

[Bob Dylan: World Tours 1966-1974](#)

DVD released: March 8, 2005

Approximate running time: 120 minutes

Aspect ratio: 1.33:1

Rating: NR

Sound: Dolby Digital Stereo

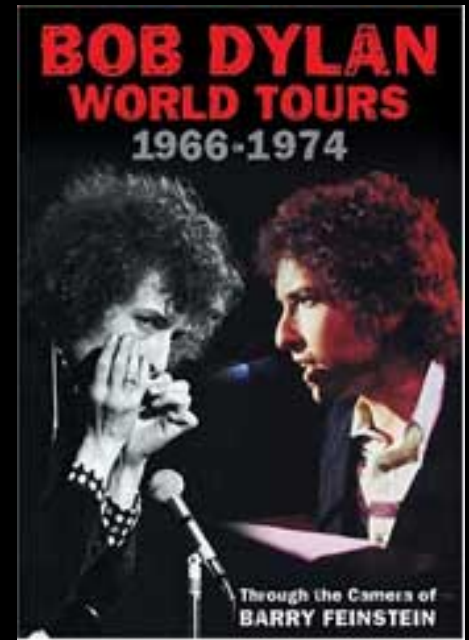
DVD Release: Highway 61 Entertainment

Region Coding: Region 0 NTSC

Retail Price: \$14.95

Reviewed by:

Don Guarisaco on February 12, 2005



Quick links: [\[video\]](#) [\[audio\]](#) [\[extras\]](#) [\[overall\]](#)

The Film

The subtitle of this documentary is "*Through The Lens Of Barry Feinstein.*" It's a bit of a misnomer - there were only two world tours to speak of during this time and the documentary covers more than just Goldstein's photography of Bob Dylan.

The raw material of this documentary is fascinating stuff. As someone handpicked by Dylan, Feinstein had the access and opportunities to get classic shots of Dylan at two peak-level times in his career. The documentary also widens its frame of reference to speak to documentarian D.A. Pennebaker, legendary music journalist Al Aronowitz and counterculture muck-raker/Dylan obsessive A.J. Weberman. When the camera focuses on these men and allows them to tell their tales, the results are quite interesting - each speaks with candor and offers up fun anecdotes. The best tales come when Aronowitz talks about masterminding the first meeting between the Beatles & Dylan and when Weberman tells a story of how (*deservingly*) got beaten up by Dylan for combing through his trash (*he calls it 'garbology'*).

Unfortunately, there is an 800 pound gorilla sitting in the middle of the material and weighing it down - and it's the region of the filmmaker



himself, Joel Gilbert. He spends about half the (*overlong*) running time trying to steal the spotlight from his subject. There is no denying Gilbert's passion for his subject - he's written a book on Dylan, directed another documentary project about him and leads a Bob Dylan tribute act - but he's a mediocre documentarian. His approach is essentially dishonest - the film isn't really about Dylan's world tours or Feinstein, it's about Gilbert's journey to meet Feinstein and any other Dylan-related person he could get access to. To his credit, he lets them tell their stories but he also constantly undercuts the film's integrity by inserting himself into the proceedings wherever possible.

You can't go ten minutes in this doc without seeing Gilbert's mug. Every segment is set up with footage of Gilbert strutting around in Dylan drag (*he makes sure to include every instance where people tell him he looks 'just like Dylan'*) and he pads the proceedings with footage designed to give him more screen time. For instance, he disrupts an interesting segment where Dylan's infamous motorcycle accident is discussed with footage of himself as Dylan on a motorcycle faking a crash - not only is this tacky, it's downright insensitive. Another memorably offensive moment comes when he poses as Dylan to interview an out-of-it homeless hippie called Grandpa Woodstock in a very smarmy, sarcastic manner. Worst of all, he frequently cuts away during the interviews to unintentionally hilarious reaction shots of himself that recall the oft-mocked Robin Leach reaction shots from ***Lifestyles Of The Rich & Famous***.

Thus, ***Bob Dylan World Tours 1966-1974*** is half historical document and half vanity project. It is likely to leave the viewer with the feeling that Gilbert undertook the documentary to fund his Dylan fan dream trip (*there's gratuitous footage of him visiting former Dylan homes in Woodstock and Big Pink*), to have an excuse to meet famous figures in the Dylan story and to hawk his own image & projects. If he'd been honest about this it would have been fine - charming, even. Unfortunately, he didn't and it sometimes feels



like you got suckered into watching somebody's home movies.



Video

3.5/5

The majority of the project was shot on video without any great cinematic flair so there's not much talk about in terms of cinematography. That said, all the footage is free of any distortion and reproductions of Feinstein's excellent photography are pleasing to the eye.



Audio

3.5/5

The audio is presented via a simple, two-channel stereo mix. The interview segments come through nice and clear and the frequent music-backed montages (*scored by Gilbert's Dylan tribute act, natch*) sound fine.

Extras

2/5

Two bonus interviews, each in the 8 to 10 minute range, are provided. The first is with Bruce Langhorne, who played on some of Dylan's early recordings and the other is with Izzy Young, a music impresario who booked Dylan's first concert. Both are quite good and Gilbert should have cut some of his vanity footage from the documentary to make room for them. There's also a few, all-too-brief galleries of Feinstein's photos.



Overall

3/5

There's enough nuggets of choice info to make this worth it for a Dylanite but you better keep your finger on the fast-forward button. Everyone else should keep their distance because this one's for hardcore fans only.

Film Rating		DVD Rating
Director:	Barry Feinstein	Film: ★★★
Writer:	N/A	Video: ★★★★★
Released:	2004	Audio: ★★★★★
Cast:	Bob Dylan	Extras: ★★
		Overall: ★★★

comment on this review in the [forum](#)

[\[Review Index\]](#) [\[Top of Page\]](#)

© copyright DVD Maniacs 2001-2005