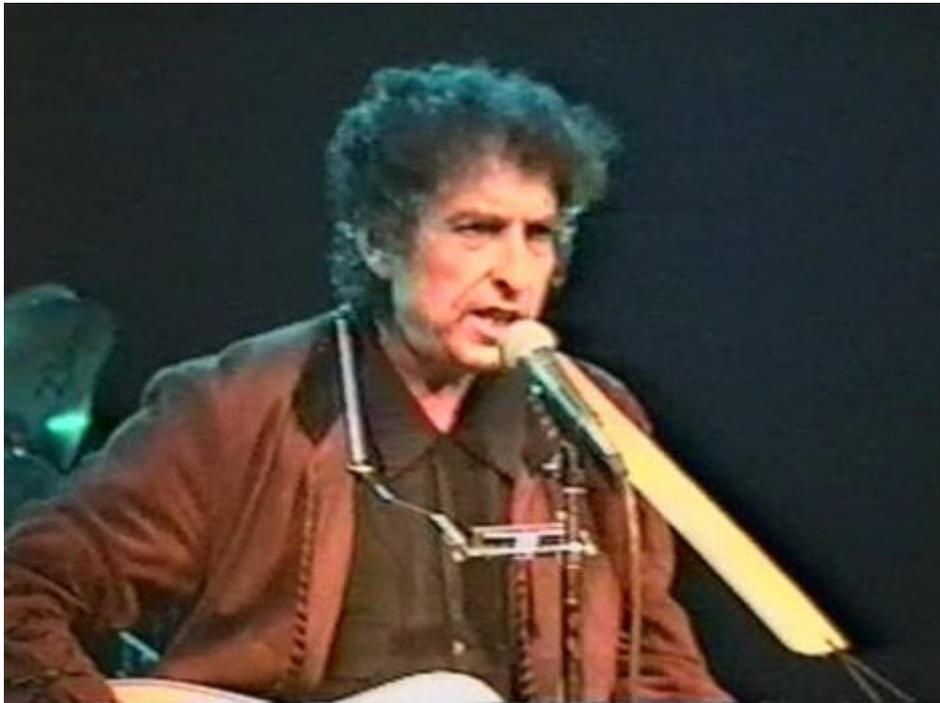


D117.2su UNTRoubLED TROUBADOUR

After the ordeal that was Bobfest ([D487](#)) we catch up with D where he's most at home - out on the road, making those people dance. And here, up in Burlington, rural Vermont, they do. Memorial Auditorium, in Main Street, by the Marketplace and just a stone's throw from Lake Champlain, is a small venue (max. 2,500) but tonight it's jumping, with the boisterous crowd very active, very vocal and drawing from Bob and the band a performance well worthy of its spirited enthusiasm.

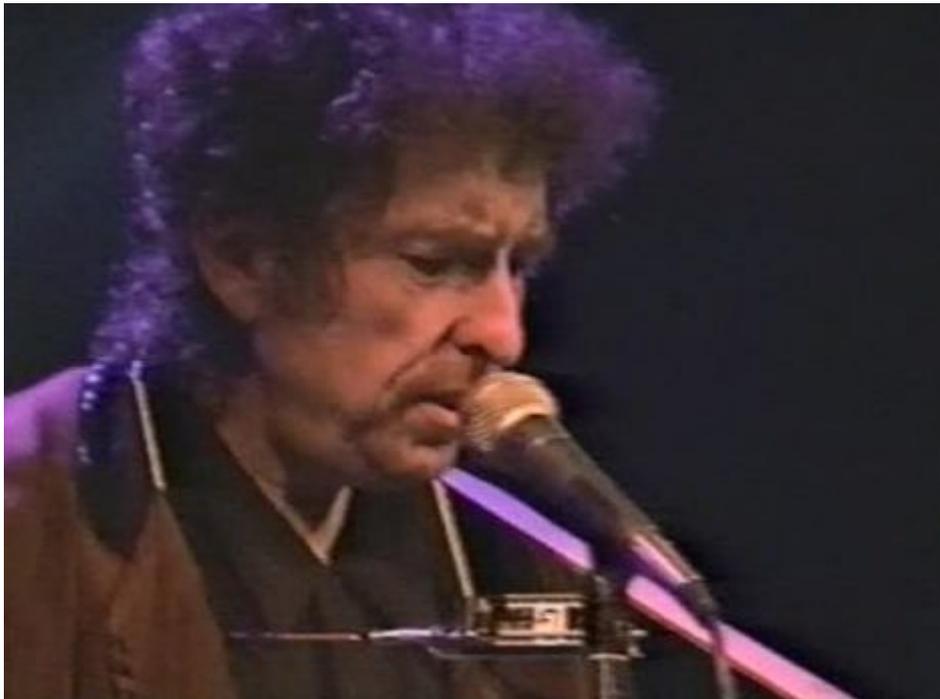
Our taper stands at the back of the floor on the left side with a hand-held camera. That means shakes, and there are plenty here, though just intermittently. Indeed, several songs - most notably the dazzling mid-show acoustic set then all of the last five except What Good - are commendably well filmed. What's more, picture quality (see screenshots below) is exceptionally fine, with clean sharp images in warm, rich, natural colours - lots of close-up, too, especially from Times through to the end. And footage not just of D but all players.



The dancing shifting crowd and a relatively low stage also mean that heads are a recurring nuisance. Again, this causes limited loss of view (most notably in Pill-Box Hat, but elsewhere too). All these problems were amplified in the original source film (see [D117](#) review), but with his usual high quality patchwork restoration job, Cineman has tidied that up no end. And if the improved film he gives us is still less than perfect, the best of it is superb and well worth the trade-off in respect of those occasional other passages that aren't.

Audio is good but with two provisos: the crowd's boisterousness, previously mentioned, gives a strong audience "presence" that might not be to everyone's taste. And the upgraded soundtrack is very drum-heavy. That's not due to any recording bias, it must be said, but simply because behind the band sit two drummers, as was the

case for most of this touring year. Though the pairing changed a few times, tonight it's Wallace and Watson (a stayer, but here in just his fourteenth gig). It surprises me that the two *never* play off one another, but, through song after song, slug away in unison like one four-handed, eight-limbed beast, which suits some (Silvio, Pill-Box Hat, H61) better than others (Peggy-O, JLaw or Masterpiece, which it spoils altogether). It's instructive to note that when, in 4th Street, D wants to play a solo, he has to turn round with his finger to his lips to quieten them down. We've been here before, of course: [D727.su](#): *I heard two hunkered drummers, their hands were a-blazing* - and I heaved a sigh. The final thing to note about the audio track is that, since no upgrade tape was available for last song Me Babe, the original camera track remains in place and, though the difference between s/u and non is noticeable, both please the ear quite nicely thank you.



A challenging authoring job has been pulled off in fine style here to give us yet another improbable ticket to ride that magic swirling ship back through the years. So go to it. You know it makes sense. A treat in store awaits.

RUNNING TIME Disc One: 73:30. Disc Two: 49:25. All here.

(For **PERFORMANCE** comment, see [D117](#) review)

THANKS GS

STARS Five, of course