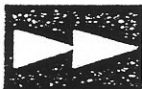




# SMUG

November 1997

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | <b>FOETUS</b> |
|  | <i>Deaf</i>   |
|  | <i>Ache</i>   |
|  | [Thirsty Ear] |

These two Foetus reissues, originally released only on vinyl by Self Immolation Records in 1981 and 1982, respectively, were remastered by Jim Thirwell, himself. Both are laden with synth-pop keyboards and industrial dance beats, yet the music cannot be categorized as

such. Mixed with Thirwell's fuzzy vocals are samples of people talking and screaming. Usually accompanied by a keyboard that sounds as if it belongs in an abandoned carnival, the samples play an integral role in constructing a disturbing background that contributes to Thirwell's equally unsettling lyrics. On "I Started Slogging Today," Thirwell screams, "You've ain't tasted nothing until you've had Foetus on your breath."

*Deaf* and *Ache* together create a vicious commentary on straight-laced WASP culture, resulting in innovative music that fits into a surrealist-movie soundtrack. Old Foetus fans who have had trouble finding *Deaf* and *Ache* will be pleased, and anyone wanting to pry into the mind of Thirwell, well this is a great place to start. (Helen Giano)