



SOUND Early songs slightly murky but, from Don't Think Twice on, just the job.

IMAGE Tonight's taper is at the back of the floor, just right of centre. His camera is clearly a good one, capable of catching strikingly handsome pictures, with zoom or without, and of these we see plenty. (Note: the screenshots do this film less than full justice.) But all the way through to LARS, heads restrict his options such that, though we get lots of D plus something of Larry, of Tony / Bucky, because he can't track right, there's nothing at all. Finally in Forever Young he has a chance to draw back for some nice all-band plus individual member footage. Then, as folks stand through closer RDW, he has to fight to get anything at all, which, much to his credit and rather against the odds, he manages to do. The main drawback here is unsteadiness, a familiar high-zoom hazard. But it's intermittent, never overly violent or pronounced and, though noticeable, bearable too. Numerous excellent passages more than outweigh the relatively minor defects.



RUNNING TIME 89:15, complete.

PERFORMANCE Fine. Having now seen two shows (this one and [D521.su](#)) from this '97 US / Canada Summer Tour, it's starting to look like a minor triumph and something of a well-kept secret. Fresh out of his hospital bed, D's clearly (new lease of life?) up for it himself, he's fronting a relatively new band (with Larry and Kemper both in their first year) and, significantly, he's freshened up the set-list, with Watchtower and Maggie's dropped (pity he forgot Silvio) and Tough Mama and Cocaine in. (In another couple of months he'll have a new album to draw from, but for the moment it's covers and the back-catalogue only - just the four hundred songs then.) Additionally, If You See Her is here for the second and last time this year and the lovely One Too Many Mornings drops by for a sixth airing of thirteen. Two Dylan writers (Heylin and Muir) have suggested that D played no harmonica on this tour (warned off it, says Heylin) but (see pic below) he does so beautifully to close out this Forever Young - a song that, without harp, would be like George without his beret or JJ without his grin. Admittedly tonight's is not full-on, lung-busting harp but all the better for its delicate almost tentative reserve. Overall, a top-notch gig.

HIGHLIGHTS As above; Wheel's On Fire, LARS too.



COMMENT How would you like to be D's medical advisor? After his May / June histoplasma hiatus, he was soon looking to return to the road - but by easing his way back with three or four well-spaced dates to get the feel of things and build up his stamina? No, rather a punishing schedule of 22 shows in 29 August days, of which this Toronto date was #4 and counting. Five days before the tour's end, he told Edna Gundersen:

I'm still taking medication three times a day (and you can't help but wonder whether this fact might have influenced his decision to resurrect Cocaine, last performed in 1962). Sometimes it makes me a little light-headed and dizzy, and I need to sleep a lot ... I don't have the energy I

usually have so I have to save it all to perform. Outside of that, I'm doing as well as I can.

So then, after the tour, a quiet end to the year? No again - off to Popefest (D016) and the UK, followed by another seventeen-city US Tour then, through December to within five days of Christmas, a fifteen date US Winter Club Tour. Come 13 January and on into another year ... Which all confirms what the last two decades have otherwise indicated: that (lucky for us though tough on him) he's a Man on a Mission. By the end of '07, all being well, the NET performance tally will be close on 2000 - a remarkable achievement by any standard, borne of a spirit restless, bounteous and indomitable in equal measure. Don't need no doctor ...



THANKS Black Cat

STARS Not the very best of fives, but five anyway.

