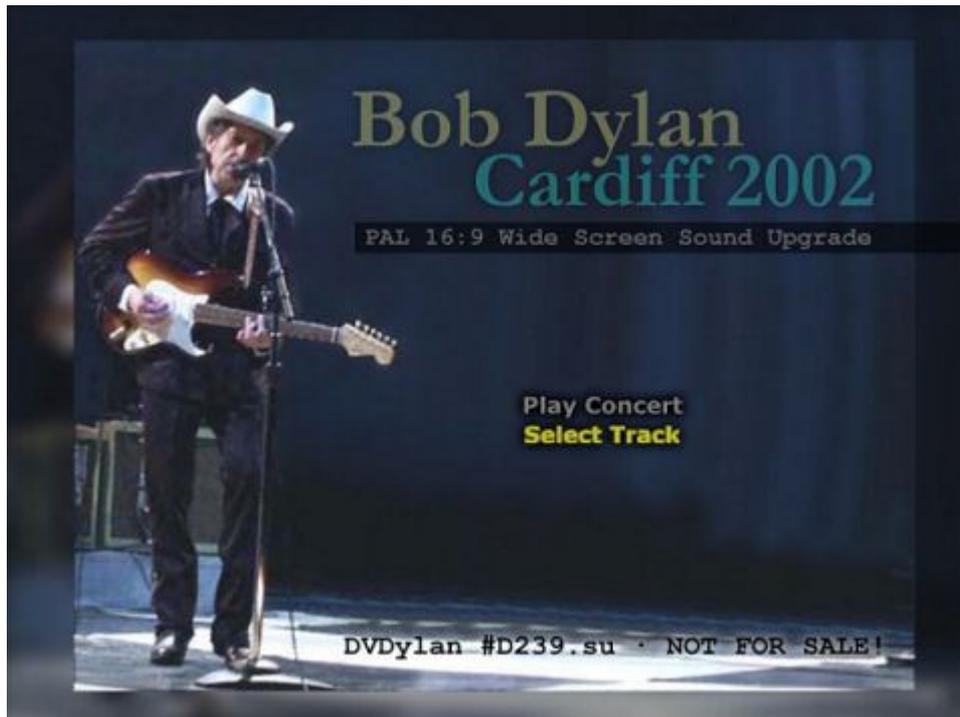


D239.su **CARDIFF, 6 MAY 2002**



SOUND Wonderfully good



IMAGE Check out [D569](#). If appearances are anything to go by, this Cardiff film was made by the same hand responsible for the best-looking cuts (Ramona / Des Row from this tour and Silvio from 1998) on Lucky Dip - and their standard is dazzlingly good. Are we in here, then, for a rare treat? Picture quality is indeed generally fine, with significant passages up-close, compelling, revealing - *but* ... and, unfortunately, like Homer Simpson's, it's quite a big *but*. Though up in the left balcony with a nice oblique line into Bob with Larry behind (always a pleasing combination), tonight's cameraman is three times unlucky. From fixtures and forelocks and fans his sorrow does stem -

between an obtrusive balcony rail, equally obtrusive stage furniture and the odd pesky head, his shooting window is prohibitively small, such that the resultant film, intermittently smooth and assured, is also restless, antsy, plagued with repeated disturbance. Then there's the problem of the hat. Under the bright lights of centre stage, Bob's white Stetson burns (see screenshots) with a fiery incandescence, balancing on his head like a bowlful of strontium 90 and this, until it gets close, the camera finds too much to take. But still worthwhile? Still enjoyable? Yes.



RUNNING TIME 135 minutes - complete show

PERFORMANCE Much to savour, though, lyrically, Bob's notably off his game, with Humming Bird, It's Alright Ma (especially), Mobile and Heaven's Door all taking hits that would surely sink less sturdy vessels. And if you didn't know the words of Summer Days already, you'd surely pick up very few of them here - though, in fairness, the show-stopping success this song e'er enjoys derives less from D's vocal (nailed or not) than the inspirational handiwork of his two thoroughbred axemen, for once allowed off the leash to *play*.



HIGHLIGHTS I've got to the point with these DVDs where to see Baby Blue on the set-list is a thrill in itself and tonight's performance, adding one more to a long list of exquisite live readings, fulfils all expectations. The two songs after it are also fine (with LD Blues particularly well-filmed) and Visions survives a sustained attack of upsinging more or less intact.



COMMENT Yet another new DVD flawlessly authored and presented: there are a couple of folk out there (you know who you are) deserve a medal.

DANKE V



Larry Campbell - in his sixth year of eight with the band

STARS The film here is a triumph over adversity and its soundtrack is glorious, second-to-none. If you take five stars to mean *must have*, then D239.su maybe misses by a shade. But if you take it (as I do here) to mean *excellent*, then nothing less will rightly do.