



'ROLLING THUNDER'

Religion also plays a crucial role in "Bob Dylan, 1975-1981: Rolling Thunder and The Gospel Years" (Highway 61 Entertainment), which rightly bills itself as a "totally unauthorized documentary." Director Joel Gilbert (who also fronts a Dylan tribute band) explores a fascinating period in a fascinating life through interviews and news footage. Rolling Thunder was the circus-style revue that saw Dylan re-embracing his Greenwich Village troubadour days. Its first leg culminated in an all-star benefit concert in support of boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, who Dylan believed had been wrongly convicted of murder.

Carter is seen in a rare interview, along with Ramblin' Jack Elliott and other members of the troupe, before the film segues into Dylan's conversion to evangelical Christianity, which was the preoccupation of three albums, including Grammy winner "Slow Train Coming."

By Terry Lawson