



**SOUND** Varies between not bad (Watchtower) and mediocre (much of the rest), but unupgraded and too far removed from the real thing to make pleasurable listening.

**IMAGE** This film was shot by an experienced hand with a proven track record. You might think, given that and a choice set of screenshots (see below), we were set fair. But, though intermittently rewarding in its second half especially, our man's handiwork is bedevilled throughout tonight by significant problems. First, due to having to shoot from distance (left-side back of floor) in poor light, initial footage is mostly dull, green and grainy. Later, in better light, colour and definition both improve to the point where some passages are positively handsome, and most everything is nicely steady. But far worse are the persistently intrusive heads, not wavering atmospherically beneath the picture as on [D736.su](http://D736.su) but half and occasionally completely across it. Seven of the set's 21 songs (toggle link under DVDylan set-list for details) are more or less severely cut for this reason (with an eighth - RDW - lost altogether) and most of the remainder are also notably plagued. Though the situation improves somewhat in the show's closing third, in such circumstances you can only feel for the taper who, through it all, stuck doggedly to his task in order to catch for us as much quality film as he did. Not for the first time, then ([D431.su](http://D431.su); others too), the screenshots flatter, by omission, to deceive.

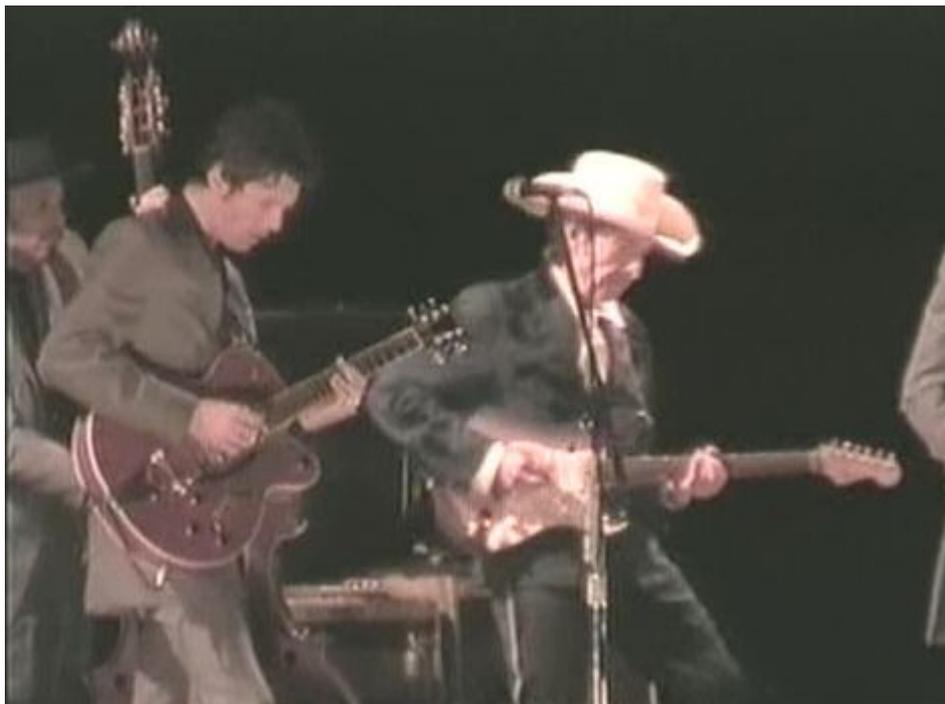
**RUNNING TIME** 117:30. As noted above, Rainy Day Women, which was played between Drifter's and Things, is missing here altogether with other clips and cuts as per the set-list added info.

**PERFORMANCE** I don't like listening to these audio-impaired DVDs and so can't really make a fair judgment. A song like Lonesome Day Blues sounds as though, on the night, it had fire in its belly - *Aaaaah'm gonna TAME the proud!*\* - but it also

sounds like music drifting up from the bottom of a very deep mine shaft to you, the hapless listener, topside. Don't Think Twice starts with a lovely extended guitar / harp intro, but again it seems to be coming from the old dancehall on the outskirts of town while you sit in The White Hart on Main Street. Contemporary reviews of the show praise Jim Keltner's drumming, but you'll hardly notice it here, and never twig it's him. Not good.



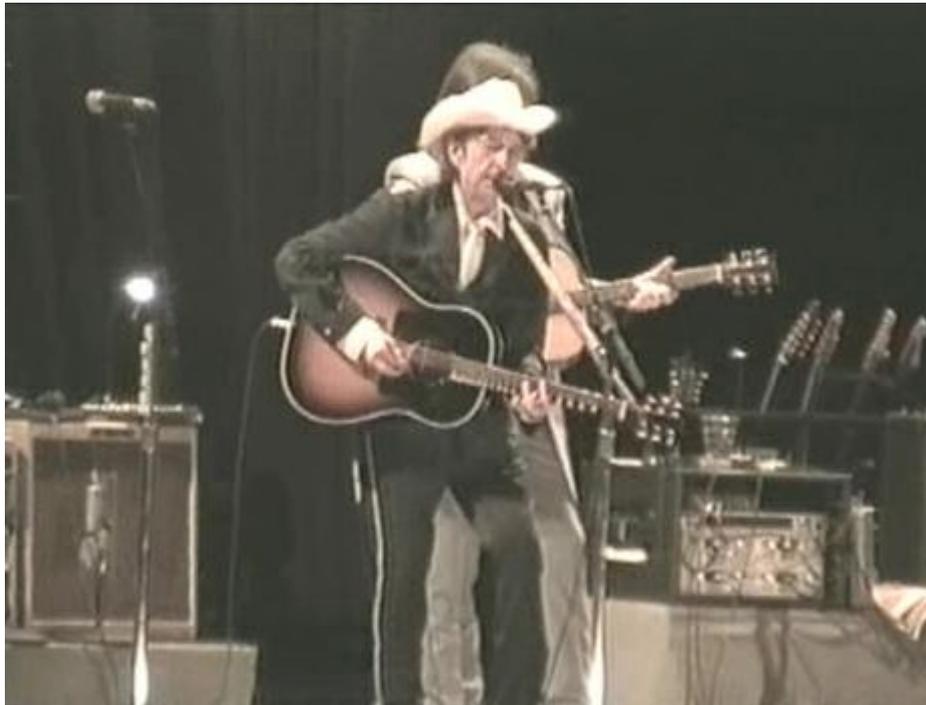
**HIGHLIGHTS** Moonlight, a notably well-filmed Don't Think Twice, McTell and (best last) a smoking Charlie-inspired Watchtower.



**COMMENT** With the exception of one April 2002 show in Hannover, which began with an unnamed instrumental, for three years from April 1999 Bob opened every concert with an acoustic cover. Half a dozen songs - Duncan & Brady (79), I Am The Man, Thomas (48), Roving Gambler (47), Hallelujah I'm Ready (39), Babe It Ain't No Lie (30) and Wait For The Light To Shine (30) - were aired thirty times or more, with five others - Somebody Touched Me (27), Humming Bird (20), Friend Of The Devil (17), Cocaine Blues (10) and You're Gonna Quit Me (3) - played less often. This sequence and format ended here at Manchester. Indeed, we find not only no cover to start, but, for the first time in three and a half years, none on the set-list at all. After another D-only set the next night at Birmingham, the rest of the year saw one or more covers back in, including a twelfth alternative opener - Bill Monroe's A Voice From On High\* - given six outings in August and a seventh and last in October (none, sadly, on DVD).

**THANKS** Red Dot

**STARS** Some you win and some, sadly, you don't. Two and a half.



\* D's steal from Virgil (70-19 BC) who in *The Aeneid* (VI.1129) wrote:

*Remember, Roman, these will be your arts: to teach the ways of peace  
to those you conquer, to spare defeated peoples, tame the proud.*

\* A song made popular in the fifties by The Stanley Brothers, who also scored with Rank Strangers, only saving grace (along with Shenandoah, maybe?) of the generally abysmal *Down In The Groove*.