

D218.su2 MIXED-UP CONFUSION?

In [D133](#) and [D322](#) the catalogue was blessed with two exceptional audience recordings well regarded by all. But (perhaps for that very reason) both were sound-upgraded to make (in [D133.su](#) and [D322.su](#)) the very good even better. And so with [D218](#), offering a near-complete feast of fine film over a decent though just slightly overloaded soundtrack. Enjoyable? Surely, but room for improvement? Cineman thought so, whence [D218.su](#) which, by restoring previously pruned H61 and adding cleaner audio gave us the full show in sweeter sound.



A happy ending, then? Not quite, for life being what it is, there were still banker's niece issues to vex both eye and ear - brief though annoying bursts of static, some lurid coloration (see [D218](#) DVDylan screenshots) and (for those who worry about such things) a NTSC / PAL snafu. So to the now familiar [.suu](#) next stage, which is where the story gets a tad strange, with Ace producing not one revised upgrade but two - [D218.suu](#) and [.su2*](#) - using different audio sources. Which is better? If one or other clearly is, that should surely have been the one to go with. And if there's nothing to choose between them such that it doesn't matter, why not make a decision, pick either one and stick with it? Or, if one is better in part and the second in other parts, what about a mix-and-match hybrid? Making two separately numbered but just about identical third-gen upgrades seems to me bizarre and unnecessarily complicating, but so it goes. These are minor quibbles, of course, because, as you might expect, the disc under review is very fine (I dare say [D218.suu](#) is okay too) and no-one's more thankful for G's assiduous work than I am. And four [D218](#) variants in the catalogue is small beer. Three from '87 - Frankfurt (the show D played in a curtain - see [D071](#) review), London (17th) and Stuttgart - are all available on five DVDs, Birmingham '95 and Hammersmith '03 are both on six, '87's London (15th) and Verona are each on seven with joint record-holders dandy but difficult Prague 11 March '95 plus Paris 31 Jan 1990 on no fewer than nine!

For further film and gig info, see [D218](#) and [D218.su](#) reviews plus disc author notes on DVDylan [D218.su2](#) listing page.

RUNNING TIME 84:03, complete

THANKS Alpen Landing Duty, Ace Industries Inc.



STARS Though a lot of hoops have been jumped through to reach this point, it was all worth it, because this DVD (Simple Twist! Hard Rain!! H61!!!) is *special*. Five, of course.

* Regarding fourth variant identifiers, I'm told [D218.sux](#) was briefly considered, then rejected (can't think why). And which soundtrack *is* better? Go for LB-4607 here on [D218.su2](#).

