

DVDReview

Suzanne goes it alone with her guitar

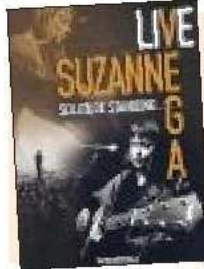
■ **Solitude Standing- Suzanne Vega — Live** (Wienerworld, WNRD 2582)

RECORDED in Rome in July, 2003, this hour-long DVD has Suzanne performing some of her greatest hits, as well as new material, at an intimate concert.

Suzanne was a leading light in the folk-music revival of the early '80s, when she emerged in Greenwich Village playing her own songs and accompanying herself on acoustic guitar.

Her style is probably best described as "neo-folk" or contemporary folk. A prime example of this is one of the newer songs in this set, *Solitaire*, which is about playing Solitaire, not with cards like in the old days, but on the computer.

Released to coincide with the release of her new studio album,



Tales From The Realm Of the Queen Of Pentacles, and her tour, this is an honest recording of an artist at work on stage.

Armed with only an acoustic guitar and a bass guitarist, she showcases some of her great songs like *Marlene On The Wall*, *Luka* and, of course, *Tom's Diner*. Which she sings accapella.

In Liverpool is about her own concept of Liverpool having had it described to her by an ex-boyfriend.

In one of the extras, an interview with Suzanne, she says a lot of songs start as poems, and such is the case with some of these, and interspersed with her songs are poetry

readings from her book. As the concert is in Italy, the poems are translated and read out on stage by the Italian singer/songwriter Valerio Piccolo (who also does the interview).

A very personal concert, with Suzanne playing as honestly as she ever has.

MARTIN HUTCHINSON

Your chance to win a DVD

WE have three copies of *Solitude Standing — Suzanne Vega Live* to give away, courtesy of wienerworld.com

To be in with a chance of winning, answer the following question: Which card game has Suzanne named a song after?

Send your answers, including your name, full address and daytime phone number to Suzanne Vega Competition, The Bolton News, The Wellsprings, Civic Centre, Bolton, BL1 1AR, or email michael.crutchley@nqnw.co.uk by March 21. Usual Newsquest rules apply.