

D183.su STANHOPE, NJ, 10 SEPTEMBER 1988



SOUND A solid audience tape on which, for once, the electric tracks - good separation, meaty sound - play better than the acoustics, where that all-important brightness is not quite there.

IMAGE Another gig (reminiscent of lava lamp [D717.su](#)) played mostly in semi-darkness, with a deadly dull film the perhaps inevitable result. The taper is in the right-side balcony, so catching D in left profile, with GE a shadowy presence behind. D performs with a single spot on his head and shoulders into which GE - *Come over here, G, and step into the light* - moves occasionally (pic #1 below) to showcase his scorching fretwork. Just three songs (of seventeen) are played under better light - H61 (why?) then the last two - which offers both us (pic #2) and the long-suffering Stanhope audience a brief proper look at all players. At the opposite extreme, Times is performed in near-darkness. The camera is hand-held and shakes are a recurring factor, though with plenty of watchable footage in between the worst skid / jitter moments. Heads, too, though a constant presence, are a nuisance during LARS and Watchtower only. As usual whenever it happens, it comes as something of a shock to see on bass a non-Tony - Kenny Aaronson, of course (pic #3), Garnier's predecessor, whom, if the stories are right, Bob treated shabbily. Garnier missed the NET's first year - his first gig was show #75 (Dublin, 3 June 1989 - see [D592.su](#)) - but he's made up for it since.

RUNNING TIME 81:35, complete.

PERFORMANCE Typical brash early NET. Past *Good* but not within touching distance of *Great*. That moment that comes in most gigs when the lights go down and stay down that bit longer and you know it's because they're changing from electric guitars to acoustic is an enduring special thrill. Often, too, the rewards match or, on his

best days, exceed your expectation. Here, though, only Ramona really shines, with the three that follow all sadly perfunctory. As for his singing, listen carefully and you'll catch recurring hints of a bubbly throat, which could explain a lot.

HIGHLIGHTS Released and H61 are both lit up by outstanding contributions from GE. Baby Blue scores too.



COMMENT D183.su opens in fine style with a bravura SH Blues in-fill. Author Ace at his inspired best.

THANKS Black Cat



[Kenny Aaronson with D, 1988](#)

STARS I applaud the thinking behind, and the labour of love involved in the production of this DVD. It's another important addition to the archive. All the same, as art or entertainment, either one, it's no great shakes. Three and a half.