

BOB DYLAN

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In The Garden: Madison Square Garden, New York City, November 19th, 2001

Bob and New York have something in common, each time when the maestro returns to the big apple he has something extra in his magic hat. Indeed, two years ago, Dylan blew our minds with his double stint at both the Tramps Club and the day after at the Garden. This historical twin can be heard on this label's "No More Alibis" release. But times have changed and Bob has his Love And Theft nomination for best album of the year under his arm. This L&T-release is the second on the Rattlesnake label and by all means one of the very best shows of Dylan's career as a live performer. Once more we get the proof of how his music and words get transformed into something mystical, something so hard to touch, yet the feeling is one of excitement and amazement. Dare I say that I haven't heard



Bob singing so well for many years. When one looks at the setlist it is not the contents that make you yell for more. The set is quite classic with little one-offs and obscure gems. But tonight's versions will probably rarely be heard like this again. A great show is usually rated from a few extraordinarily phrased syllables and that extra portion of mean conviction in the chorus. Here, at the Madison Square Garden ALL the songs have that extra flavour, that so typical Dylan-touch. From the very first moments of the Hank William's opener *Waiting For The Light To Shine* you can feel the vibes in the air. Dylan has something to say on his homeground. And by tonight's song number three, *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna-Fall*, you think of all those stunning shows in the past: The Concert For Bangladesh, the Band reunion 1974 show, the 1975 Hurricane Carter Benefit and the final show of the True Confessions Tour in 1986. And the temperature is rising by the time he switches to the Telecaster for two blasts from the past: *Just Like A Woman* (compare this jewel to the Woodstock 1994 version and feel the electricly again). And

what about his tribute to New York during *Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues*, many citizens wipe a wet eye during tonight's emotional phrasing. The new songs sound so much more vital than during the first leg of the tour: *Lonesome Day Blues* is mean and viscous and hits right into the face of the losing lover's girl. The Charley Patton tribute *High Water* is now more vibrant than ever before. And what about... *Tangled Up In Blue*? Yes, I know what the followers of this club think: the song to get back to the statistics, to get a beer or rob your neighbour's wallet. Well not tonight, ladies and gentlemen! Because this version truly smokes and is my all time favourite version since that lonesome night in Schaerbeek, way back in June 1984. Every word teases the audience, syllables are prolonged into small hurricanes. This is the definitive evidence that Dylan still rules, more, he still is the master of all singer-songwriters. Next is *John Brown*: considering what happened two months before a statement that needs no explanation. Back to the second electric segment with the rockabilly swingmood of *Summer Days*. Both Eddie Cochran



and cousin Brian Setzer can be proud of what this sixty year old uncle is still capable of. To smooth all tension down *Sugar Baby* melts away in the cold night at the Garden. And take a bow for the extraordinary introduction of the band during *Rainy Day Women*. New York gets a true au revoir in grand style. The encores capture the same energy and spirit with all points to a rousing *Honest With Me* and a look-at-me Hendrix version of *All Along The Watchtower*. This show is so good, so pure and relaxed that you will agree: Bob freed once more his mind in the Big Apple. To make this historical set even more legendary we have included no less than fourteen bonus tracks on the third disc to make this set the definitive representative of the *2001 US Love And Theft Tour*. With the addition of five more tracks from the new album we have all live versions of the cd on this triple collector. Opener *Humming Bird* at the Van Andel Arena in Michigan (where most of the bonus tracks were recorded) is one of the few rare "other" openers of this tour, much better than the Scandinavian versions of the 2001 summer tour. *Cry A While*,

Floater and *Po' Boy* are three seldom played Love And Theft songs squeezed together in one show. And we could not exclude the superb reading of *Every Grain Of Sand* from this show: words do not describe the intense pain felt during these everlasting eight magic minutes. Spokane (the tour debut) brings us great versions of *Tomorrow Is A Long Time* and a brooding twelve bar blues during *Watching The River Flow*. Finishing in full swing with two more L&T-live tracks: a very crooning *Moonlight* (with a nice harmonica solo in the end) and a more downbeat *Mississippi*. We hope you will enjoy this amazing triple set. One of the absolute classics in every fan's collection, and together with *No More Alibis* the living proof that Dylan gets his vibes from NYC. The town that never sleeps, where things have changed. Somehow Bob restores the spirit of democracy: freedom rang for two and a half hours inside the Garden. Not one Osama Bin Laden will take that feeling from us away. There was nobody there to call his bluff...

The Gentlemen's Club Of Spalding Treasurer





