(GODSEND ONLINE)

Joy Division - "Under Review" DVD - Any release self-deemed an 'independent critical analysis' is more often than not, another name for 'unauthorized cash-in attempt'. However, this 70-minute bio offers some historical documentation as well as some well-reasoned reflections and opinions on this legendary Manchester post-punk act. Led by the visionary (and troubled) vocalist Ian Curtis, Joy Division spearheaded a head-on collision between punk, pre-industrial electronics, and experimental rock. From 1977 to their sudden implosion in 1980 due to Curtis' untimely suicide, the group released 2 forward-thinking studio LPs as well as numerous singles that explored everything from love to loss to isolation to loneliness to jubilation. Some writers who were around to experience the group's heyday comment here, as well as associates and esteemed music journalists who respectfully reflect on the group's short but influential career. A nice career summation, and worth a viewing for die-hard fans. (MVD)