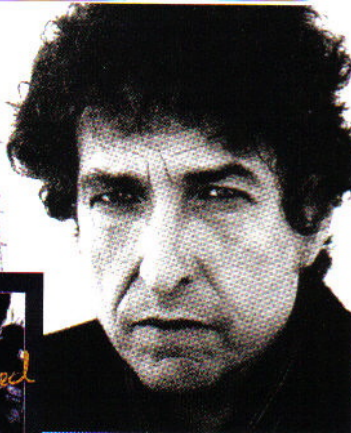
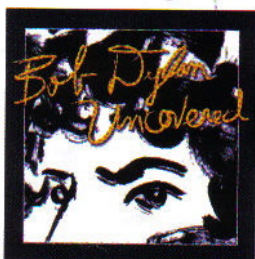


Bringing It All Back Home

Long Island Celebrates Bob Dylan in May
by Steve Matteo



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POP MUSIC STARS are here today and gone tomorrow, but rock legends keep on going. On May 24th, Bob Dylan turns 65. While many people at the age of 65 are content to ride it out, Dylan is in the midst of one of his most productive periods. He is on the heels of two of his best albums, *Time Out Of Mind* and *Love & Theft*, a series of official bootleg recordings, the *Masked and Anonymous* film and soundtrack and the Martin Scorsese documentary *No Direction Home*.

Long Island is poised to commemorate Dylan's birthday with two impressive projects. Just released is *Bob Dylan Uncovered*, from the Long Island-based Paradiddle Records. The CD succeeds on two levels. First, it easily ranks as one of the best collections ever of Bob Dylan songs by artists other than Dylan. Second, it reflects the dynamic scope of homegrown music, from the sassy grit of Cadillac Moon to the roots rock of Russ Seeger and the singer-songwriter grace of Caroline Doctorow.

Russ Seeger will appear at a birthday bash for Dylan at Stony Brook University on May 24th at the University Café at 7:30pm, performing in "song-circle" fashion, along with Terence Martin, Dan Bonis, Ina May Woll and, acting as the stage musical leader for the evening, Larry Kirwan of Black 47, who is also an author and a playwright. This is the second such Dylan tribute show and is part of the second season of concerts at the Café that are produced and hosted by Charlie Backfish, the host of the long-running *Sunday Street* on WUSB (90.1) on Sunday mornings between 9 and 11:30. Backfish has been hosting a series of live concerts on Sunday afternoons at the Café, bringing in some of the most respected folk and singer-songwriter based artists on the scene today. The Roches, Ellis Paul, Eric Anderson and many others have already appeared; the season will conclude on June 11th with a rare evening performance by Fairport Convention.

This second Dylan birthday celebration joins a Gordon Lightfoot tribute at the Café, giving the audience a chance to see a variety of performers in one evening. Backfish, in his unassuming way, explained how the first Dylan show came about. He stated, "It started as a way to end the season at the University Café last year." One thing that impresses Backfish about the show is "the songs the musicians choose to do become, probably for me, as interesting as what songs Dylan chooses to do in his set."

Although none of the shows have been broadcast, they have all been recorded. As for the possibility for any future live broadcasts of any of the shows on WUSB, Backfish would only say, "We're talking about it." ■