

D216 LIVERPOOL, 26 JUNE 1996

SOUND* Murky sub-fi, not much fun.

IMAGE From his left balcony position, tonight's taper has a clear but quite sharply angled view down onto Bob and the band. Pictures (see below) are clean and richly coloured, with many zoomed tight in onto Bob's head and shoulders, giving extended passages of intimately revealing film. Though some of the close footage is moderately jiggle-afflicted, plenty is steady too. The lens is also active in seeking out other band members (including, on organ, gnomic Salman Rushdie doppelganger Al Kooper, who sits in for this gig and the next two - see [D217](#) and [D015](#), Hyde Park Chapter - as well). Its eye-catching video is the best thing about [D216](#) by some distance.



RUNNING TIME Forty seconds over the hour. Cuts and snips as noted above. Essentially what we have is eight complete or near complete songs from a set-list of sixteen.

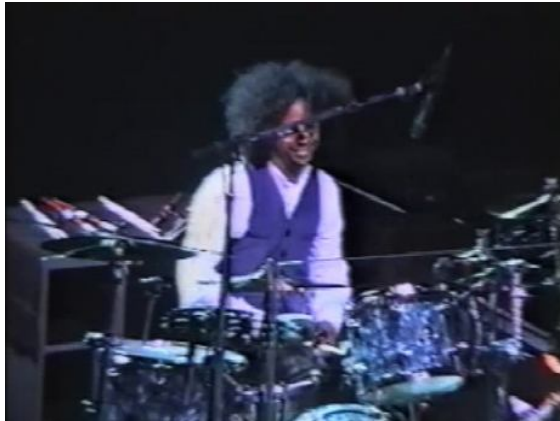
PERFORMANCE Few England fans who saw their team's Euro '96 semi are likely to forget it: Gazza an agonising toe-nail away from snatching it in extra time then the usual spot-kick capitulation to German prowess (though, to be fair, even San Marino Ladies would beat them at pens). But if all remember the game, fewer are likely to recall the date - in fact, 26 June, and even as Southgate was lamely side-footing the nation's dreams into darkness, 200 miles north at the Liverpool Empire, Bob was about other business. So, if you want to revisit the eve without the heartache, this - [D216](#) - is how. But will the effort prove worth your while? In a word, no. Apart from the audio downer noted above, you'll find D in subdued mood, performing within himself, holding back, almost, you sense, as though his appetite is gone. In under six weeks he'll give an equally flat performance in Atlanta (see [D006](#)) and what we have here, sadly, is more of the same. We've all seen people who will smile at you with their mouth but not their eyes. Well here D sings for you with his mouth but not his heart. Maybe his mind was on the match?

HIGHLIGHT My Back Pages (catch it on [D569](#) and leave this one be).

COMMENT According to *The Guinness Book Of Records*, the most covered song in popular music history is Paul McCartney's Yesterday. Bob has sung it live just once.

And where was that? Yes, here at the Empire, this night, where it sits on the set-list between Getaway and Pages. Though I've not heard it, I understand that, like another Beatles song he started but didn't finish - Here Comes The Sun at Earls Court in 1981 (see [D167.su](#)) - it's a fragment only. Even so, to have the camera there only to miss it is galling indeed! (For more on this, see [D216.su](#) review.)

THANKS Muesli Man



[Winston Watson](#)



[Al Kooper](#)

STARS Nice pics, indifferent sound, uninspired performance, no menu. Two and a half.



* For improved audio, see either full concert video / audio hybrid [D216.su](#) or video only (i.e. straight upgrade of this disc) [D216.su2](#)