

D254 DANA'S DVD 5 ~ UNPLUGGED PLUS

An enjoyable two hours plus of high quality pro-shot film, although, with one notable exception, everything here also circulates widely on a number of other DVDs too. That one exception is the 1997 Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts Awards, bestowed this year on actors Lauren Bacall and Charlton Heston, soprano Jessye Norman, dancer Edward Villella and Bob. Though D has been paid many a fulsome tribute in his time (Jack Nicholson's face springs rather alarmingly to mind) none have been delivered with more grace, elegance and sincerity than this one from the then 81 year old Gregory Peck, himself a Kennedy honoree in 1991. Though the ceremony was broadcast in full on US TV on Boxing Day of '97, just seven brief minutes are reproduced here. With luck the entire thing* will emerge soon, which will make [D254](#) redundant altogether. (Note: same footage is also on [D145](#).)



[Mother and son](#)

Other highlights include twenty year old Usher Raymond's introduction at the '98 Grammys of "Bill" Dylan. It's an unsettling and slightly heretical moment, a bit like hearing about Eddie Presley, Jeff Kennedy or Algernon Lincoln. After an uncut (i.e. Soy Bomber inclusive) Love Sick, Daniel Lanois informs us he believes Bob "has lived a number of lives". The Sinatra Restless Farewell (also in full) remains wonderful as it ever was and then there's the 2001 Things Have Changed Oscar win. D's satellite broadcast performance of the song is some of the most remarkable pro-shot Bob film you'll see, for - this one time only - he fronts up to and completely masters the camera, with his usual antipathy, manifested by awkwardness and reserve, nowhere in evidence. See how, as he sings the "one big lie" line, he eyeballs the lens with a full-on, knowing glare. "This is a song that doesn't pussy-foot around," he says. And the same could be said of its singer. It's lovely that, as he learns of his win, he's surrounded by his band - brothers in arms, a good place to be. And not swanking it up with the usual suspect Hollywood liggers, either, but out on the road, working, doing what he was born for.

THANKS Black Cat

STARS Four

* See [D757](#)