

Bob Dylan: 1978-1989: Both Ends of the Rainbow

Both Ends of the Rainbow probably should have been released to coincide with the arrival in theaters or on DVD of I'm Not There. Both films attempt to demystify Bob Dylan, without the benefit of his actual physical presence, which was reserved for profiles by Martin Scorsese and 60 Minutes. Here, the Under Review panelists pore through the evidence provided in song and sensational news stories to make sense of Dylan's weirdest decade, which spanned Slow Training Coming and Oh Mercy, and included flirtations with evangelical Christianity, the Chabad Lubavitch community of Orthodox Jews, Hollywood, Deadheads, rap music, needy farmers and the people who thought rock 'n' roll needed to validate itself by opening a Hall of Fame. Most musicians don't go through that many changes in their lifetime, let alone a mere 10 years. And, in hindsight, Dylan also managed to produce some excellent material, along with lots of the dross. As is the case generally with Under Review titles, the conversations, commentary and archival material makes for an enjoyable two hours. The bonus material adds The Dylan Gospel Interviews and additional chat.

- Gary Dretzka