

D113.su BASEL, 2 JUNE 1984



SOUND Warm and vibrant audience tape

IMAGE This film is shot from close to but left of centre stage, with the angled view catching guitar Bob just right, with Taylor behind (though of the other players little is seen). Image is somewhat degraded but still plenty good enough to enjoy. Though camera is hand-held, its operator does a brilliant job throughout in keeping it steady. And though there are plenty of heads - and occasionally arms - such that (aided by the audio) the viewer feels decidedly part of the crowd, these never spoil what's to see but, rather enhance the right-there experience.



RUNNING TIME The Basel compilation runs 59 minutes and the bonus (which can be accessed via the text at the bottom of the menu screen) a further five. Eight of the Dylan songs (see track-list) are filmed in full whilst Willie Nelson's Why Do I Have To Choose?, which Bob sings here for the first time, cuts on video after 3:30 but then concludes, under black screen, in audio only.

PERFORMANCE Another magic carpet-ride back through the years - this time 22 years, a quarter lifetime, to find Bob, in a Basel park, as early evening turns to night, just turned 43 and giving it plenty. A certain six year old said of D that he "sings like a lion" - and here, on D113.su, we see the *junge's* astute perception borne out. From I And I, which starts at the top of the second verse, through to the end of T Blues come a succession of well-shot, complete (except Wake Up) and dynamically performed songs that effortlessly impress and delight in equal measure.

HIGHLIGHTS Stories of poor preparation for the '84 tour abound and this show was just its fourth (of 27). And it's true that, in Every Grain especially, some under-rehearsal is apparent. But, between that song and the next we're given (with an intervening LARS not filmed) darkness falls and, with the added intimacy that brings, D's acoustic Ramona, beautifully shot through dancing lighter flames, is just spine-chillingly wonderful, with the GNC that follows just as good. Earlier on, both Don't Think Twice and Baby Blue also score with accomplished ease. Santana, on for the closing two numbers, adds flash to Mick Taylor's grind. All in all ... *Whooh-hooh!!!*

COMMENT The main benefit of the pro-shot Dixie Chicks bonus, in which both songs are incomplete (but watch out in the second for cameos from Keith Richards and Chrissie Hynde) is to remind us of how far above the plateau BD flies. And how lucky we are to have him.

THANKS JL

STARS Much the best '84 I've come across. Not to be missed. Five.



Milan 24 June