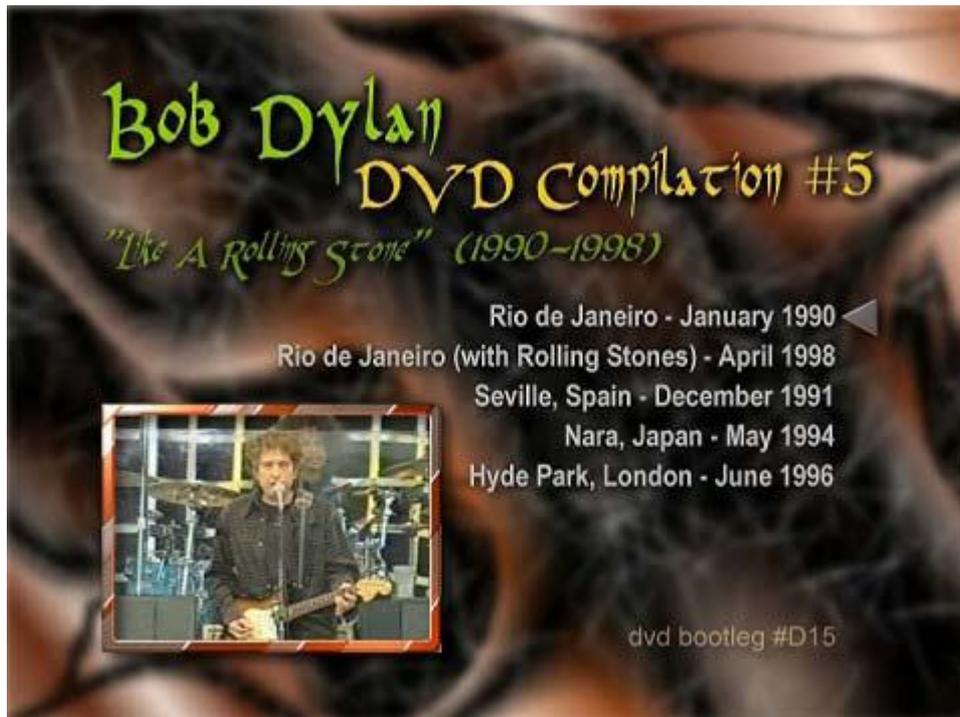


D015 LIKE A ROLLING STONE

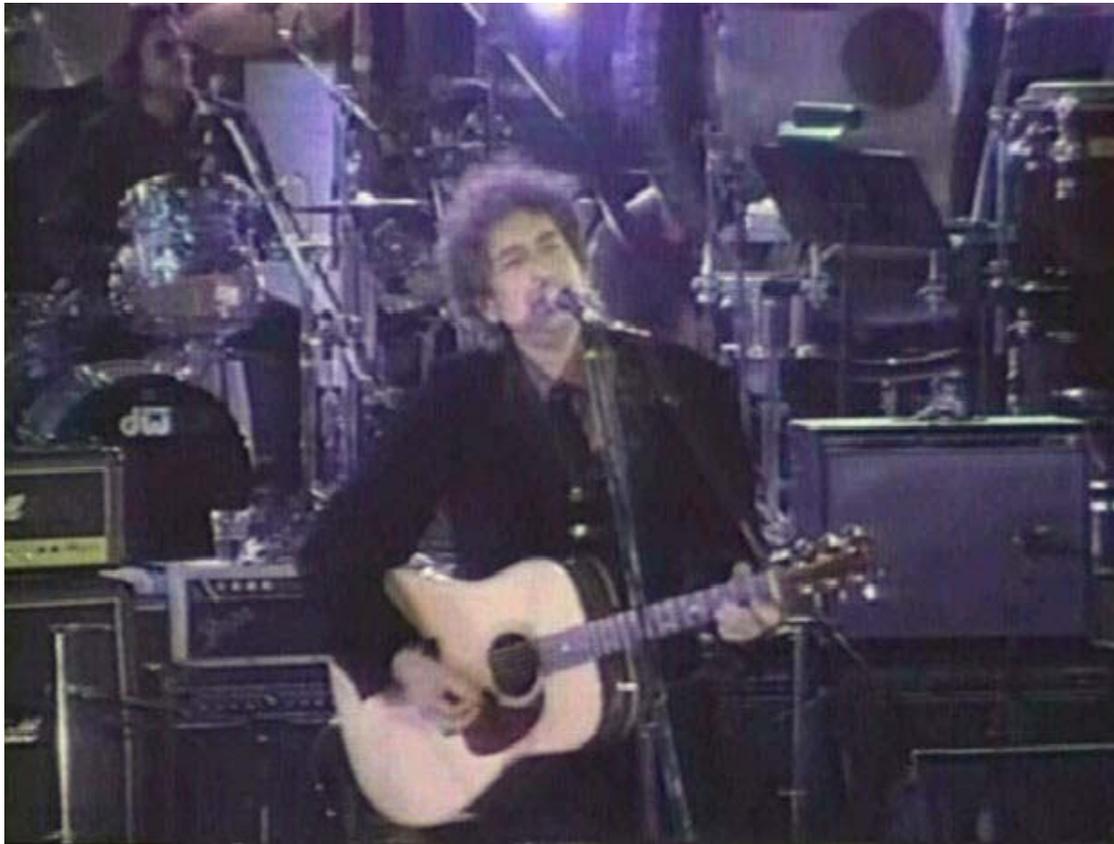


D015 presents twenty songs from five venues. Though all are pro-shot, sound and picture quality vary from poor to fine. Things start badly in Rio 1990, with five songs dragged back through the foggy ruins of time in what looks and sounds like the 59th copy of a TV original. Because of the poor presentation, these songs - Tambourine Man, LARS, Wind, Watchtower and Lay Lady Lay - were an ordeal to sit through. Neither did things improve with the next track, also from Rio in 1998, of D standing in with the Stones on another Rolling Stone. Picture again poor, Bob has mike trouble, lyrics are mangled (principally by Jagger) and hapless Mr D ambles aimlessly round the stage looking like a bloke on day-release from the old folks home.



But then, just when you need them to, things look up. We roll on (back?) to Seville '91 for the complete *Guitar Legends* set. Sound and image (pix above) are now just fine. Bob still looks less than half interested as he works through Watchtower then Boots. Incidentally, just today I happened to hear his exquisite rendition of Boots from Carnegie Hall 1963. Compare that lovingly-delivered take to this Seville one and see

for yourselves just how little he now chooses to get by on most of the time. But there's the rub. That's what keeps us enthralled - for though it might be *most* of the time, it isn't *all*. And just to prove it, ole Bob now drops in the first of [D015](#)'s three treasures - a lovely Borderline, played on his acoustic with just Richard Thompson alongside. Answer Me - which doesn't quite come off - and Shake, Rattle and Roll (yawn) close out his set.



Next stop Nara, Japan and with sound and picture (above) again both very good we're straight into a version of Hard Rain you'll perhaps never see bettered (though *Renaldo & Clara*'s is pretty choice too, as is [D236.su](#)'s). Bob sang in the '60s "sometimes it gets so hard to care" and you don't have to watch too many of these stolen performances to realise that he's come to learn the bitter truth of that line. But, whether because of the discipline imposed on him by the orchestra or for whatever other reason, singing this beautifully-paced and gorgeously-delivered Hard Rain, he really does live it, feel it, breathe it. I Shall Be Released and Ring Them Bells follow - both okay but neither lend themselves as readily to this sort of arrangement and neither takes off as Hard Rain does. This show then closes, *Last Waltz*-style, with an ensemble repeat of I Shall Be Released.

Finally, and pictorially best of all, to Hyde Park 1996 (image below) and five songs - Pill-Box Hat, Tom Thumb, Silvio, 4th Street and H61 - of the nine that were played (find the other four, including Seven Days, on [D370](#)). First and last are okay, Silvio (as always, for it's one of his least-endearing songs) is a drag, 4th Street is taken slow and, though enjoyable, can't quite eclipse the memory of the benchmark '86 Petty / Heartbreakers version - and then there's Tom Thumb, third sparkling treasure of this

disc and what makes all the other stuff worth sitting through. Look out here for the band's garish Mr Byrite job-lot blue suits, Ron Wood, Al Kooper and (briefly) *M&A* animal wrangler-to-be Val Kilmer.



All that's what I think, but then I'm a funny sod (or so my wife says), so the best advice I can give you is this: rather than take my word for it, seek this disc out and have fun making up your own minds.

THANKS KC



Frank & Bob

STARS Four