

D062.su ROCKFORD, 25 OCTOBER 1995

SOUND From the off, you'll think the audio here is very good (which it is). But, at about 1:20 into T Man, during the *branded on my feet* line, in fact, you'll hear a faint click after which it suddenly gets better still as one previously light channel flushes up full to give a top of the range sound that then persists through to the main set's close. The first and third bonus encore tracks (audio + slideshow only) are less dynamic (probably due to the standing crowd impeding the mike) though still plenty good enough, with the acoustic Times sandwiched between them just the job. Having said all that, these are minor quibbles, with overall audio standard here impressively high.

IMAGE See screenshots - likewise fine. This film reminds me rather of [D683.su](#), which was taken from the same relative vantage point (though closer in) at a show twelve stops and seventeen days further on up the road. But tonight's camera, unlike that one, is tripod mounted, thus 100% steady and impressively well handled to boot. Its natural view is across D to catch him either solo or with JJ behind. There's frequent zoom use but only limited panning, such that Bucky and Watson are seldom / never seen. Occluding heads are occasionally bothersome, though never for so long as to spoil anything. Film is fresh and clean though less richly coloured than the very best. When D's driving Believers draws the crowd to its feet, the camera's view is lost and so pics end halfway through that song. But Cineman applies his magic patches to round out the main set, with all three encore cuts then served up individually (note: strangely, they won't play consecutively, but need to be selected from the menu one by one) over a 21-slide rotating montage.



RUNNING TIME Main set 86 minutes, with the three-track audio bonus totalling a further 23.

PERFORMANCE It would have been interesting to witness the close of this gig, if only to see if D managed to crack a smile, or anything approaching one, even just once. For, throughout all that we *do* see, he looks excessively dour, his glow waxed in wintery black.

But still he gives his songs, and, through them, his audience, full respect. Though I'd have to say that tonight's is some way off my dream set-list, Flood and Red Sky are early stand-outs and all the acoustics are lovely, although, in the ten minute T Man, JJ's accompaniment is played with more presence but less focus on the melody than earlier in the year. But D closes this song with some stirring, passionate harp, all beautifully filmed. As for Five Believers, I don't recall seeing it live before and though it rocks out okay, it's surely (heresy alert!) the closest thing on *BOB* to filler? If only he'd have let his eye wander a bit further up that album's track-list. *KNEE-ling 'neath your CEI-ling ...* Wouldn't you sooner hear that? Wouldn't that be a thrill and a half? I don't know about you, but Temporary Like Achilles gets my vote for best Bob song never sung live, by a country mile. Maybe Someday ... (Like, perhaps, two weeks tonight?)*



THANKS B/G

STARS Fine but frosty. Four.

* (No, but he *did* sing House Of The Rising Sun - see D845.su)

