

Sam Shephard on Dylan and Shakespeare

<http://www.a-muir.co.uk/samsonwills.mp3>

Above is an audio clip of Sam Shephard talking about Shakespeare in the recent Scorsese Dylan 'mockumentary'. It never quite tells things truthfully but hints at the truth instead, obliquely. An old technique where Dylan and Shephard and plays are concerned. There's quite a bit about that in "the True Performing Of It"

....The movie has a number of Dylan resonances, not least Sam Shephard playing the part of the ghost of Hamlet's murdered father. Actor and director Sam Shephard has a long history with Dylan. ...highlights of their association include the co-written song, "Brownsville Girl", Shephard's observations on those involved in Dylan's mid-1970's touring in the book, *The Rolling Thunder Logbook*;v and the 'play' by Shephard titled *True Dylan (A Play)*. The blurb for the last of these proclaimed: "A one act play that features only two characters - Sam and Bob. It was first published in Esquire in 1987 and can be seen as a dramatised short 'interview' between Sam Shephard and Bob Dylan, focusing mainly upon Dylan's early days in New York, his meeting with Woody Guthrie, what constitutes 'truth', the greatness of James Dean, his musical influences and his motorcycle crash." It is a curious piece, being neither an interview nor a play and not wholly fictional nor fully factual. It shines a bent and fractured light on many of the myths that circle around the Dylan legend and thus provides a new and revealing perspective on them....

The book then investigates the connections between the two men, the Shephard play and Shakespeare in general and *Hamlet 2000* in particular. It is noteworthy that last sentence above is so apt for this and other interviews in that 'mockumentary'.

Buy the book! Signed copies here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxnjcjog> or online at the usual places.

"To be or not to be, that is the question", "the answer is blowin' in the wind."