



Bob Dylan Revealed

MVD Visual

There's little actual Bob Dylan music on *Revealed*, but a Dylanesque original score by a tribute band underscores anecdotes from people qualified to speak about his music.

Hawks drummer Mickey Jones talks about backing Dylan during that first "electric" tour. Then, newspaper critics would not deign to call the group by its name. They almost always referred to them dismissively only as "the band" and the Hawks (without Jones) would later adopt the name in defiance. Jones' remembrances give a palpable, "electric" sense of what it was like to work with Dylan, while other personal accounts of the Rolling Thunder tour and Hurricane Carter benefit shows are insightful and revealing.

Some of Dylan's most significant artistic arcs don't fit the film's designated categories, and one consequence is the way it jumps from Dylan's "was it or wasn't it" motorcycle accident in 1967 to his comeback in '74. That means the period from *John Wesley Harding*, through *Blood On The Tracks* gets short shrift if any but what's there is handled well. The coverage of Dylan's born-again period is even-handed and informative and neither the film nor most of the participants seem particularly self-important. When critic Joel Slavin says that a peeved Dylan declared "...he's lost his license to review me" because of criticism of the religious-themed music, Slavin's response is "Wow! He's still a poet." In the end, Slavin, producer Jerry Wexler, and others who questioned some of Dylan's musical and personal changes are left with their respect for Bob intact.

In the segment titled "1992," drummer Winston Watson praises Dylan's musicianship, saying Dylan's sense of rhythm is among the best he's encountered. Watson says Dylan "could knock out the crowd all by himself" without a band. The way *Revealed* tells it, there's no trouble believing that. The happy surprise, for fans and non-fans alike, is that even just listening to the right people talk about Bob Dylan is fascinating, and that *Revealed* holds up through several replays. — **RA VG**