



Bob Dylan: Never Ending Tour Diaries

MVD / 2009 / 100 Minutes / Unrated / Street Date: April 7, 2009

by Mike Restaino
Mar 12, 2009

This is the kind of DVD title that may go unnoticed by the majority of home theatre enthusiasts, but for anybody with even a marginal fascination in the histories and travels of Mr. Bob Dylan, its appeal can't be underestimated. As the lore goes, some time around 1988, Dylan decided that in addition to recording and releasing the occasional album, his muse lay on the road, in performance and concert. And he's been playing 100+ shows a year ever since.

So what we have with *Bob Dylan: Never Ending Tour Diaries* is one-time drummer Winston Watson's take on life on the road with the Pulitzer-Prize-winning troubadour. From city to city and country to country, through simple interviews, Watson recounts what it's like traveling the world in search of a sound.



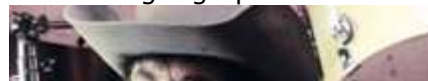
There's a catch, though, that limits this title's immediacy: There's no Dylan music on it (well, at least not Dylan versions of Dylan songs). This writer has a feverish passion for the music and mythos of Bobby Z., but without the ability to hear how the sound of Dylan's touring band was transformed as he traversed the globe leaves this *Tour Diaries* a little limp. It's not due to Watson - he's a charming and free-loving presence on screen - but because the

legend and musical evolution of Dylan is kept shrouded, things stay emotionally at arm's length.

But this is the cross every unofficial music release has to bear. The story told here had me riveted to a certain degree, but my salivating interest in Dylan's music would have me riveted if the singer and his band read the phone book on DVD. The point I'm trying to make, I suppose, is that while there are a couple nuggets of coolness here - a few anecdotes about Dylan reacting negatively when some of Watson's after-concert comments were taken out of context in a local newspaper are particularly intriguing - there are missed opportunities abounding.

The long and the short of it is that for those still keeping tabs on the singer, his output in the last ten years has been nothing short of exemplary, perhaps his best ever (think I'm joking? Give *Love & Theft* a whirl and hear for yourself), but this *Never Ending Tour Diaries* disc offers little more than a quick tab on the guy's ambitiously everlasting tour attitudes.

As an addendum: When you make a movie that appeals almost exclusively to die-hard fans, you have to keep your facts straight. At one point, when Watson describes Dylan's outrageous song choices for his appearance on *MTV Unplugged* (he picked classics by *other people* rather than the gems from the Dylan catalog), he talks about the band playing "If I Were A Carpenter". But instead of showing a graphic indicative of the classic Tim Hardin song (that Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash took to the top of the charts in the 1970s), they show the album to the "If I Were a



Top Silico
hire Art It

Sign up now. C
April 6th.



artinstitutesu

DJ



Format:

- DVD
- Dual-Layer Dis
- Aspect Ratio(s)**
- 1.78:1

Dolby Digital F

- English Stereo

DTS Formats:

- None

PCM Formats:

- None

Subtitles/Capt

- None

Standard Feat

- Interactive Me

- Scene Access

Supplements:

- Stills Gallery

- Soundtrack mp

DVD-ROM Feat

- None

List Price:

3:39 PM

