

BOB DYLAN AND THE BAND: DOWN IN THE FLOOD. DVD. MVD/Sexy Intellectual Productions.

The collaboration between Bob Dylan and The Band was legendary: When these two entities came together, they made rock-and-roll history, creating a feverish almost metallic sound that has withstood the many tests of time. In **DOWN IN THE FLOOD**, we are presented with a nuanced summary of the work Dylan did with The Band (beginning in 1966 and continuing through the 1970s). This film (which is an unauthorized documentary) artfully stitches together rare bits of concert footage, archived interviews and photographs in order to bring fresh perspective to a story most hard-core music fans already know. Nonetheless, the interviews done with Band keyboardist Garth Hudson and the dynamic Ronnie Hawkins (who worked with the group in the early 1960s, giving them their first taste of sustained acclaim) offer deep insight into just why Dylan wanted to *go electric* backed by Robbie Robertson and this maverick ensemble who could play any lick while simultaneously keeping up with Dylan's creative temperament. Additional interviews with producer John Simon and Rolling Stone's Anthony De Curtis give further body to the movie, putting the music Dylan made with The Band in proper historical context. Many versions of this story have hit print over the last 40 years, and **DOWN IN THE FLOOD** is the best of them - noted for its depth and for the simple way it sets out to 'photograph' a most complex marriage. *114 minutes.* ~ **John Aiello**

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