

# ELVIS COSTELLO

## Spectacle

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He's such a chameleon, that Elvis Costello. Not content with being a post-punk new wave figurehead, a damn fine country singer-songwriter, a classical composer and sometime actor,

he's now reinvented himself as a kind of Greil Marcus of the small screen.

*Spectacle*, an American production, combines music and chat with Costello joining the likes of Tony Bennett, Lou Reed, Smokey Robinson, James Taylor, Norah Jones, Kris Kristofferson, Rosanne Cash, and his wife Diana Krall, for some intimate and inspirational performances. As an interviewer, Costello is engaging and intelligent, bringing the very best out of his subjects (particularly the laconic Taylor) – but then it helps that he's one of them.

The only flaw in an otherwise must-have boxed set spanning five discs is the inclusion of the self-aggrandising former US President, 'Slick Willie' himself, Bill Clinton, a man who is to the saxophone what Jonathan Ross is to elocution.

*David Burke*