

LOSINGTODAY

Joy Division - Under Review (Sexy Intellectual)

With this review I bid a less than fond farewell to reviewing the Under Review DVD series. On the surface the premise sounds alluring - a DVD look back at the music made by some of the greatest rock artists of the past 50 years - but the reality is that a majority of the footage used for these dvd's comes from interviews with music writers, and who wants to watch them talk about what they think? There's a very good reason why reviews are written and not videotaped. Joy Division's music is great, and their story is a fascinating one (in a nutshell: group of friends sees Sex Pistols play live in Manchester, form band, grow from average punk band to innovative post-punk band, singer develops epilepsy and kills himself), but when it gets told by people who weren't part of the story it creates a major disconnect. The snippets of footage of Joy Division playing live is a welcome addition to the dvd, but they end too soon, and give way to another snoozefest interview. Fans looking to find out more about the band are better off reading about the band, watching 24 Hour Party People, waiting for the long rumored biopic to come out, or scouring Youtube for good video clips. Anything but this.