

D248 MADE IN FRANCE VOLUME THREE

The theme of the first disc of this series (D246) was D on French TV. This time around it's 1985/6 Bob on TV around the world. This enjoyable, well chosen and beautifully turned-out compilation comprises nine chapters as follows:

(1) 20/20, ABC, 10 OCT 1985 (17:50)

An extended TV package that rambles through D's back pages from Greenwich Village to Farm Aid. Occasional editorial liberties - suggesting that '65 live footage comes from '61, then '81 footage from '79; also describing Hard Rain as "a vision of nuclear apocalypse" which D had always denied - but entertaining enough. Includes several short excerpts from a 19 September Malibu interview by Bob Brown. D's words, blowin' in the buffeting Pacific wind, include an arresting description - *spirits dressed up in a suit of skin* - of us all, then, concerning himself, this frank admission: *I have very little belief in myself to do anything*. The piece ends with an impromptu rehearsal-room Forever Young played by Bob specially for the cameras. TV being the trivialising, reductive medium it is, though, having once bagged the film, don't then expect them to show you too much of it. Not enough *time* for that.

(2) OGWT, 26 NOV 1985 (4:30)

Lame Andy Kershaw interview of 22 November plus a dull instrumental jam. Nothing is revealed.



[Kershaw interview, 1985](#)

(3) 60 MINUTES, AUSTRALIAN TV, 10 FEB 1986 (12:35)

Mainstay of this package is an early '86 interview by George Negus. As his leaden, lumpen questions (*How would you describe the eighties? What does Bob Dylan, preacher and poet, preach about now?*) plummet one after the other into the chasm between the two men, watch how Bob rocks incessantly back and forth (indeed, his body language and behaviour in several of these clips would make an interesting

psychological study). Why is he so often subjected to persecution of this kind? And how benignly, most of the time, he endures it. The sardonic presentation of this piece (*Like pulling teeth ... / We ploughed on ... / BD: a "mumbling eccentric"*) tells you more about the Aussies than it does Bob.

(4) WILLIE (NELSON) GETS AN AWARD, ABC, 27 JAN 1986 (1:00)

Brief and of minimal interest.

(5) AUCKLAND AIRPORT FOOTAGE, 4 FEB 1986 (1:10)

Same again.

(6) SYDNEY PRESS CONFERENCE, 10 FEB 1986 (6:40)

Yesterday's gone, tomorrow's not promised. D starts with a nice one-liner. His dislike of music videos comes through (one of the recurring themes of this collection). Does he find it a burden being Bob Dylan? *Who's Bob Dylan? I'm only Bob Dylan when I have to be*, he deadpans. Picture quality here (and only here) is less than pristine but still perfectly watchable. (For more from this event, see [D1986](#))

(7) MAURICE PARKER INTERVIEW, MELBOURNE, 22 FEB 1986 (5:25)

Parker interviewed a very affable Bob on 19 Feb. The TV package aired three days later and includes sound-bites (*I think it's wrong for a person to talk about themselves ... Romance? It's got a dead end*) interspersed with contemporary live LARS footage (thus Bob + TP&H).

(8) TOKYO INTERVIEW, MTV, 10 MAR 1986 (6:05)

Another sartorial dark night of the soul. But how long will he continue playing? *For as long as I'm around.*

(9) ASCAP AWARD, 31 MAR 1986 (4:40)

Two short TV clips showing Bob collecting his award, quoting Elvis and standing before the cameras alongside Neil Young trying gamely to keep his Celebrity-On-Parade mask from slipping. Brief live '84 snippets (Wind + Tangled) too.

Some of these clips are available elsewhere ([D193](#), [D317](#), [D371](#), [D468](#), [D581](#)). All the same, there's not much wrong with [D248](#) (just not enough *music* maybe?).

THANKS Black Cat

STARS Four