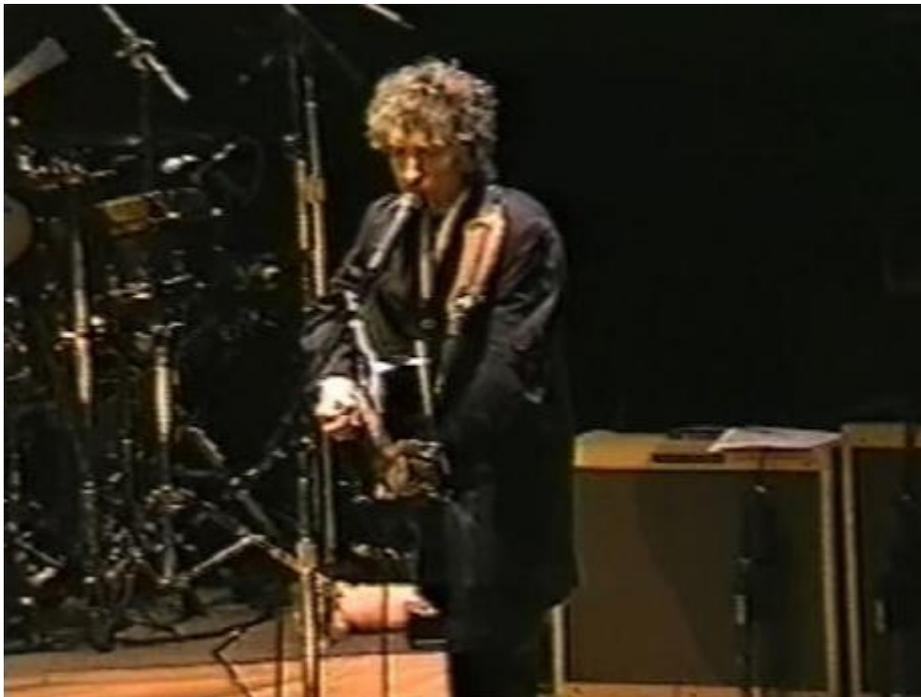


D031.su ATLANTIC CITY, 18 NOVEMBER 2000 (EARLY SHOW)

SOUND Excellent

IMAGE [D683.su](#) opens with fourteen minutes of stills and if you thought that a downer, the bad news here is that [D031.su](#) uses a source film more deficient even than that. Tonight's first moving pictures kick in during the last verse of third song Des Row - that's nearly sixteen minutes down the track - with the Don't Think Twice that follows extensively filleted too. So lots of patching, and if absence of video gets your goat, then leave this one alone. But be warned - if you do that, you'll deprive yourself of a treat, for the right-centre back-of-sloping-floor film we do eventually see is just minimally obstructed, very steady and (see screenshots below) pleasantly fresh and clean. Camera handling is slick, with Things particularly well-filmed, then Dogs better again. Thanks largely to skilful restoration by its author, [D683.su](#) succeeded in spite of its patent video deficiencies and, with [D031.su](#), Ace pulls the same trick twice.



RUNNING TIME 83:25, whole show, although heads (more problematic in LARS than elsewhere) sadly prevent any leave-taking line-up footage.

PERFORMANCE D's a hard-working musician - indeed, it's probably true to say that hard work in the past ten years has been his salvation - the salvation of his career and reputation, anyway, if not his soul (though quite possibly that too). Three well received albums, a co-written feature film in which he also appeared (yes, because "acted" would be pitching it too strong), the Scorsese doc, the widely acclaimed Theme Time radio series, *Chronicles* (a candid, vivid, lucid and arguably under-rated achievement), the Bootleg Series (time for another? And perhaps this time a *non-sixties* other?) and, of course, central to all, a stage-show, kept fresh by regular makeover, taken all around the world for our on-going collective delectation. And when Bob ventures into Springsteen country, he seems to feel the need to work harder still. He played Atlantic City twice in 1999, each time out of season (presumably, then, *by the cold, grey sea*) and each time performing twice in a day - early and

late shows at the same mega gambling joint venue. And returning in 2000 on the last weekend of another impressively accomplished touring year (think of that glittering string of Sept / Oct UK shows) it's an AC two-for-one yet again. Does he do this in many places, or is it a demand peculiar to Jersey casino managers? You can certainly see the appeal (to them) of selling the same seat twice over. The second of Bob's sets this night was marred (see [D032.su](#)) by a seven minute PA system failure through which he played on regardless. (I've seen it claimed that, since his stage monitors were still live, he didn't know the main hall sound was gone, but his dithering, kill-time performance all through the out gives the lie to that.) In his first set, here on [D031.su](#), though, no such problems and no dither either, but a generous helping of the right stuff, on the money, rock solid and sweet. The opening three numbers, with film or without, are all just fine. Then, after a lightweight knockabout Country Pie that's really little more than an acoustic / electric bookmark (though in which D twice offers *blueberry*, *appleberry*, *pumpkin and plum*, presumably just for the fun of singing it) we slot straight back into the zone with a gorgeous Man In Me, played for only the second time this year and probably only here at all because tonight's back-to-back performances required more variety than usual in each individual set-list. The work-through Tom Thumb receives, though nicely measured, is not quite blue enough for my liking, but nothing really misses: Pill-Box Hat is rousing, Things sure-fire and Dogs a special delight - another easy pick for TTYL4, should that (fingers crossed!) ever come to be.



COMMENT 31 songs in the night's two sets, of which only five were repeated.

THANKS GS

STARS Half off for missing video, but a strong four still.