

BATESVILLE - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SHOW (02 - 16 - 08):

Last November during the break between shows at Milan...a gentleman spotted my "Hot Wax" sweater as I was having a conversation with my good buddy, the Rickmeister. This very nice gentleman approached us and asked me if he could ask me a few questions about the band. Of course ...Ole "A-Bob" is always glad to talk about my boys of "Hot Wax"...so I replied....sure....I would be happy to answer and questions that I could.

This nice fellow just absolutely loved everything about "Hot Wax"! I asked him if he had ever seen "Hot Wax" before..and he replied that he had seen "Hot Wax" once...years ago...and while he remembered "Hot Wax" being very good....he did not remember them being as good as this 2008 "Hot Wax" edition was! This gentleman then informed me that he was a member of the K of C club in Batesville....and that he was interested in talking to us about a booking in February.

At the end of the conversation....this gentleman asked me if I had a business card and I gave him one...but to be honest about it...I did not expect to hear from him again. However, two days later, Diane Gehring, the very nice lady who manages the "K of C" club, sent me an E-mail telling me that the club would be very much interested in booking our boys for a February 16th gig. I then immediately passed this info on to Bobby...and as the old expression goes...the rest is history!

Diane and her committee only had 3 months to prepare for this "Hot Wax Nation" invasion...and that worried me a little bit. Remember...we had never played the lovely city of Batesville before.....and our home base was over an hour away. Ticket's were selling at \$15.00 a piece....which is a bargain in my mind...and to just about anyone else who has ever seen an actual "Hot Wax" show...but If you have never seen "Hot Wax" before....that could seem a little expensive.

Anyway....all of these factors concerned me just a little....but like always with "Hot Wax"...Ole "A-Bob" worried needlessly! With very little promotion done....because it just wasn't necessary..."Hot Wax" sold over 400 tickets...and a couple of days before the "Hot Wax" show...it was officially announced that the show was a complete sellout!

Now....let's talk a few minutes about that great show! What a great job the good folks in Batesville did...putting on that awesome "Hot Wax" show last Saturday night! Everything about that show was top rate and first class...including Diane and all of the other very nice people from the K of C club...who helped to make that entire evening run so smoothly and flawlessly! The good people from Batesville couldn't have possibly treated the "Hot Wax Nation" any nicer...and the venue "Hot Wax" performed in...couldn't have been any better either!

I talked to three of the club officials...including the very nice fellow at the door who was wearing Bruno's yellow jacket...and all 3 of them had nothing but praise for the show they had just witnessed. While all of them told me they were expecting a very good show....all 3 of them told me that the show far...far...exceeded their expectations!

I told the one official....that it looked like they were going to turn a very nice profit on the show...based on the size of the huge crowd....and all of the drinks they were selling....and he totally agreed. However...this official told me that it really wasn't about the money....but that it was about the pride the organization felt by putting on a prestigious show of this nature with the huge impressive crowd that attended the show Saturday night!

The club official told me that it was a real feather in the cap...of their entire organization...to be associated with a show that was as...top rate...first class....and very professional...in absolutely every sense of the word as the "Hot Wax " show band was...and for those reason just mentioned...that was why he was very excited about inviting us back again next year!

I don't need to tell you how great a statement like that made Ole "a-Bob" feel....do I? Of course not...you all know me too well by now. I thought for a moment or two...that if my chest swelled up with anymore pride ...that I might rip my precious "Hot Wax" sweater!

The venue was absolutely packed with over 400 fans...and I think that all 400 of these good people were really into the show.....and I mean into the show from the opening moments of the show through the last note sounded at the show! The response and enthusiasm of the crowd was just simply amazing!

There were too many standing ovations to count...and I don't mean just the people up front...but also the people who were sitting way in the back of the room. It seemed to me...that fans were on their feet as often as they were sitting down....and as Martha Stewart likes to say..."that's a good thing"!

Also...when the encore came at the end of the night...I honestly don't believe that single person had left the show early...and the entire place stood & applauded until there just wasn't any show left to applaud!

I think I had goose bumps from the beginning of the rousing"Oldies" medley near the end of the show....all the way through "Rock & Roll is here to stay"...and all the way through the rousing encore medley...and I don't believe I was the only one! to have goose bumps!

Near the end of the show when the huge crowd was on their feet roaring their approval ...I saw Bobby break into a huge smile....and then I saw Bobby glance to his right where Tommy was and I saw both Bobby and Tommy give each other

a feel good nod...which was pretty cool! It was kind of like Bobby & Tommy were both acknowledging a job well done! With that very enthusiastic reaction from that huge crowd...I'm guessing Bobby had goose bumps also!

Ole "A-Bob" was in Heaven...as I walked amongst all of the first timers at the show...as so many of them stopped me....and wanted to let me know....how great the show was....and of course all of you know how I just hate to hear that! I heard so...so...many nice compliments....all evening long! There were so many...flattering remarks about our "Hot Wax" boys that I just don't have the time or the space to mention all of them...but I will repeat a few of my favorite compliments.

More than a few folks told me...that when they came to the show...they expected to see 5 or 6 fellows pretty much dressed in casual clothes...or jeans...just standing on stage performing a bunch of songs from the 60's....pretty much like they had seen so many times before....when they went to hear a band! A few people told me that they didn't even know there was such a thing....as a "Rock n' Roll" show band. Well....after seeing the "Hot Wax" show...they certainly know now it now...don't they...lol?

However...some of the folks at the show told me...that what they had just seen...looked very much like a Las Vegas type show....and there was not a boring moment in the entire show! They loved the costume changes, the choreography...the tribute medleys....and they were just simply amazed at the versatility of the band and the variety in the show!

Many of the folks just could not talk enough about the military portion of the show...and more than a few admitted that they were moved to tears. The "Oh Beautiful" & "Proud to be an American" combo....really received a lot of praise...as did Bobby's very dramatic...."American Trilogy" number!

I told them not to feel embarrassed about being moved to tears....because as I glanced around the huge room at many of our regular hardcore "waxer's" who virtually see every show...like Spanky, Dee, my cousin Darlene...and many more....there were tears running down their faces also!

Several people told me they just loved the enthusiasm and the energy of the entire show....and the comradery that the band members all seem to have with each other!

Some of you who went to the Aspen Grove show last October probably remembered that I stood off to the right side of the stage for that entire show. Well...as many of you also know...Ole "A-Bob" never misses a chance to promote my boys whenever I get the opportunity. I was feeling a little lonely at Aspen Grove...standing over to the right of the stage all night...so I spotted a security guard standing a few feet away....and I "A-Bobbed" him all night about

how great I thought our boys were...and at the end of the evening...I gave him my business card.

I never dreamt that I would ever see this security officer again....but before the show in Batesville...he came up to me and ask me if I remembered him...and I actually didn't ...until he told me that he was the security guard at the Aspen Grove show...and then I knew exactly who is he was!

He then informed me that based on the little bit of the show that he saw at Aspen Grove...and based on my enthusiasm and what I had told him...that he just had to see a complete show....so he showed up in Batesville...and brought 8 people with him...including....his 86 year old mother-in-law, Hazel Mazgay. Hazel had a blast and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the show! While I'm thinking about it Bobby...."thank you" very much for mentioning Hazel's name at the end of the show....as her family really got a kick out of that!

This very nice fellow told me that what he really loved about the "Hot Wax" show the most....was just the fun feel of the entire show....and the great chemistry between the band and their fans. He said....that relationship was just extra special. I swear all of this is absolutely true! I told him that I knew exactly...what he meant.....and that feeling is what we "waxer's" often refer to....as the "Hot Wax Experience"..and he laughed....and thought that was an excellent way of describing what he felt at the shows!!

There were many other flattering remarks made throughout the entire evening...but again...because of time constraints...I will only mention a few of my favorite nice compliments from the very appreciative fans in Batesville!

The very nice fellow at the door in the yellow jacket....who I got to know very well by the end of the evening told me that he was really impressed by the tall thin guy (Einstein)....and that he just loved everything about him...especially his enthusiasm and energy! The gentleman at the door told me that all of our front guys were just terrific....but that Einstein was his boy....and the star of the show! Hey...."Way To Go Einstein"! Hmm....didn't we use to say that a lot as kids?

I hope Mr. Einstein doesn't read all of this...because come next week...Mr. Einstein just might want to rename the band again...much like Tommy wanted to....except this time the band would be called...."Einstein & Hot Wax"! I introduced Einstein to his newest groupie at the break...and he was very glad to meet Mr. Einstein and the lovely Kimmy!

One older fellow...told me that DC was the best drummer that he had heard since Gene Krupa and that DC's pounding on the skins really got his heart pumping! He told me that he played a little drums himself when he was in high school...but that he didn't sound anything like DC. DC...do you remember who

Gene Krupa was? I remember Gene Krupa's name being on my drumsticks when I was in the 7th grade.

I met a really nice good ole country boy....and he made me giggle just a little bit....well...giggle a lot actually. Our boys were just tearing up the Hawaii 5-0 instrumental number....when he remarked to me...and I quote...."I'll tell you what Son...that dadgum band is pretty damn good....even when those other 4 feller's are off the stage....aren't they? I whole heartily agreed with my new friend....and I'm laughing again as I recall his very flattering...and amusing comments...LoL!

One nice lady told someone in our group....that she had seen Elvis perform in concert on several occasions....and that watching Bobby and his persona....in his Elvis suit....with the formally dressed back up vocals....and the standing ovations of the crowd....gave her the same feel...that she felt when she had seen the real Elvis....many years ago!

I think that we "waxer's" tend to take both Doc & Tito 's great talent for granted...and we shouldn't....because every time we play a new venue...I bet that I hear more compliments about our fantastic..."Hot Wax Horns"...than anything or anyone else in the entire show!

Newbies also just love the energy of the entire "Hot Wax" band....and I always tell them to keep an eye on both "Boomer" & "Sammy". You just can't help but smile....and get pumped up...when you see Sammy's & Boomer's antics....and Boomers many, many facial expressions...LoL! What a joy they are too watch!

I can't begin to tell you how many young ladies in the crowd told me and some of my gang....how close they were to fainting....during Bruno's "Tom Jones" medley....and several of them....just loved his smile! I sure hope that when I lose the rest of my hair....that women respond to me the same way they do to Bruno when they see Bruno perform. Unfortunately...at my age...I'm more likely to pass out than any women who may have been looking at me!

Another very nice newbie and his lovely wife told me that they both loved the very unique sound of Tommy's voice....and that I was right....the "Cara Mia" number that Tommy does just blew them away!. They thought that Tommy had absolutely the best voice that they had ever heard...and they told me that they have seen a whole lot of bands in the 32 years that they have been married!

I guess I should be wrapping this up soon....but I will mention a few more commentsthat stood out in my mind! One fellow sitting near the back of the room....told me that Sigsbee's, Buddy Holly, was dead on the money...and that with his bad eyesight...he couldn't be sure....but that he thought that the "Great One" looked just like Mr. Holly also. This gentleman in the back of the room told me that for a moment or two....he thought that Mr. Buddy Holly had been reincarnated right in front of his eyes....right there in Batesville!

There was a young lady sitting right behind our table...and unfortunately she arrived at the show a little late...and she wound up all crunched up at her seat with virtually no leg room. I saw how cramped she was...and I asked her if she would like us to scoot our table up a couple of feet to give her some more leg room....and we did just that. She was very appreciative!

I asked this very nice young lady....if she had ever seen "Hot Wax" before...and she answered...no. I then asked her where she was from....and she said Northern KY. I asked her where at....and unbelievably....she lives in my home town of Florence. She then told me that she had just seen the Vandel's the night before at the Syndicate in Newport....and that they were very good! She also told me that she just loves "Oldie's" music!

I then asked her ...how she wound up seeing "Hot Wax"....a band that she had never heard of or seen before...in Batesville. She told me that a good friend of hers from Batesville had invited her. I then told her that I was a big "Vandel's" fan myself....but that I worked with "Hot Wax" and was probably a little bias...but I thought that we were on the same level...or maybe in my very humble opinion...even better than the Vandel's...but again...I reminded her that I was probably more than a little bias towards my boys...and she laughed and said that would be understandable.

When the show was over...unfortunately...I missed the opportunity to ask her what she thought of her first "Hot Wax" show....but my good buddy, Nicky, got a chance to talk to this Vandel fan....and she told Nicky...that she absolutely loved our show....and yes...even more....than she loved the Vandels! She told Nicky that there was one thing she was certain ofand that was ...that the fans sure don't get into the show at a Vandel's show...like they do at a "Hot Wax" show! Again...I think that might be some more of that "Hot Wax Experience" feeling that my security guard buddy was talking about earlier. in my commentary...don't you think?

This young lady was also thrilled to know that we were based out of Cincinnati...near her home town of Florence...and that she can see our boys all the time. She did get directions to Jim & Jacks...and said that she will be at many shows in the near future! I don't know about you guys...but I'm thinking that she may already be hooked....or "waxerized"! Oh..Oh...I think Ole "A-Bob" may have just added a new word or our ever growing "Hot Wax" dictionary.

I was walking around the room after the show was over....when I stopped to talk to a guy at the back wall of the venue....with the worst seat in the house. He said he was very fortunate to get in at all...because he didn't make his reservations until the day before the show. I didn't recognize this gentleman....at first...much like I didn't recognize my security guard friend from Aspen Grove. I then asked this nice fellow if he was enjoying the show...and did the sound seem alright to

him? He answered with an emphatic...YES...to both questions! Then he remarked to me....now... I see how you and your wife haven't missed a show in nearly 5 years!

I was a little puzzled about how he knew that we had seen like 150 consecutive shows...so I asked him how he knew that? The gentleman told me that I had chatted with him and his lovely wife in the hallway....while waiting....for the doors to open in Milan...and that solved the puzzle...as I remembered that very well.

Before I forget....I thought that our "SoS" boys...Mr. Grumpy Love....and young Rocky...did just a fantastic job last Saturday night...on both the lighting and the sound! I thought the sound was the best that I had heard in a long time...and that is saying something...because the shows always sounds great! The show was loud from the very beginning....just the way I like it...and the sound mix....also allowed me to hear a lot of piano....which I love also....so kudos' once again to Rocky & Buddy, our very talented..."SoS" boys!!

Ok....a few non-show remarks.....and I will be done. It was great sitting at the table next to Jean & her Jivers! Poor Gail, Jean's good buddy. Poor unfortunate Gail didn't lose a contest or anything like that....and yet...she still got stuck sitting next to ole "A-Bob"! Gail...I hope that I behaved myself....and I very much enjoyed....being your show partner!

I also thoroughly enjoyed sitting next to my new good buddy,the Spankster. There are two very good reasons for that. Spanky is just great fun to be around....and when I watch a show with Spanky....Ole "A-Bob" almost seems like the normal one...lol!

It was also very nice to see Jean's other buddies, Mary and Donna in Batesville also. I have not had the opportunity or the good fortune to be around Donna very often....but what a fun loving lady she is! I probably have this wrong...but I think Donna's daughter was sitting next to Donna....and she might have been seeing her first "Hot Wax" show. We all got a big kick out of watching this young lady swoon at our boys...all night!

I know that we had a great turnout of "waxer's"...in Batesville especially considering that our home base was over an hour away....and it was \$15.00 to get in...but even with a great turn out...a lot of you loyal "waxer's" were not able to make the trip....so I need to tell you about something you missed.

I'm probably going to embarrass the lovely "First Lady"....but Tina looked even lovelier than normal...if possible! The first lady....is sporting a new hairstyle....and ole "a-Bob" likes it...in fact...Ole "a-Bob" likes it a lot! The first lady now has very dark hair....and Saturday night...she had lots of curls also for a very new look....and her dark hair now matched the very sleek black outfit that the lovely first lady was sporting! I know this is going to be very hard to

believe..but...our "First Lady" was even hotter than...."Hot Wax" was last Saturday night!

Tina.....while my compliments were very sincere....and I meant every word....I apologize for my very lame and inept attempt to describe your look. I tried my best...but what can I say...I'm a guy...or at least I thought I was ...when I started this fashion portion of my commentary...and were just not real good with all of that fashion talk....lol!

Ok....gang...I know a lot of you were not able to make that great show in Batesville....so I felt that I had to try to give all of my loyal "waxer" friends who couldn't make the show at least a little feel for what they missed!

This commentary was a lot of work....but I was so excited about last Saturday night's "Hot Wax" show....that I just had to tell someone! So...Lucy, Denny, Ottoman, Sparkling Pat, Zinger, Devil Woman, Gwennie, Loma, Judy, Jim, Connie, Vicki, Angie, Bob, Selena, Nikki, Patty, Sandi, Carol, Donna (Green sweater), Mary Day, Joanie, Randall, Dale, Ruth, Mark, Jeanne, Jamie, Gary, Jeff, Denny, Janet, John...and all of the rest of my "waxer" friends....I hope you enjoyed this little commentary! I also hope I didn't miss anyone...but I'm sure that I did....so I apologize in advance!

"Waxer's"....once again...from Bobby and all of the boys in the band....give yourselves a real big hand...and...a big THANK YOU...once again for being there....like always....when we needed you! Remember...in addition to the great talent of the Hot Wax" band..."waxer's"...your great support last Saturday night...is the main reason...we have been invited back in Batesville again...next February 21!

Thank gang! also ...for always being so nice to Ole "A-Bob" and my other two musketeers and great friends, the Jimster.and the Rickmeister, who like always...did their usual superb job with the Photo's and the Souvenir stand Saturday night in Batesville! I look forward to seeing my wonderful "Hot Wax" family again this Saturday night at Jim & Jacks!.

OK...I must be OFF (insert your wisecracks here!)...and "WAXER'S RULE!

"Ambassador Bob"