

Life and times of a troubadour



■ **May 24, 1941:** **Robert Allen Zimmerman** born in iron-ore city of Duluth, Minnesota. Family moves to Hibbing in 1947



■ **1950s:** Takes up guitar and harmonica, forms four bands while at high school

■ **1959:** Enrols at University of Minnesota. Soaks up Beat generation

writers: **Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Lawrence Ferlinghetti**; and genres of blues, jazz and folk. **Woody Guthrie's** autobiography *Bound for Glory* changes his life, he begins performing Guthrie's dust bowl ballads as **Bob Dylan**

■ **Jan 1961:** Dylan moves to New York's Greenwich Village in footsteps of his new mentor. Dylan visits Guthrie numerous times as he lies dying from Huntington's chorea

■ **Apr:** Dylan's first major gig – opening for bluesman **John Lee Hooker** at Gerde's Folk City – leads to contract with Columbia Records

■ **1962:** Debut album **Bob Dylan** contains *Song to Woody*. Has brief love affair with **Suze Rotolo** who is credited as inspiration behind several of his finest love songs, including *Don't Think Twice, It's All Right*



■ **1963:** *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* captures zeitgeist of Cold War – Cuban missile crisis and escalation of Vietnam War. Album includes classic protest songs *Blowin' in the Wind*, *A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall* and *Masters of War*. **Joan Baez** and Dylan become lovers



■ **Dec:** Dylan meets **Allen Ginsberg**. Friendship leads to numerous collaborations

■ **1965:** Marries ex-model **Sara Lownds**. Reinvents himself with release of *Bringing It All Back Home*. Album features both acoustic guitar and nine-piece electric band

■ **Jul:** Dylan is booed and jeered at Newport Folk Festival when he launches into *Maggie's Farm*, backed by five-piece band

■ **May 1966:** British tour sees audiences jeer and catcall electric Dylan. One folk purist lets fly with yell of "*Judas!*" as Dylan crashes into *Like a Rolling Stone*



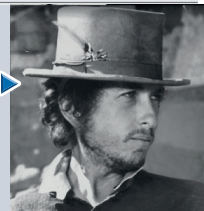
■ **1965-66:** Intensity of his performances revolutionises rock. His live-in-the-studio albums – *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Blonde on Blonde* – push his global record sales past 10 million



■ **Jul 1966:** After near fatal motorcycle accident, Dylan takes nearly a year off to recover

■ **1969:** Dylan finds a new voice with country-style *Nashville Skyline*, featuring *Lay Lady Lay* and *Girl from the North Country*, with guest vocal by **Johnny Cash**

■ **1973:** Ventures into acting in *Sam Peckinpah's Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*. Movie soundtrack includes *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*



■ **1974:** Makes two albums with Asylum before returning to Columbia

■ **1975:** *Blood on the Tracks* – considered his finest album – is followed by *Rolling Thunder Revue* tour with **Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Richie Havens, Arlo Guthrie** – Woody's son – and **Allen Ginsberg**.



Makes four-hour film, *Renaldo and Clara*

■ **1976:** *Desire* follows *Blood on the Tracks* to top of charts



■ **1977:** **Sara Dylan** files for divorce

■ **1978:** Dylan embarks on world tour, recording *Live at Budokan* in Japan

■ **1979:** Announces that he is a born-again Christian. *Slow Train Coming* wins Dylan his first Grammy

■ **1983:** Makes *Infidels* with **Mark Knopfler** and **Alan Clark** of *Dire Straits* and ex-**Rolling Stones** guitarist **Mick Taylor** – considered best album since *Blood*

■ **1986:** Secretly marries singer **Carolyn Dennis** while on tour with **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers**

■ **1987:** Tour with **Grateful Dead** yields album, *Dylan & the Dead*

■ **1988:** Starts his world-wide *Never Ending Tour*

BOB DYLAN



■ **1989:** Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Releases *Oh Mercy*

■ **1990s:** Decade of awards includes France's highest cultural honour and Kennedy Center Award from President **Bill Clinton**

■ **2001:** *Things Have Changed*, from soundtrack of movie, *Wonder Boys* wins best song Oscar

■ **2002:** Performs at Newport Folk Festival – first time since 1965

■ **2006:** *Modern Times* becomes Dylan's first album to top charts since *Desire*, 30 years earlier



■ **2009:** *Together Through Life* tops charts, while *Christmas In The Heart* polarises fans and critics alike



■ **2012:** Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom from President **Barack Obama**, America's highest civilian honour

■ **2015:** *Shadows in the Night* covers ballads of **Frank Sinatra**

■ **2016:** Wins Nobel Prize for Literature "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition"



■ **2020:** Cancels U.S. leg of *Never Ending Tour*, due to pandemic. Releases *Rough and Rowdy Ways*, first new album in eight years. Sells publishing rights to his catalogue to Universal Music Group for \$300 million-plus

■ **2021:** Makes *Shadow Kingdom* film during lockdown. Launch of *Rough and Rowdy Ways* worldwide tour

■ **May 2022:** **Bob Dylan Center** opens in Tulsa, Oklahoma