







Wow! Bob Dylan for two nights at the Greek Theatre in Berkeley? Yes! Those were my thoughts when these were finally announced---Bob's first show at the Greek since 1988. The Greek Theatre is a special place for many and the Bay Area (and indeed, around the world). Ask any person who saw the Grateful Dead there, and they will probably tell you it was the best place the world to see the band. It was built in the 1920's to be a replica of a real anciant Roman Greek theatre, and it works.....Greek-style columns, a terraced bowl, and seats around the sides, with a small lawn area in back....I am trying to convey to anyone who does not know about this place that this is no civic center in Omaha, this theatre has vibes and history....

We were second-row center when they came out, Bob in black suit with white stripes and black pants, and the band in maroon. Seeing the Real You at Last was great, we could tell right away the sound was way better than in Sacramento. Everyone could be heard crisp and clear, and Bob's vocals came through in unmatched clarity. Tombstone Blues "The sun's not yellow, it's...chicken!", that last word said in such a comical voice I thought I was hearing a commercial, and many around me laughed out loud.

The first few songs were very strong; Bob was really psyched to sing tonight, not just talk his way through. Things Have Changed was awesome, wonderful to see him do this w/ the piano. Brown Sugar got the expected response, and then a Positively 4th Street that was unlike any I have ever heard, in person, on tape, whatever. He was taking the last or the second-to last word of each verse and drawing it waaaaaay out.--i.e. "... But you don't meeeeeean it." "It's not my proooooblem." "Perhaps I'd rooooob them." This was a great way to make this great song all the more powerful.

It's Alright Ma...Ok here we are in Berkeley, birthplace of the free speech movement and the anti-war movement, and the day before "our president" had been given broad powers to go into Iraq and level it. (ok that's not what they say but lets be real). So the "But even the president of the United States sometimes must have to stand naked" line got a bigger cheer than I've ever heard.

Wicked Messenger was indeed, with some great harp and guitars. The highlight for myself this night was Hattie Carroll. I have never ever heard Bob sing so clearly

or the audience be so quiet and respectful. You could understand every single word beginning to end, and you could hear a pin drop through most of it. Just the most beautiful thing I've seen that I can remember. The last line, "....Bury the rag deep in your face, for now's the time for your tears," was very powerful.

Old man was very good again, he seems to real enjoying singing this. More great Hard Rain and High Water followed, Bob spitting out the words to High Water.

Floater was fun for me because I had not seen it live yet, and it was so clear that everything could be understood. During the middle Bob kept looking back at George and both of them were laughing and having a great time...but not as good of a time as Bob, Tony and Larry were having during Summer Days...they could not stop grinning the whole time, and Tony would swing the bass over to Larry and pose and play, then swing back to his spot....Great fun and totally raging.

They came back out and started w/ Knockin, which was somewhat of a surprise....then Like a RS, during which Bob did a gaff on the guitar which was loud and clear, causing him to laugh at himself in the middle of a verse, which also came through loud and clear....

After Rolling Stone, they did some bows, and I thought mayby they were cut because of a cerfew...but then they came back, and Tony and Bob were talking, and I thought they were actually about to do something other than Watchtower. Then a couple seconds later Bob said Watchtower to him, and I'm thinking, "So what the hell were they discussing?"

Then Bob came to the mic and said (and this is not an exact quote but very close) "Folks, my bass player just told me he used to go to school here.....I didn't know that...(laughter)...He didn't guaduate though." He then said something else I couldn't hear, but the way he said "I didn't know that" was funny as hell....I can't wait to here it again.

So they ended w/ Watchtower, with Larry shredding the guitar solo and Bob and Tony smilling at each other through most of it, and they continued talking as they walked off stage to the cheers and screams of many happy customers, myself included.

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