

DVDYLAN JIM50 REVIEWS ~ INTRO

Welcome to this page of Bob Dylan DVD reviews, posted here for the purposes of guidance (regarding factual matters) and interest. Most of them first appeared on DVDylan and that's where all of them belong, for, although some more recent ones hopefully work as standalone pieces, the majority make only limited sense without reference to the relevant DVDylan listing page. So why are they here, removed from their rightful place? Therein lies a tale.

Like others, I suspect, when I first stumbled upon DVDylan I was taken aback by two things in particular: (a) the abundance of treasures on offer - even more in 2010 than 2005, of course - and (b) the kindness and generosity of site members - most notably a core few it was / is lucky to have on board, although the positive vibe flowing down from the top courtesy of Vygi's assured, hands-on management style was also a key influence (and one latterly very sadly missed). When I started to sample the "treasures", though, what I found to my surprise was that not everything was quite as good as some over-enthusiastic reviewers claimed. So I began writing what I considered more objective and accurate reviews of discs as and when I saw them, first as a guide to others in making better (more informed) choices but also for my own benefit, as I found that, if writing a review, I would watch a disc closely and carefully while, if not, the same attention (especially through yet another Tangled or Watchtower or Maggie's) tended to be lacking. Though I can't say for sure, I think the first written was [D611](#) - certainly [D611](#), [D612](#) and [D613](#) were among the first - and so, for a couple of years, it went.

One of the very reasonable rules of the site is that the same member cannot post two reviews of the same disc. But having already posted a review of [D255](#), I wanted to make a second post on that same page - not actually a second review, but an English translation of [D255](#)'s Japanese telescript that I'd written with the help of another member. So, in order to do that, I took out a second membership in my wife's name. It seemed reasonable enough to me then (and still does) that a household with two people in it could legitimately have two memberships - others (and one in particular) would come to see it very differently, but more of that in a while.

If you look at DVDylan's [D255](#) telescript posting, you'll see that it's in three parts. This is because another limitation imposed upon reviewers by site rules is *length*. After I'd written a couple of cramped, foreshortened reviews with commas removed and 3s for threes and 12s for twelves so as to keep within the character limit, I realised, by way of a solution, that longer reviews could be posted in two halves using my two identities. And I duly put up a few such reviews with no attempt to hide who "Miriam" was. It didn't once occur to me that anyone would care.

In the spring of 2008 Vygi withdrew from day to day management of the site he'd created five years before. After a summer of drifting, some semblance of stability returned when responsibility for updating (previously all his) was handed over to a group of five helpers based in the UK and US. Within a year, after an incident involving a rogue member with at least two identities, one of these helpers complained to the now largely absent Vygi that Jim50 / Miriam was also breaking site rules and, on the basis that no member should receive special treatment, one of my memberships

would have to be surrendered. When Vygi first contacted me about this, I told him to cancel Jim50's membership together with all his postings and that I'd keep Miriam. Why did I do that? Principally because I knew very well that Vygi (who had never struck me as a fool) would be very foolish to do such a thing (because the site would lose more than 400 reviews in the process), but also because, while my Jim50 work was all my own, two of the Miriam posting I'd made ([D255](#) and [D011](#)) were in collaboration with other members and I had no wish to see their work taken down along with my own. And so for a short while matters rested. But the same complainant wouldn't let go his grievance, badgering Vygi as and when he could and also taking the opportunity of any Jim50 / Miriam post on the Boards to be gratuitously offensive and abusive. So, in order to resolve the issue - in order, in other words, to make it easy for Vygi to cancel Jim50's membership without further detriment to the site, I removed all of the reviews posted under that name. And Vygi then bowed to his "helper's" wishes: since February 2010, Jim50 can log into DVDylan but not navigate off the log-in page ("Access To Site Denied") - thus is effectively banned. If that had happened with the reviews still in place, I'd have lost access to them (since they require constant correction / revision, not acceptable). Would the lock-out have happened had the reviews not been removed? Though I don't know, it might well have. Either way, I was not prepared to keep taking the abuse of one ignorant twerp in order to find out. And so here we are. Good management makes for good karma and bad / bad is about what it amounts to. The day Vygi chose to step back from effective administration of his site was a black one, not in the greater scheme of things, to be sure, but in respect of our dusty little corner, indeed. Though the good times may return someday, I see no prospect of that happy outcome yet.



Thanks to Brian, V1, Nelson, V2, JL, KM, AW, tetsuro, various others and, of course, Bob. Have fun.

Jim