



Vermont news, sports and entertainment for Chester, Londonderry, Ludlow, Rockingham, Springfield, West River Valley and Weston.

Bob Dylan
1978-1989 Both Ends Of The Rainbow
Review By Joe Milliken

The full scope of Bob Dylan's influence on music and American popular culture is hard to grasp, therefore breaking down his career (in this case an 11-year period) seems a logical approach to fully understanding the vast styles and genres he has touched upon over his 40-plus years in the music business.

Both Ends Of The Rainbow documents however, perhaps Dylan's most controversial and misunderstood (even to many of his most loyal followers) periods from 1978 to 1989. A period in which Dylan took a complete ³left turn² musically. Going from the raunchy, raucous style of his previous ³Rolling Thunder Review Tour² to the release of Street Legal, a shiny sounding album with horns, female backup singers and such.

Many a Dylan follower (and reviewer) did not connect with this new direction, a period in which he would do much soul searching in his life, including several subsequent albums full of religious connotations including Slow Train Comin', Saved and Shot Of Love). Also during this period, Dylan refused to play (in concert) songs from his popular 60's and early 70's back catalog, which further alienated him from many fans.

The documentary contains rare, live footage and interviews with several people close to the scene including producers, engineers and prominent music journalists who by the way, don't always have favorable comments about the Dylan ³religious² period.

However the opinions do (generally speaking) bounce back when critiquing such subsequent 80's phases of Dylan's journey including the releases Infidels in 1983, produced by Dire Strait's Mark Knopfler, and 1989's Oh Mercy which was produced by Daniel Landois.

Although Dylan is widely considered to be a genius, the opinions in this documentary certainly do not automatically shower him with praise and glory, therefore creating an atmosphere that offers a range of feelings and opinions. Possibilities and facets that certainly makes one contemplate, Dylan fan or not, the man's true influence on music and pop culture.

Bonus material included in this high recommended release are the notorious ³Dylan Gospel Interviews², which took place during his most zealous Christian phase.