



## Leo Kottke

### *Home & Away Revisited*

MVD

[www.reconstructedarts.com](http://www.reconstructedarts.com)



How do you sum up 30+ years of magnificent guitar playing after countless records, numerous shows and being an inspiration to many? A 34-track DVD sure doesn't hurt. "You don't develop any social skills with this job... I haven't," says Leo on one of his tracks where he story-tells. It's humorous, relaxing, and enjoyable and the best part is, it's longer than a standard CD.

One of the nicer things of having a DVD of such a talented artist is that you actually get to see him dance all around the frets and really be amazed by what he is playing. Listening to remarkable guitar players is one thing, but to actually see talent gives it far more appreciation. Amongst shots of his old-out 1988 performance at Toronto's Bathurst St. Theater, there are chapters of stories told by Leo from the history of his guitars to travels on the road. It's organized to be one giant concert, having some personal stories told between songs as if he's really there to perform a concert just for you in your living room.

There are a few new songs including "Everybody Lies" and "Jack Fig" amongst classic favorites "Cripple Creek" and a special rendition of "Last Steam Engine Train" that include Doc Watson and Chet Atkins. That track alone makes the CD. To see these three guys just sitting around in what looks like a hotel lobby at a photo shoot in Nashville, jamming it out is just priceless.

This is a definite collector's item for a true fan.

- Iris Karasick

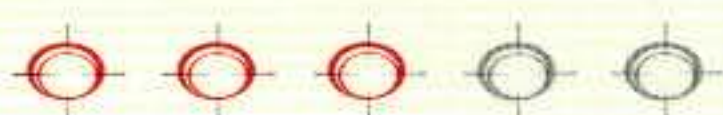


## Bob Dylan

### *Rolling Thunder & The Gospel Years*

MVD

[www.highway61ent.com](http://www.highway61ent.com)

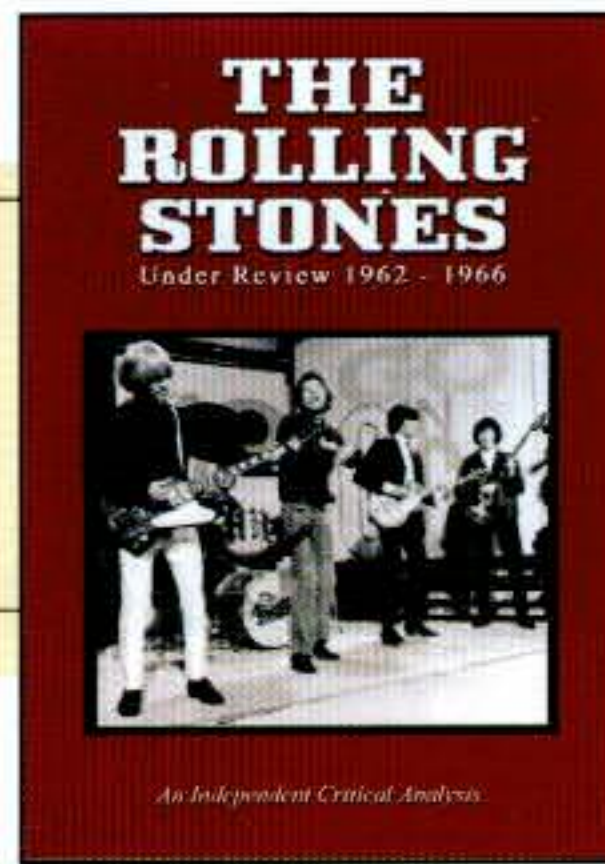


To today's generation, Bob Dylan is an enigma. To gain access to the iconic Folk genius, filmmakers continue to research the Minnesota-born artist at various points in life. *Rolling Thunder and The Gospel Years* charts Dylan's mid-1970s New York review, as well as his Midwest transformation into the Gospel music around the turn of the decade in this epic documentary.

The most glaring omission in this film is Dylan's music itself. Though four hours of film gives the viewer plenty of time to adjust, the duration seems to cheapen the project on a certain level. However, to those in search of vast information, this film accomplishes extensive research through primary sources. Super-producer Jerry Wexler comments copiously on his time spent with Dylan, while band members recount forgotten evenings in between. One of the more interesting interviews is an exclusive interview with Ruben "Hurricane" Carter, the inspiration behind Dylan's "Like A Hurricane," a culminating moment in this period of his art and life.

At four hours, the film already suggests a lack of editing. The interviews, at times, only further this opinion. Lousy lighting, cutting, and insert shots reveal how homemade this project truly may be. Despite that quality (or lack thereof), this may serve to entice Dylan fans further. While only recycled interviews are provided of the artist, the archival materials are humbling, the interviews speak to the most fanatic followers, and no details are spared. While novice fans gravitate to the mainstream's *No Direction Home*, this film tracks an artist extensively at a less popular time to a compulsive degree.

- Jake Paine



## The Rolling Stones

### *Under Review 1962-1966*

MVD Visual



The Rolling Stones undoubtedly shaped rock music in both the States and the UK from the moment of their inception. The Stones broke the mold with their ability to mix Pop-friendly vibes with a sexy rock ruggedness. *Under Review 1962-1966* takes a deeper look into the phenomenon known as the Rolling Stones. Focusing on the years that shaped the group, the DVD takes a bluesy "Black" music approach to the band whose influences are very far from rock. Named after a Muddy Waters song, the Rolling Stones began as a blues band. Upon discovery, the group spent their early recording years doing covers, such as obscure Chuck Berry tracks.

The DVD presents expert analyses from industry professionals, music historians, and friends as they discuss moments in the four years that led the Stones to become a household name. An interesting anecdote on the DVD occurs when the Stones are debating their second single. A chance encounter with Paul McCartney and John Lennon led the Stones to their second (and more popular) single "I Wanna Be Your Man." While the single wasn't a Stones favorite, it propelled the infancy of their stardom. The rare Stones performances and live studio sessions are an added treat to the DVD, witnessing the magical Jagger and his bluesmen. The extras include a quiz that even Google can't answer (I tried) along with additional storytelling. *Under Review* takes a unique approach to explain a group whose success is almost inexplicable.

- Kathy Iandoli