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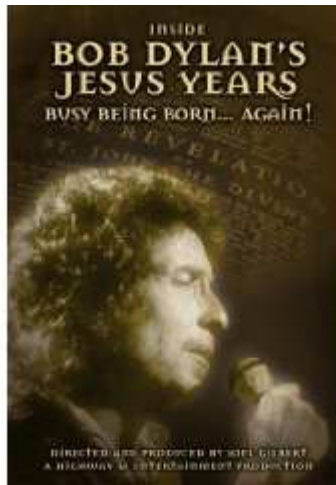
Written by TroyAnderson Sep 24th 2008 Hits: 95 0 +ADD



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In 1978, [Bob Dylan](#) embarked on a spiritual journey that resulted in three gospel albums. This documentary explores these "Jesus Years" through frank interviews and concert footage, revealing the albums' place in Dylan's oeuvre. The outrage expressed by fans and critics at the time is offset with reflections from Dylan's producer and religious advisers and a journey to the studio and church that launched the phenomenon.

Director:

[Joel Gilbert](#)

Cast:

[Bob Dylan](#)

[Bill Dwyer](#)

[Jerry Wexler](#)

[Regina McCrary](#)

[Spooner Oldham](#)

[Joel Selvin](#)

[Al Kasha](#)

[A.J. Weberman](#)

Genres:

[Documentary](#)

THE AV REVIEW:

Once called "Dylan's God Awful Gospel" by his most loyal fans, Bob Dylan's "Jesus Years" are today regarded as among the best of his career. Finally, here is an insiders view into Bob Dylan's "Born Again" transformation, and its affect on his life and music. In late 1978, Bob Dylan fell into the Arms of the Lord through the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church. In his first-ever interview, Dylan's Bible class teacher, Pastor Bill Dwyer, details Bob Dylan's embrace of Jesus Christ and Christianity. Dylan then made three Gospel albums, winning a Grammy for Gotta Serve Somebody. However, Dylan's radical new direction alienated fans and enraged critics as he preached evangelical messages from the Book of Revelation. Director/Producer Joel Gilbert weaves the story of Bob Dylan's Jesus Years through revealing insider interviews, including legendary Slow Train Coming producer Jerry Wexler, background singer Regina McCrary, keyboardist Spooner Oldham, iconic San Francisco Chronicle rock reporter Joel Selvin, award-winning songwriter Al Kasha, and Dylanologist AJ Weberman.

I've only been slightly familiar with Dylan's work from this era. "Gotta Serve Somebody" was his biggest hit, but even that song was a radical departure from his previous hit with "The Hurricane". What could possess a popular artist to make such a radical shift? That question was only partially answered by this documentary and it went about in the most roundabout way. The documentary seemed more fascinated with various points of view about the circumstances. Not having Dylan there to actually discuss his personal journey put a damper on the events. But, the documentary still worked without him.

The DVD is a fun release that shows off Bob Dylan in all of his glory. This is the kind of release sporting amazing live

performances and quirk events that makes us music fanatics go nuts. I love getting this classic performers that stray off the conventional path. The A/V Quality is amazing for the various sources and ages from which the clips originated. That's why I recommend it for a blind buy.

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