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Movie Music

Moviefone Recommends

24 Hour Party People

By: Dan Marek

In the late 1970s, Manchester began a transformation from a dark, downtrodden Northern English town into a bright conglomeration of music with diverse cultures and innovative ideas. The story changes a bit depending on who you talk to, but there's one thing that everyone agrees on: television host and Factory Records founder Tony Wilson had something to do with it.

24 Hour Party People follows the illustrious Wilson from a sparsely attended Sex Pistols gig in 1976 until the rise of electronica at his famed Hacienda nightclub in the early 90s. With such a wide span of time and genres, the movie's soundtrack journeys through Manchester's musical history by highlighting its diverse clientele of musicians as they grow with the scene.

Joy Division, the first band Wilson signed to Factory Records, has three songs from their 1979 debut featured on the album. The first, "Transmission," spotlights singer Ian Curtis (who's 1980 suicide forced the other members to form new wave sensation New Order) with low-pitched monotone vocals weaving between simple distorted guitars and 80s dance melodies.

The title track, written by the ever-high-spirited Happy Mondays, grabs the theme of the movie and runs with electro synths, trippy vocal effects, and a steady bass line over punchy dance-worthy fills. Songs by The Clash ("Janie Jones") and the Sex Pistols ("Anarchy in the UK") capture the punk attitude of the musicians in Manchester while





Track Listing

1. Anarchy In The UK - Sex Pistols
2. 24 Hour Party People - Happy Mondays
3. Transmission - Joy Division
4. Ever Fallen In Love - Buzzcocks
5. Janie Jones - The Clash
6. New Dawn Fades - New Order
7. Atmosphere - Joy Division
8. Otis - The Durutti Column
9. Voodoo Ray - A Guy Called Gerald
10. Temptation - New Order
11. Loose Fit - Happy Mondays
12. Pacific State - 808 State
13. Blue Monday - New Order
14. Move Your Body - Marshall Jefferson
15. She's Lost Control - Joy Division
16. Hallelujah - Happy Mondays
17. Here To Stay - New Order
18. Love Will Tear Us Apart - New Order

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giving insight into the inspiration they needed to create their own sound.

On the opposite spectrum, New Order's four tracks give a taste of Factory's most successful act with favorites like "Temptation" and the groundbreaking "Blue Monday," which sold more singles than any other release on the label, but still lost four pence on every sale because of the expensive cover art.

After looking at the musicians' work on the album, you can't help but notice producer Martin Hannett's masterful work on tracks like Joy Division's "She's Lost Control." Here, he shows his meticulous ability to keep instruments simple and identifiable while adding overdubbed slamming doors, sirens and breaking glass to the mix for a more distinctive breakthrough sound.

The album also features new remixes of old favorites, like Moby's work on New Order's "New Dawn Fades" and the Chemical Brothers-produced New Order single "Here to Stay," which includes contemporary techno rhythms blended into their signature floaty vocals and drum-machine rhythms.

With so many stories within Manchester's musical explosion in the late 70s and 80s, **24 Hour Party People** pieces together many contradictory bands and genius production. It's the tale of a time in music when the music became more important than anything else -- including the survival of the record label that helped put the city on the map.

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