REVIEW: DVD bio of Bob Dylan tells qu...



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By Steve Marinucci, Vintage Rock 'n' Roll Examiner April 22nd, 2011 5:43 pm ET

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To call "Bob Dylan Revealed," a new DVD from Highway 61 Entertainment to be released on May 1, a true biography of the singer is a stretch. Unauthorized video bios like these are a dicey proposition. Some throw darts with a lot of fairly unconnected interviews hoping they'll create a cohesive portrait. Some do, while others miss the target completely.

But surprisingly, this is a fairly informative and deep look at various chapters of Dylan's life. Director and producer Joel Gilbert himself bears a strong resemblance to '70s Dylan and and was also responsible for the abomidable "Paul McCartney Really Is Dead" DVD. You'd wonder whether he'd be capable of any kind of worthwhile portrait of the singer, but he redeems himself here with this film that interviews many of the singer's associates, but, of course, not the singer himself.

Areas of Dylan's life covered include his early Columbia years, his 1974 comeback tour and the Rolling Thunder Tour.

Those interviewed providing good insight include producer Jerry Wexler, songwriter Al Kasha, drummer Mickey Jones, photographer Barry Feinstein, violinist Scarlet Rivera, boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, who was the subject of one of Dylan's songs and bassist Rob Stoner.

But then there's "Dylanologist" A.J. Weberman, who made his name poking through Dylan's garbage. Deduct a credibility point for that. And there's also some unneccesary recreated film footage used during a discussion of his motorcycle accident that clearly isn't Dylan, but is made to resemble him.

"Bob Dylan Revealed" is a fan's portrait and tribute to the singer. It's not the real Dylan, who's never been a person to reveal himself fully. But it's enough to give at least an interesting look at the man whose songwriting has captivated fans for over 40 years.

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