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REVIEWS

Bob Dylan - The Golden Years 1962-1978 (Box Set)

A Dylanology on 2 discs



If, (as somehow seems much more appropriate) Mount Rushmore bore the faces of rock greats rather than fusty old politicians, who was depicted might be a matter of some debate. However, one person at least should be a shoe-in for such an honour - Bob Dylan. Having exerted enormous influence over the whole of modern folk and rock, The Beatles being among many who owe him a huge debt, Dylans position as an innovator and musical leader has lent him an incredible life. While a few attempts have been made to tell his story, notably by Martin Scorsese in "No Direction Home", with such a figure there's always more to find out. And so Chrome Dreams Media, in association with the international Dylan magazine Isis, releases this double DVD set exploring segments of the man's life in detail.

Unfortunately, given that this is an unlicensed product, it contains neither an interview with Dylan nor any of his music. Rather, this is one of those fanumentaries composed principally of interviews with figures who were around Bob at various times. This lends it a quite different perspective than might be afforded to an official film as friend and enemy can come to lend a real range of perspectives to the fold.

The package is split into two discs exploring different time periods: "Tales From A Golden Age", covering Dylans early life from his schooldays to the motorcycle accident (in which Dylan broke his neck!) at the peak of his golden age in 1966, just after the release of his so-called "trilogy", "Bringing It All Back Home", "Highway 61 Revisited" and "Blonde On Blonde". The appropriately-titled "After The Crash" takes the baton from hereon in, detailing the '70's high tide during which he recorded "Desire" and "Blood On The Tracks", his involvement with the Woody Guthrie tribute concert, his stalker hell (he was one of the first modern celebrities to attract a stalker, and the tale, including an interview with the stalker in question, A. J. Webermann, is worth the price of the package in itself - Dylan was forced to beat him up after Webermann scared his family while going through his bins).

Quite what you will make of all this rather depends on your appreciation of the man. If you want the basic story, you'll probably find the "No Direction Home" more closely matches your appetite; but for any Dylan fanatic, the attention to detail and extensive research which has gone into this package makes it indispensable.

By:

<http://www.bobdylanisis.com/>



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
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