

cd reviews



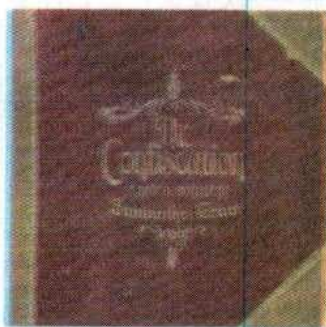
Controlled Bleeding Before The Quiet CD (MVD Audio)

New York's Controlled Bleeding are known as one of America's earliest industrial noise acts. From the early 80's, the group, centered around Paul Lemos, has created a dizzying array of releases, covering a wide swath of sounds both soothing and confrontational. *Before The Quiet* collects their very earliest recordings, and dates back to the late 70's. And while the playful experimentation is there, much of this is closer to a wild free jazz/improv/prog-rock format. The track 'Controlled Bleeding' itself is set to a frenzied and almost thrashy tempo. 'Veal,' with its surf organ, is another anomaly - up-tempo and quickly giving way to another breakneck speed-surf-riff-o-rama. 'Fiddles & Joey' features the inimitable scat-singing of Joe Papa, and other tracks (some recorded live, others in garages, on 2-track, etc.) are similarly unique. And strangely, despite this material being nearly 30 years old, nothing here sounds really dated. If you wrote off Controlled Bleeding based on their harsher 'industrial' past, this could change your mind, as these musical chameleons can confound as well as anyone.

-Todd Zachritz • Rating: 3



Samantha Crain The Confiscation (Ramseur)



From what sounds like an empty, vandalized farmhouse situated somewhere out on the vast American Plains,

Samantha Crain brings us this, her "Musical Novella." A short, sparse collection exuding melancholic whimsy and longing, *The Confiscation* sounds like Mazzy Star singing Decem-berists-inspired folk Americana - a close-eyed conjuring of dust bowl depression that recalls the ambling passion of Joanna Newsome while remaining firmly grounded in the traditions and sentiments of the Guthries and Carters. All in all, a very pleasant musical excursion. I only wish it was longer.

- Brad Linzy • Rating: 4

KMFDM Extra Vol.1 2x CD (Metropolis)

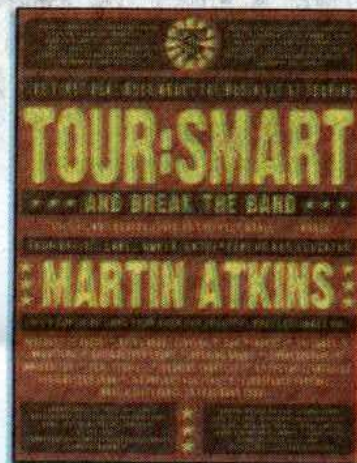
Compiling tons of vinyl and CD-singles from their classic Wax Trax! Records heyday (1986-1992), this set shows the German-American industrial rock group's quick progression and growth as they stormed the states on a huge tour with Ministry in their prime (1989-90).



Beginning with the early raw electronic-beats of stuff like 'Don't Blow Your Top' (featuring here in a superb Adrian Sherwood remix), 'Extra' follows the group into a dancier, clubby realm ('Naive,' here remixed a couple of times by Chicago sleaze-disco act Thrill Kill Kult), some trippy psycho-dub ('Virus', 'M+F 244'), and finally, their now-trademark electro-rock. One of the band's definitive cuts, 'Godlike,' is reprised here, and this Slayer sampling club track can still melt dance floors while appealing to the longhairs and head bangers at the same time. Very fun. And disc 2 has even more! KMFDM have always been masters of the anthemic, and 'Go To Hell,' 'Split,' and 'Money' all feature this second disc, often in multiple mixes. The remastered sound here makes it all go 'boom' in the car, as well, so that's always a plus. Overall, *Extra* is a great collection of now-unavailable mixes and versions for the hardcore KMFDM fan, and also a fitting starting point for anyone curious about this band's extensive 22-year history.

- Todd Zachritz • Rating: 4

Martin Atkins Tour Smart - And Break The Band" DVD (Invisible/MVD Visual)



Martin Atkins has spent the better part of 30 years touring, recording, performing, networking, running a label, screen-printing, and gener-

ally 'effing it up (pigface)'. He's spent time with a number of pretty damned important bands (Pigface, Killing Joke, Ministry, Nine Inch Nails, etc.) In essence, Atkins knows his stuff.

In-between all this work, Martin has been working as a lecturer, and he's now an author. His book, 'Tour Smart,' has been hailed as an essential read for bands or artists who are looking at touring and building up a fan-base.

This DVD release, which basically collects a bunch of (mostly brief) clips of Atkins explaining and demonstrating his ideas and experiences, is an entertaining and oftentimes enlightening bit of work. From mapping out and strategizing a tour (his easy 'how-to' here could logically save new bands hundreds of dollars and many hours), to his no-nonsense marketing basics, this DVD is a wise investment indeed, for any musician or artist, regardless of genre or affiliation. Atkins' charismatic and animated personality is down-to-earth, and his tips are easy to grasp. This one's fun to watch if you're a fan of any of Atkins' many musical projects, but it's a must-have if you're starting a band, or even thinking about it. I, personally, am wiser for seeing this!

- Todd Zachritz • Rating: 3

Blind Pilot 3 Rounds and a Sound (Expunged)

If you're like me, you tend to spend most of your adult life and your time appreciating music and art trying to recapture certain feelings hidden back in the dark corners of your youth