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"Home Movies" Don't Hold Up Over Time

Drummer's first-hand film and narrative leaves much unanswered.

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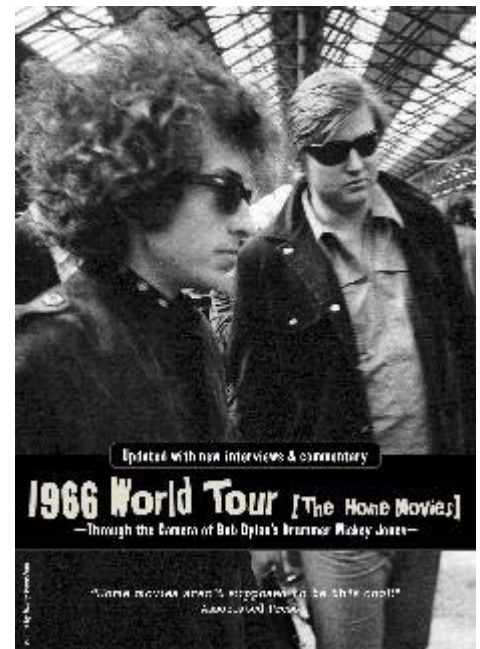
Issue date: 10/25/06 **Section:** [Entertainment](#)

Bob Dylan's first dash around the globe using both acoustic and electric guitars was one that caused both chaos and confusion in his long-time fans. Until that point, he had only been seen as a folk hero, not a rock star. Over time, this tour became recognized as one that changed the entire landscape of rock 'n' roll history. Now, for the first time ever, music fans can catch glimpses of the "real" Bob Dylan through footage shot by his drummer, Mickey Jones.

The DVD opens with Jones describing where and how the footage was shot, then telling the viewer how the film was preserved and kept in such pristine condition. However, this is not just a tossed-away explanation. Jones describes and describes until it seems that there isn't a single piece of information that gets left out. This is a reoccurring theme throughout the DVD - remember and recount every possible detail about what was happening at the time.

About 30 minutes into the film, the viewer is treated to their first glimpse of actual film. The film shows (wait for it) the hotel the band stayed in while they performed in Hawaii. There is also film showing the band's airplane take-off from Hawaii, but alas, no Dylan.

When Dylan finally does make an appearance, the results are mixed. It is very exciting to see him on stage (a few times), but how many times must the viewer see him in a car or on an airplane (many times)?



Despite the precedence of Bob Dylan on the cover, he remains elusive through out the rest of the movie.

Furthermore, Jones either ignores or merely skips over the fact that Dylan's backing band rarely traveled with Dylan. All of the tour bus footage is lacking Dylan, and it is only the car rides from the hotel to the venue (or vice versa) that offer a chance to see the musician.

Another ironic twist to this movie is that one of its most interesting parts doesn't even feature Dylan. Instead, it offers a live performance from one of the top rock 'n' roll bands of all time - The Beatles. Jones managed to catch the Liverpool lads on film while they were still in their clean-cut, "Ed Sullivan" phase. Although this piece of footage is way too short (once again), it still provides a glimpse into the early years of a band that would change music forever.

Remember going over to grandma's house and watching (by choice or not) old family movies? That is exactly how this DVD feels. Sure, there are some truly transcendent moments caught in this film, but they are insulated with layers and layers of, well, home movies. I doubt Dylan fans would care about where the band stayed when they were in France. However, Jones does succeed in telling in-depth tales about the entire tour that even casual fans can appreciate.

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