



As chance would have it, the last DVD I watched before this one was [D047](#) (Hard To Handle) and between that and this are close comparisons - both present ten songs performed live, either consecutively on one evening ([D322.su](#)) or during the course of two shows on consecutive nights ([D047](#)). [D047](#) runs 55 minutes to [D322.su](#)'s even 60 and on both recordings D is in fine voice. Yet, remarkably, the professional release, shot with half a dozen cameras and edited to kingdom come, is no more watchable than the beautifully-shot solo-camera [D322.su](#). And, better yet, [D047](#), doubtless recorded with a megabucks multi-track mobile recording suite, sounds not one bit sweeter than the fly-by-night other. As for the quality of performance, the very wonderful [D322.su](#) is all that the insipid H2H ought to have been but was not. We have D fronting a band that give him a sound worthy of his songs and his singing. We have a lovely mix of numbers old and new, and oft-sung and not, and of arrangements comfortably familiar and audaciously novel. In short, a very special treat.



The first word out of D's mouth here is "Señor" and he sings it in such a world-weary, almost broken way that you fear we might be in for a dour session. In fact just the

opposite. His voice sounds (*is!*) old and a bit throaty, but tonight remains fully effective throughout. Every song here is enjoyable - LMZ the first stand-out, Most Likely ... the second. During Tell Me That It Isn't True he for the second time in four songs picks up and briefly blows the wrong harmonica - but there's no Plugz-like debacle (D017) tonight. Rather, he merely ambles off to find the right one, does so, then nonchalantly drops back into the song without a care in the world. After the band have once more given new life to what ought surely by now to be a very road-weary H61, they and D attempt an astonishing North Country Girl make-over, with D's rough-hewn voice, no more than approximating to the melody, atop a baroque, chamber music accompaniment from way out in left-field. Though voice and backing don't really mesh, still it's the most marvellous and imaginative of failures and a great thrill to hear all the same. Last song, Every Grain, is one of D's most special and starts here with a lovely lazy full-verse instrumental intro. The entire song is beautifully played - sadly, though, there's nothing devotional tonight about D's reading of the lyric. He seems not to connect with the feeling of the song, which is a shame. The *perfect finished plan* '84 last-line revision remains *in situ* and he plays out with some brave harmonica. But I'm not complaining about anything here. This disc is a true treasure. Seek it out.



[Drummers Richie Hayward and George Recile](#)

DANKE V

STARS Five