



Invisible Now: Bob Dylan in the 1960s (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series)

By John Hughes

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Invisible Now describes Bob Dylan's transformative inspiration as artist and cultural figure in the 1960s. Hughes identifies Dylan's creativity with an essential imaginative dynamic, as the singer perpetually departs from a former state of inexpression in pursuit of new, as yet unknown, powers of self-renewal. This motif of temporal self-division is taken as corresponding to what Dylan later referred to as an artistic project of 'continual becoming', and is explored in the book as a creative and ethical principle that underlies many facets of Dylan's appeal. Accordingly, the book combines close discussions of Dylan's mercurial art with related discussions of his humour, voice, photographs, and self-presentation, as well as with the singularities of particular performances. The result is a nuanced account of Dylan's creativity that allows us to understand more closely the nature of Dylan's art, and its links with American culture.

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Editorial Review

Review

'John Hughes has written what can only be described as an essential contribution to the assemblage of works on Bob Dylan. This study of the singer songwriter's 1960s years gathers together a fascinating series of glimpses and overviews presented in an intelligent and highly readable format by a dedicated researcher and enthusiast. John evidences a clear knowledge and understanding of the currents and events driving the young Dylan forward through a decade of relentless change, social and political upheaval and the white heat of artistic fury. A must for all scholars of things Dylan.'CP Lee, Writer, musician and broadcaster, and author of Bob Dylan Like The Night'This is the finest book on Bob Dylan I have ever read - and I've read a lot of them. Hughes strikes me as the only critic to have developed an idiom sophisticated enough to do full justice to the power and subtleties of Dylan's astonishing development in the 1960s.'Mark Ford, University College London, UK

About the Author

John Hughes teaches literature at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. He has published widely on Romantic and nineteenth-century literature, and twentieth-century philosophy. He has written three previous books - Lines of Flight (1996), 'Ecstatic Sound': Music and Individuality in the Work of Thomas Hardy (Ashgate, 2001) and Affective Worlds: Literature, Feeling, Nineteenth-Century Literature (2011).

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