

**D105.sse LONDON, 5 OCTOBER 2000**

**SOUND** Impressively fine throughout.

**IMAGE** Though the usual problems - heads, shakes, cuts, freezes, iffy framing, black screen interludes - can all be seen, still this footage (screenshots below) is 95% lovely: clean, colourful, unobstructed and steady. If only the camera, which never once crosses the footlights, had been more predatory, this could have been one of the great audience films. Exceptionally good even so.



**RUNNING TIME** Disc One: 61 minutes, Disc Two: 44 minutes. Duncan & Brady and Released are both missing their opening few lines, other songs complete.

**PERFORMANCE** On the money

**HIGHLIGHTS** (1) It's Alright Ma (2) Standing In The Doorway

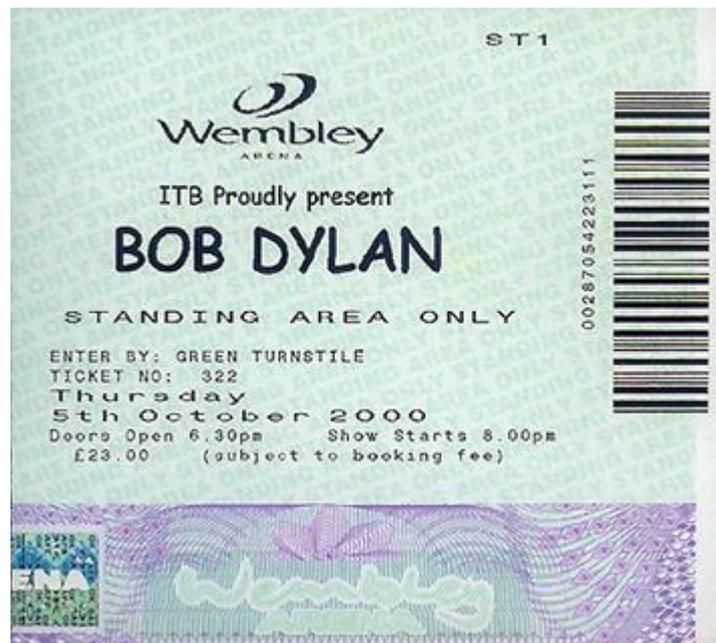


**COMMENT** Disc One gives show date as 8 May, Disc Two 8 Oct - both incorrect. The Radio Two make-over inflicted upon Tryin' To Get To Heaven\* leaves it bland as

beige, all character gone, sounding like a *L&T* out-take - but welcome on the set-list just the same. And, finally, after *Wicked Messenger* and before introducing the band, D delivers a rap about his enduring respect for Great Britain, based, he says, on *Winston Churchill, all that stuff* ... Remarkable.

**THANKS** Ian

**STARS** A well-deserved five



\* Ever wondered about the line *I been to Sugar Town, I shook the sugar down*? Check out Alan Lomax's *Folk Songs Of North America*. The first verse of song #266, Buck-Eye Rabbit, goes like this:

*I wanted sugah very much  
I went to Sugah Town  
I climbed up in that sugah tree  
An' I shook that sugah down*

Lines from songs in this book occur in *Not Dark Yet* (see #206 *Red River Shore*), *Standing In The Doorway* (#145 *Roll On, Buddy*), *Tryin' To Get To Heaven* (as above, also #252 *John The Revelator*, also #259 *Miss Mary Jane*) and *Marchin' To The City* (#242 *Wade In The Water*, which includes the line *I'm marching to the city and the road ain't long*.). At the time of *TOOM*'s release in 1997, Bob told Jon Pareles of the *New York Times*:

*Those old songs are my lexicon and my prayer book.*

Clearly he wasn't kidding.