lurk within the dubby electro-with-guitar-feedback of "Every Little Thing," whereas Collide's penchant for ghostly texture and bold grooves envelop "Beautiful Noise Machine." Fans of edgier dance-rock with heavenly voices will find immediate sustenance in *The Secret Meeting*.

Wonderful music, and if you doubt me, check out their website ([www.theseetmeeting.net](http://www.theseetmeeting.net)) and hear it for yourself.

— Rob Wickett

# ratingscale

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