

D080.su MANKATO, 10 NOVEMBER 1996

SOUND Very good

IMAGE The screenshots (below) tell the tale: grainy, low definition pics from a 95% unobstructed left balcony position. Camerawork is competent, mostly very steady (odd lapses) with good varied zoom and panning. But colours are washed out and muted, giving a dull and dowdy film that's not much fun to watch, and D's white stetson doesn't help. (For a visual treat from this tour, try, rather, [D386.su](#).)



RUNNING TIME 117 minutes, with patched video (assorted short fills plus all of Tom Thumb) allowing a complete audio track. Once again the band exit the stage after each of the last four numbers, so a certain amount of fast forward (around six minutes in all) is required.

PERFORMANCE Enjoyable enough, though too many songs - Silvio, Tangled, Broken, H61, LARS - are over-long, when shorter might well have proved sweeter too.

HIGHLIGHTS Tom Thumb (with pics or without) and Mornings.

COMMENT This last tour of '96 - 28 dates in 38 days across 19 (!) US states - catches the band in transition, with Kemper experiencing his first road-trip whilst JJ's six year tenure is coming to an end. This Mankato gig (in Bob's home state - Tony's too) immediately precedes the debacle at Dubuque ([D045.su](#)) and accurately foreshadows its wretched extended orgy of anarchic barbarianism with a more restrained bout of its own. It begins tonight with a lone arm-pumping idiot loping on then off again during LARS, which encourages around 30 others, mostly female, to follow, first singly then finally in a narcissistic coterie of four or five that between them

ensure that only one line (the first) of RDW can be sung before D is forced away from the mike and any meaningful further contribution. The strange thing is, this behaviour appears to have been a recurring feature of this tour, such that you have to suspect that D at the very least readily acquiesced and possibly even actively connived (through instructions to Security) to bring it about. It features here on [D080.su](#), at Dubuque most notably, then on both [D070](#) and [D386.su](#) from later in the tour. But as early as 2 November it was being reported from Birmingham, Alabama that

the band played a short jazzy improvisation ... while the stage was cleared of audience members

so you have to wonder where else it happened too. The irony of this mindless and inappropriate homage being paid even as its subject sings It Ain't Me, Babe (think of the lyric) is rich indeed. Weird, yes. Wonderful, no.



THANKS Viner Lev

STARS Three and a half

