

D177 SOMEBODY TOUCHED ME (UK TOUR 2000 COMPILATION)

To my mind, two NET tours - the 1995 Spring and 2000 Summer tours of Europe - stand out above the rest, with both featuring Bob in imperious form, night after glorious night. So a DVD compiled from such source material is never going to be *bad*. But for all of the fine performances on [D603](#) (the "Dignity in the UK" '95 compilation), I didn't find it as rewarding to watch as any of the individual shows from that period. Without quite knowing why, it's clear to me that the best shows will always outshine the best compilations. The latter are probably likeliest to succeed when the series of concerts they source from are of just moderate or inconsistent quality. Then, by picking, choosing and authoring with care, it should be possible - and desirable too, of course - to fashion one silk purse from several sows' ears. At this point I'd like to offer you an example or two of what I mean - except I can't, because I've yet to see anyone pull this trick off. [D103](#), [D291](#), [D301](#) (the best of these) and [D444](#) all try more or less half-heartedly to do it.



But if the source material is strong, then compilations are almost superfluous, for the shows themselves are really all you need. That's how it is with [D603](#) and also, I'd say with this 2000 compilation, [D177](#). There's not much wrong with it - there are incomplete songs (toggle the blue link under the DVDylan set-list for details) and you could argue about what's in and what's out (why, for instance, no magnificent 25.9 Hard Rain or wonderful *and* relatively rare 19.9 Delia?). But it looks and sounds the part, with fresh, clean film (see screenshots) caught by a good camera in experienced hands, over generally excellent audio (though the first two tracks are both cut *and* head-beleaguered *and* four-star audioed). Furthermore, not for the first time (see [D444](#)), the rudimentary standard of authoring lets the production down. There's no menu and though there are 23 chapter marks placed through the film, they occur regularly every 5:30 (approx) and thus bear no relation to song transitions. But what a great mood Bob was in at Cardiff - full of smiles all night. And with what good reason

too, for here we are privileged to see, up close and personal, a maestro at the tremendous top of his game - enough to make *anyone* smile.



THANKS Black Cat



STARS There's a superb choice of UK 2000 shows: [D077](#), [D105.sse](#), [D176.su](#), [D236.su](#) and [D667.su](#) are all five-star specials and, though [D177](#) is okay, I'd take any one of those others ahead of it. Having said that, though, if compilations are what you like, this is assuredly of one the better ones around. A solid four.