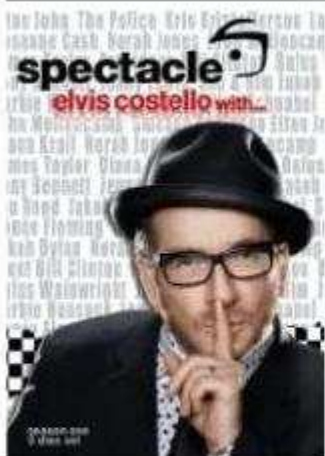


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Elvis Costello

Spectacle: Elvis Costello With... Season 1 (Wienerworld)

Those of you familiar with the pally, 'let's all sit around and have a jam' presentation style of Jools Holland's *Later* may have assumed that this would be more of the same – not that *Later* is a duff concept, when it works it works very well indeed – but this is a far more weighty affair (not least because Elvis Costello can actually conduct interviews). Featuring a truly open minded mix of guests including Bill Clinton, Tony Bennett, Lou Reed, the Police, Smokey Robinson, Rufus Wainwright, Jakob Dylan, Jenny Lewis, Diana Krall, Herbie Hancock, and James Taylor, Costello consistently keeps the discussions

rolling in the right direction, whilst never feeling the need to interrupt an interesting anecdote, and the musical interludes are a great mix of Costello originals, the guests hits, and some inspired covers – so for example on the episode with the Police we get a medley of 'Walking on the Moon', 'Watching the Detectives' and Cream's 'Sunshine of Your Love' – and with a backing band that often includes jazz greats like James Burton and Allen Toussaint the musicianship levels never drop below red hot. Over ten hours of footage and a slew of material which didn't make the telly-box make this a very desirable boxset indeed.

The Oracle

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