

Metal Machine Music: Nine Inch Nails & The Industrial Uprising

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Sexy Intellectual SIDVD 546

Industrial explored in detail

Zippping through the oft-told stories of punk and electronica on the way to 70s industrial music à la Throbbing Gristle and beyond, *Metal Machine Music* does a solid job of explaining what the hell industrial was, what it became and what it is today. It does this largely via interviews with noted musicians such as TG frontperson Genesis P-Orridge and learned talking heads Ned Raggett and Tommy Udo (offering the excellent insight that later song themes were akin to “a fork in your eye”).

The range of cited acts is fascinating – Kraftwerk, DAF, Cabaret Voltaire, even Gary Numan and The Human League – and that’s before we get to the modern era and shouty post-industrialists Nine Inch Nails. Once there, much time and effort is expended on why it is that people like NIN so much, aided by live footage of Trent Reznor et al. His bassist Chris Vrenna is on hand to help out, painting a picture of industrial not so much as a specific sound but an attitude that’s been around for over three decades. It’s not perfect but it’s one of the best attempts at telling the tale to date. *Joel McIver*