



Another tour, another string of shows that pulls the magic hat off the old face. After a series of somehow disappointing US-shows Dylan heads for Europe, second time around. Bob started in the UK this time, opening in grand style with a club show at Vicar Street in Dublin. Not as remarkable as his other stint at the Horsens Teater earlier this spring. The real highlights of the mini UK-tour were undoubtedly the Portsmouth shows. Ten days later Bob lands in Rotterdam for a mindblowin' concert. Unlike his previous visit two years ago, when mister Van Morrison (including cell phone and his suitcase backstage) decided to cut Bob's set short, this 2000 edition is a triumph in many ways. The Ahoy sold out in a matter of hours and as weeks passed by over ten thousand fans waited eagerly the return of the little white wonder. Just a few minutes after eight the house lights dimmed for the *rentrée* of his loneliness. Backed by his best backing band in many years, Dylan opens with the traditional *I Am The Man*, Thomas. Clearly enjoying himself he laughs and grins making *To Ramona* a tremendous torch-ballad. After a spell-binding *Tomorrow Is A Long Time* I must have witnessed the best *Tangled Up in Blue* since... well, actually since that marvellous 78 edition in Rotterdam. Spitting out the words,

reaching the highest notes, remembering all the verses and played with both power and passion. Hard to believe, but this is the highlight of the acoustic set! During the second electric part another gem is saved for eternity: *Trying To Get To Heaven*. If Frank Sinatra was still alive he would approve every single second of this crooner and his momentum maker. And if you thought that Dylan is getting quite mellow check out the murdering riff in *The Drifters Escape*. A great selection of seven encores follows. All results of the jury go to a haunting and impressive take of *Fourth Time Around*, only repeated for the second time on this tour. Four stables, including a rock 'n rolling *Watchtower* and a heartfelt *I Shall Be Released* follow. Dylan leaves the Ahoy with a moving *Blowin' In The Wind*. Standing tongue-in-cheek, as a warrior for more than a minute he teases and pleases an adoring crowd.

Five days later Bob returns to his native Forest National in Brussels, a homeground where he plays at regular intervals since that state trooping show of 1987. We selected the highlights of this concert, which is considered amongst fans to be one of the best of the entire tour. Opening with a superb *Duncan And Brady* (check out Bob's own vocals versus the band's

ones!), we switch to the main set where *Standing In The Doorway* becomes a masterpiece. Listen to Bob's jazzy guitar lines on his bass strings and send everyone home who claims Dylan can't play the guitar. And what about the jamming *Tombstone Blues* or the country jingle jangling *Tell Me That It Isn't True*. Next to *Ahoy*, Brussels gets a special treat in the encores: a wonderful John Coltrane alike *If Dogs Run Free*. Yes, we have two extraordinary shows and therefore selected all the best tracks on this double cd. The sound quality of Rotterdam is outstanding, a new level in live recordings. We have remastered the original recordings of both shows in order to achieve the very best. It's odd to say, but this can't be getting any better, whatever critics have heard: don't criticise what you can't understand! Another Bob gem in your precious *Rattlesnake* collection.

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