

D085 KERKRADE, 19 MARCH 1995

Having heard and read lots of good things about this DVD, I put it in the machine with high expectations of a fun time to come. And though the show is indeed very well filmed, with a clear view of the stage, close, steady shots, enough panning to keep things interesting and only two ceiling interludes (one during the early part of T Man and one during the last minute of LARS), it's so far so good. Bob sings seven of the first ten songs without guitar and that, too, pleases, for though his mood is mellow, his delivery is sympathetic and sure-footed. (Actually, he doesn't look that well and at one point has to pause between songs to blow his nose - can't remember having seen that one before!) But what's decidedly lacking here is a decent soundtrack. A few weeks ago I watched and really enjoyed [D182](#), a show from Brixton played just twelve days after this one and, to make sure it wasn't just my memory playing tricks on me, after finishing Kerkrade I played some of the Brixton again to see just how different they sounded. And yes, they *are* notably different, and yes, that modest but crucial difference makes *all* the difference. As I concluded after first viewing it, [D182](#) is a thoroughly satisfying show to revisit, whereas [D085](#), sadly, stands in need of a sound upgrade before it can hope to be ranked up with the best. Something else too - every 30 seconds or so, there's a little blip* or jump in the audio track which kicks in right away and recurs regularly and repetitively all the way through to the end. Very distracting - it gets to the point where your mind's off Bob as you wait expectantly for the next one to arrive.



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STARS Though havoring between three and four, I'm finally going with four because [D085](#) looks fine and sounds okay - but there are better '95 shows around than this one.

* Since this review was written, [D085](#) has been re-authored three times, first to produce a blip-free version, then to add an upgraded soundtrack, then again to improve on that. So, if you want to collect this show, go for third variant [D085.suu](#).