

D126.su BROOKVILLE, 30 JANUARY 1998

SOUND Full-bodied, strong and fine.

IMAGE As with [D127.su](#) (see review), what we have here is another very good film - handsome but flawed - transmuted by sympathetic, subtle authoring into something better again. Shot from a right centre balcony spot with a mostly clear view, pictures are nicely coloured, close, steady and all-inclusive (though sidemen Bucky and Tony feature less than their centre-stage compadres). The screenshots below give an idea of what to expect, though what you see there appears darker and less inviting than what's on the DVD.



RUNNING TIME 91:50, complete.

PERFORMANCE Watching this superb gig recalled to my mind the rather different [D120.su](#), another NY show from the previous month (December '97). 1997 was a tough year for Bob, and though it was characteristically courageous of him to climb out of his hospital bed to see it through, it seems clear, in retrospect, that by its end he was spent. Even so, he allowed himself just three weeks off by way of a Christmas break before going back out and we see him here, with January not yet done, already playing the twelfth date of his next campaign. But he's full of it, fresh, engaged and lively, experimenting with the stresses of the lines in Tangled, dropping wry asides into Million Miles, lyrically near-flawless - he misses the *cities I will burn* verse of Peggy-O but tacks it onto the song's end - and from the rocking Sweet Marie that kicks us off through to leave-taker RDW all here is just the job.

HIGHLIGHTS Every one a winner, so pick your own.

COMMENT As often with closer RDW, crowd-on-feet means taper troubles and part of its performance, perhaps inevitably, is lost to view. But that the source film has not

been completely sanitised is good too, for it serves to remind us of what we're about here. The dancing, camera-blocking bodies forcibly convey the excitement of the moment - more solid decision-making, then, on the disc-author's part. (All we need now, Ace, is that "aged film" function disabled and you'll be ready for Hollywood.) As for the song's title, if you're like me you'll have thought it a bit of throwaway nonsense, like Alcatraz To The Ninth Power or It Takes A ... Train To Cry. But getting stoned, of course, harks back not just to sixties / hippy days but (in a wholly other sense) to The Bible (Matthew 23:37, Hebrews 11:27) which is where, in Proverbs 27:15, we find:

*A continual dropping in a very **rainy day** and a contentious **woman** are alike.*

As for the #12 & 35, though - your guess is as good as mine.



THANKS GS

STARS This one's a corker. Five.

