

D275 LONDON, 15 NOVEMBER 2003



SOUND Murky four star cam track.

IMAGE Tonight's taper is high in (or behind) the left side tiered seats, giving a view down onto Bob's back. Though not an advantageous position, successful concert video has been captured in such circumstances on a number of occasions ([D469.su](#), [D654.su](#) and [D729.su](#) for just three examples). But, apart from the usual requirements concerning capable camera handling that apply to all these covert hunter-gatherer expeditions, the other essential in these poor vantage point cases is that the lens interests itself in all the band. That it remembers there are five musicians to be filmed here and not just one. So, what do we find? Well, camera handling, though not perfect, is commendably good. There are one or two passing heads, but few and far between enough that we can forget about them. Pictures are fresh, bright, nicely coloured and more or less pleasantly handsome. But if you look at the second screenshot, you'll see there the frame that this camera insists on shooting for at least 90% of this film, and its dogged Bobcentricity (bearing in mind it's mostly his *back* we're forced to look at) is its major flaw. Larry gets just a few seconds screen-time and Le Fred (just because he happens to stand nearer Bob) a little more. But watching this footage is much less fun that it so easily could and surely should have been. So it goes.



RUNNING TIME 94:23. Complete concert up to the abrupt cut five minutes into Summer Days, with Cat's In The Well, LARS and Watchtower remaining unfiled.

PERFORMANCE Okay. Nice versions of Baby Blue and Des Row. Larry drops a tasty cittern solo into the middle of It's Alright Ma, but do we see it? Not one second. H61 sounds as if it would have been fun on the night, but the audio here does it no favours. And it's kind of sad to see Bob tell the story of Hattie Carroll here for the 147th time since the start of the NET. How many times? As a printer's apprentice called Alias once remarked: *that's a good question.*



COMMENT Bob's last tour of 2003 comprised 33 dates across Europe – Finland down to Italy then back up - in 48 October / November days. But the end of the tour saw him do a little loop the loop when he played Paris, then this show in London, then on to Dublin, Sheffield and Birmingham before returning to London for three gigs to close. Stranger still, contrary to usual practice, the last three London dates were in three separate venues (and none of them Wembley Arena, as here, either) - due, perhaps, to the limited availability of any one site? Who knows? Anyway, all four London '03s feature in the catalogue, with [D280.sse](#) and [D318.su](#) both streets ahead of this also-ran, and [D291](#) a tidy UK round-up too.

THANKS Viner LQ

STARS Indifferent audio plus overly inert video makes two and a half.