

## D157 BRIGHTON, 4 MAY 2002

At Brighton, opening show of his 2002 UK visit, Bob played a long 21-song set lasting, reportedly, well over two hours - but if you'd like to see most or all of what went down that night, D157 is not the place to go. This less than satisfying DVD runs two minutes under an hour and features eight just about complete songs, with four others substantially pruned and no less than nine absent altogether. The film we do see is shot from various parts of the hall, starting in the wings to the left of the stage. From this close but side-on vantage point the filmer captures the mid-section only of I Am The Man, Thomas then all of If Not For You (take marred by unfortunate mid-song bout of camera-wrestling). The tape then stops and re-starts and we're now down in the crowd, left-side, back but comfortable zoom-range and one verse into Ramona (with the preceding Bleeding gone by totally unrecorded). Can't Wait and SH Blues are complete. D struggles manfully if not altogether successfully with the latter's demanding lyric yet still rolls back the years with his *Pahkin MEEEtaz* ...



After the closing two verses (only) of Lonesome Day Blues comes a complete T Man, the first two thirds of which is splendid. But, after odd up-sung lines, he sings *haunted frightened TREES* (major up-sing) and from there, giving in to his recurring compulsion to trivialise his work this way, finishes the song with 100% use of this repellent vocal device, so marring in the process an otherwise carefully, delicately stated performance. After another cut that misses all of Masters and all but the last two verses of Tangled, there's a full and very fine Sugar Baby. We then hear (though can see nothing of) the last verse of Summer Days followed by about ten seconds - no more - of CIB. The film then catches a complete electric Man Of Constant Sorrow - good rarity value, though the arrangement (for me, at least) doesn't work. Released is near-complete (start clipped). If you were hoping to hear Honest With Me, tough luck - D157 gives you the first line only. Ten seconds of Wind (just enough to let you know you're missing it) is followed by a last complete song and a surprisingly impressive one - Watchtower played in a more restrained and rhythmic way than usual, with D scoring at will with his lines (for once not buried beneath the music). A nice end to a less than fulfilling journey.

What's here is easy on both eye and ear, but the problem is what isn't. I was led to this show by the lovely take from it of Ramona featured on [D569](#) - but that, sadly, comes from a different (and plainly much better) film. This - also incomplete - has since emerged on the splendid [D685](#) and offers just the first 41 minutes of the gig, but in fine style. [D157](#) gives a more comprehensive taster and includes all of the rare electric Man Of Constant Sorrow. All the same, of the two, it's [D685](#)\* I'd go for every time.



**THANKS** Black Cat

**STARS** Three

\* Or, better yet, [D685.su](#). See also [D869](#).

