Morphius, in conjunction with Messthetics, is pleased to present

THE INSTANT AUTOMATONS

"Another Wasted Sunday Afternoon" CD

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6-panel folder insert with bio, track-by-track commentary and plenty of photos.

RealAudio samples and lyrics online at hyped2death.com:

OVERVIEW

The best of this classic D.I.Y. band's immense catalog of cassettes and vinyl 1979-82, plus never-released material.

The Instant Automatons were not the most prolific of D.I.Y.'s cassette-culture crowd, but these lads from Scunthorpe were arguably the most influential – and the first to start swapping (rather than selling) cassettes.

The instrumentation is sparse – bass, guitar, and an assortment of home-built electronics– while Mark Automaton contributes some of the finest lyrics in all of D.I.Y.... A bad case of writer's block spelled the end of the band in 1982, and partner/bassist/chief electrician Protag went on to **Blyth Power**, **ATV**...and the resurrected **Zounds**.

"While "Do It Yourself" was punk's liberating credo, the Instant Automatons pushed the DIY ethic further than many of their contemporaries, with regard to how they played their music, how they recorded it, and how they distributed it.

The term "lo-fi" was still years away from being used to describe a hip variant of indie rock, but the Instant Automatons were among the forerunners... The results – often treated with a generous amount of echo – had a considerable amount in common with peers like Joy Division, Cabaret Voltaire, ATV, the Fall, and John Cooper Clarke. Indeed, as a lyricist, Lancaster often fell somewhere between Cooper Clarke and Mark E. Smith, although he was more subtle than the former and less obtuse than the latter... Lancaster's trope of choice was irony, usually deployed to assail intolerant behaviors and attitudes...Indeed, he comes across rather like the Philip Larkin of Bad Music. Sometimes, however, the irony is considerably darker, for instance on the anti-war number 'Nice Job for the Lad.'"

— Wilson Neate, Dusted

MESSTHETICS

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