



BOB DYLAN & THE BAND

Down In The Flood

(Written By: Jeffrey Kurtis)

The impact on the history of music that both Bob Dylan and The Band have made is truly remarkable, but perhaps even more remarkable is the way that their careers intertwined and the influence that they played on one another's musical paths. *Down In The Flood* captures this part of their story in perfect light through rare footage, interviews with historians, and more importantly through some of the players who lived it themselves. Initially focused on the radical decision of Dylan's to go out in 1966 on his first electric tour, *Down In The Flood* pulls viewers through that landmark decision, the formation and finding of his backing band The Hawks (who later became known as The Band), and the role that each played in transitioning music as we know it. Met with boos and foot stomping, and at times even a death threat, Dylan and The Hawks plowed through the tour urging each other to play louder as the boos got louder with Dylan's attitude towards the rabid crowd's reaction simply being "I really don't care!" However, the focus of this DVD is more so on the relationship that formed between the artist's and the twists of fate that landed them both major roles in creating genre bending music much in part to the lure of their now legendary recordings from a basement in Woodstock, NY simply titled *The Basement Tapes*. The influence Dylan's writing had on The Band are well on display throughout the middle part of this DVD as he sets in motion the career that would follow, not only for himself as he transitioned into a more vibey, country sound, but also for The Band who are hailed today as one of the first Americana acts. What I love about how *Down In The Flood* plays out is that unlike most releases about the impact Dylan had on music by going electric at the time when he did, this one instead puts a heavy focus on the influence he had on others and not just on his own career. This is a great piece of influential music history captured in all of the right ways and a must have for anyone that loves great songwriting, great songs, and an amazing attitude of not being afraid to take chances regardless of the public opinion that may follow your decisions.