

[D309.su](#) JAPANESE *HARD RAIN*

Well now. Four stars for this very best of Bob? How so? I assume that anyone fond enough of D to spend time clicking round this site will already be familiar with this essential release, first broadcast in 1976, so I'm not going to say too much about it. Yes, every home should have one and the only reason I give [D309.su](#) four stars is because, in my opinion, **it's not the version of choice**. Agreed, the Japanese TV pictures are ultra-sharp. Since, for some reason, they chose to air *Hard Rain* with *Railroad Boy* edited out* and since the author of this DVD has kindly restored it from the original US / European source video, we can even compare and contrast. And the drop in pic quality between *Wind* and *Boy* is noticeable (though audio is unchanged). But so too is the sudden blessed absence of subtitles, which are all over *Blowin'* (see below) like a blizzard, then, all through *Boy*, gone. And, as if the everyday white ones giving lyrics weren't bad enough, song titles (and, occasionally, more) are served up on a thick red banner laid squarely across centre screen. So, yes, if you don't have this very fine film, get it and love it. But pass on this version in favour of [D361](#) (recommended) or [D005](#), both subtitle-free. You won't be sorry.



A couple more things: *Maggie's Farm*, the song D said in 1978 "started it all for me" has never sounded better. And take time at show's end to scan the closing credits, one or two of which might raise the odd eyebrow. Look out for *Desire* co-conspirator Jacques Levy, Arthur Rimbaud, Woody Guthrie (who wrote *Deportees*, of course). And *The Man In The Blanket* is played by ... Any takers?

GRAZIE Viner MM

STARS Four

* The Japanese *Hard Rain* on [D361](#) (and I suspect it will be true of all versions) has edited out not only *Railroad Boy* **but also the last verse of opening track A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall**, meaning that the song runs around two and a half minutes less than it should. Yet another reason to pass on the Japanese *Hard Rain* in favour of the US / European.