



Critical Acclaim for “JOHNNY CASH: THE MAN, HIS WORLD, HIS MUSIC”

By Robert Elfstrom

“A rousing masterpiece.”
— **Rolling Stone**

“P.O.V. dug through the archives to unearth this 1969 documentary, filmed by Robert Elfstrom in the wake of the *Folsom Prison* album and featuring Cash performing with his new bride, June Carter Cash; in a rare duet with Bob Dylan; and during intimate moments with friends, family and aspiring musicians.”
— **The New York Times**

“Elfstrom's portrait shrewdly focuses on what matters most — the music. . . . Cash was a man of few words who had a generous spirit and never forgot the wellspring of his art, or the hardscrabble life that nourished it. GRADE: A.”
— **Verne Gay, Newsday**

“It's funny how a film that's 40 years old feels like it gives us a fresher look at singer Johnny Cash than countless more recent productions, both before and after his death in 2003. . . . Elfstrom shows how Cash never saw his music fitting into some marketing category like ‘country.’ He wrote and sang songs he thought had something to say. . . .”
— **David Hinckley, New York Daily News**

“Johnny Cash . . . you probably know fairly well. Get to know him even better with the P.O.V. documentary *Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music*.”
— **Robert Bianco, USA Today**

“From its opening images of the Man in Black tenderly cradling a broken-winged crow to its gentle account of Cash's relationship with his family, Robert Elfstrom's 1969 film portrays the singer as the calm center in a whirlwind of wealth and fame. . . . Cash's creative largesse, established in scene after scene, proves it's possible to be a superstar while still observing the Golden Rule.”
— **Matt Zoller Seitz, Time Out New York**

“PBS' determinedly idiosyncratic P.O.V. series goes 40 years into the past today to unearth a documentary about a determinedly idiosyncratic artist, Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music. . . . the documentary seems utterly contemporary today . . . and highly recommended to any of his present-day fans.”
— **Ted Cox, Chicago Daily Herald**

“A great piece of music history.”
— **Mike Hughes, Gannett News Service**

“Cash not only documents the singer at one of the most important periods of his life, it represents an exciting moment in the evolution of the documentary, using hand-held cameras to provide a never-before-seen intimacy with its subject.”
— **Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate**

“A raw, intimate documentary of Johnny Cash. . . sidesteps the usual rock-doc clichés in favor of goodies like Cash recording ‘One Too Many Mornings’ with a baby-faced Bob Dylan, unscripted moments with June Carter, and quiet . . . shots of the Man in Black.”

— **GQ Online**

“Newly married to June Carter and recovering from a debilitating pill addiction, [Cash] offered Elfstrom an intimate look at his life on and off the concert stage, and the result is a moving portrait of a great American poet.”

— **The Baltimore Sun**

“Robert Elfstrom's documentary *Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music* is as welcome on a warm evening as his *The Johnny Cash Show* was as a network summer replacement show nearly 40 years ago. . . . Elfstrom's cinéma vérité look at the artist at 36, in all of its 16mm glory, makes it a season highlight on P.O.V.”

— **Roger Catlin, Hartford Courant**

“Director/cinematographer Elfstrom, sound man Alan Dater, and producer Roy Herkin followed Cash onstage and off, even traveling to witness Cash return to his boyhood home of Dyess, Ark., for the first time in years.”

— **Peter Cooper, The Tennessean**

“A fascinating look at Cash, as a musician and as a man of conscience. . . . it's stunning to see how very accessible Cash was, not only in signing autographs after shows but in listening to a young musician.”

— **Rich Heldenfels, Akron Beacon Journal**

“Robert Elfstrom’s magnificent 1969 documentary ranks among the most comprehensive and effective cinematic presentations of the late Cash’s persona and impact. . . . A film that documents not only Johnny Cash’s importance as a musical figure, but also as a cultural hero.”

— **Ron Wynn, The City Paper, Nashville**

“Tonight’s P.O.V. documentary on Johnny Cash is nothing new. In fact, it’s something pretty old, filmed in 1968 and 1969. But wow, is it fresh. For me, the magic starts with the first scene.”

— **David Bianculli, TVWorthWatching.com**

“This 1969 film is lovely and enduring, a series of poetic vignettes. The tone seems to match Cash’s own, reflective and low-key. . . . Elfstrom’s film is justly famous for its rare footage of Cash in a recording studio with Bob Dylan . . . as well as its several complete stage numbers.”

— **Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters.com**

“You don’t have to be a die-hard Johnny Cash fan to appreciate what Elfstrom has given us by truly bringing to life *Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music*. It’s easy to see why P.O.V. would choose this film to air on their series.”

— **Fantasma el Rey, Blogcritics Magazine**