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**THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE**

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## Reviews

### BOB DYLAN 1975-1981: ROLLING THUNDER AND THE GOSPEL YEARS

By Cyril Pearl 3/13/2006

DVDX Rating:  Users' Rating: **Not rated** Cast Your Vote:

Highest rating = 5 discs; Users' rating = Average of all votes

**HIT:** Documentarian Joel Gilbert includes rare materials, such as audio clips of Bob Dylan proselytizing onstage during his Christian period.

**MISS:** The unauthorized nature of the doc yields some candid talk about Dylan but also ensures that none of his music is heard in the four-hour running time.

Hardcore Dylan fans are the target audience for this unauthorized documentary that--as its cover clearly states--"contains no Bob Dylan songs." *Rolling Thunder* is composed of numerous interviews conducted by Dylan cover artist Joel Gilbert and punctuated by silly graphics intended to illustrate what the interviewees are speaking about. The focus is on two seminal events in Dylan's career: the 1975-76 Rolling Thunder tour and his conversion to evangelical Christianity in 1979. The interview subjects, who range from such industry vets as producer Jerry Wexler and folkie Ramblin' Jack Elliott to Dylan's fellow musicians and even Jews for Jesus leader Mitch Glaser, are candid about Dylan's genius and his mercurial behavior. Gilbert has to veer away from Dylan's music, but there are quite a few glimpses of rare home movies of the Rolling Thunder concerts and priceless audio of Dylan proselytizing to his less-than-enthusiastic audiences during the Christian period. The documentary's greatest strength is its ability to address issues that were absolutely off-limits in Scorsese's authorized and sterilized *No Direction Home*. For example, supreme Dylan-worshipper A.J. Weberman treads in such waters when he casually refers to Dylan's heroin addiction.

*Highway 61/Music Video Distributors, color, NR (language), 242 min., DVD \$14.95; "Journey to Hibbing" featurette, "Ramblin' Jack's Early Days" featurette; Street: April 4; Director: Gilbert*

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