

D023.a AUSTIN, 24 FEBRUARY 2002

SOUND Enjoyable four-star audience tape.

IMAGE Tonight's camera is in a left-centre balcony position way back from the stage, with the film shot at high zoom. The major problem in these circumstances is controlling movements (for every one is magnified) and, perhaps inevitably, restless and quavering passages are a notable feature here. All the same, given his location, our taper turns in a commendable effort. Picture quality is a touch faded but watchable enough, with all band members getting time on screen (though, due to distance, none individually). Bob's black hat doesn't improve viewability, nor does the abrupt and permanent change, at the end of Baby Tonight, from full-screen to letterbox format. (In this respect, particularly, the screenshots tell less than the whole story.) No pixilation problems on this copy.



RUNNING TIME Disc One: 83 minutes. Disc Two: 54 minutes plus two minute slideshow bonus. All songs audio-complete with verse one of Sugar Baby, which plays over a still, the only video absentee.

PERFORMANCE Though Charlie, in his home town, is well up for it, Bob's throat sounds rough and performance overall, whilst okay, struggles to rise higher.

HIGHLIGHTS A tender Boots, a loping Maggie's Farm and an assured, authoritative Sugar Baby.

COMMENT Bob introduces a few songs (notably Boots and Visions) with choice harmonica but, for some reason, he keeps the harp, between outings, jammed in his left front trouser pocket. This results, each time he wants it, in a comical wrestling match - will he or won't he get it out in time to play?? Watch out, too, for the protracted bit of business, between Wind and Watchtower, concerning an item of jewellery thrown onto the stage.

THANKS Yunz

STARS Shame about the letterbox, but [D023.a](#) at least rights some of the wrongs of the wretched [D626](#). Three and a half.