

BLUE ASH Outdoor Show (06 - 15 - 07) : I was at the Crystal Palace in December of last year....and before the show I was talking to Tommy Casino. I believe that the "Great One", Mr. Sigsbee, may have been part of the conversation also. Tommy was talking about how great the band was sounding...and how the band was really coming together! Tommy thought with the talent that "Hot Wax" now had ...that they were now ready to play Blue Ash!

Tommy made that statement...with a lot of enthusiasm in his voice...and from that moment on...I knew that getting invited to play at Blue Ash was something very special! From what I understand...not just anybody gets invited to play at Blue Ash. If they did...Blue Ash would never have brought in our boys from "Hot Wax". This very large "Hot Wax" show band is a very special one of a kind band....with a great reputation and ...it's not real cheap to book our boys. However, with the great talent that "Hot Wax" now possesses...and the very entertaining show they perform...."Hot Wax" is now a bargain at any price!

In fact...just about any local band that Blue Ash could have chosen to bring in for their Friday night series would have cost them less money...than "Hot Wax"...but Blue Ash has a great reputation for bringing in very special acts for their terrific venue...and they settle for nothing but the best! "Hot Wax" qualifies on both counts...as they are certainly very special...and the "Hot Wax" show band is also certainly one of the best!

I have been looking forward to this gig for a long time...because I have heard so many great things about it! There has been a lot of confusion out there in "Hot Wax Land" about this venue. Some "waxer's" wondered if this event was the same thing as the "Taste of Blue Ash". Others wondered if this was the event that took place at the airport in Blue Ash several years ago?

Well, I think I have this all figured out now. I do know for certain... that the show held at the Blue Ash airport years ago is a different event entirely from this Friday night Summer series at Blue Ash square. The city of Blue Ash brings a musical group in every Friday night in the summer to perform at this beautiful venue at Blue Ash Square...and that is where "Hot wax" was on Friday night June the 15th.

Now, from what I understand...the "Taste of Blue Ash" is held at this same great venue....but it is held on a Sunday or at least the weekend....and the place is surrounded by food booths from the merchants of "Blue Ash". I'm pretty sure that I have that right now...and I hope that cleared up any questions that you had about the Blue Ash situation.

I know that a lot of you "waxer's" who have been around longer than Ole "A-Bob" can remember seeing our boys play Blue Ash 4 or 5 years in a row...not too many years ago. When I mention that some of you "waxer's" have been a round a lot longer than Ole "A-Bob"...I meant around "Hot Wax"...not on the planet Earth! I know that none of you have been on Earth longer than Ole "A-Bob"...well...with the exception of the Jimster & Mr. Mcgee. I'm sorry guys...but I just couldn't resist. After all...you guys are older than me...and I think that I probably owed you guys a couple of wisecracks anyway!

Anyway...some of these veteran "waxer's" informed and warned me that people tend to go up to Blue Ash at 8:00 in the morning to set their chairs up so that they can get great seats. Well...as you all know....no one ever beats us "waxer's" to great seats....and this show was not going to be any different! We held a "A-Bob" gang meeting the night before...and had 3 volunteers, Jimster, Nicky and Lucy volunteer to take all of our chairs to Blue Ash at 9:00 in the morning....and...they did just that! I want to thank them from all of the rest of our gang for doing that!

Well...you know what loyal and rabid fans we "waxer's" are...so believe it or not when our 3 volunteers got to Blue Ash Friday morning....Jean was already there setting up chairs for her loyal bunch, the "Jean Jivers"!

Like always...we arrived at the show very early...as my curiosity had the best of me ...and I just couldn't wait to see this great venue that I had heard so much about. I know that a lot of times we set our expectations too high...and your expectations are hard to live up to...but not in this case. Blue Ash was absolutely perfect...and whoever designed this outstanding venue deserves a lot of credit!

The landscaping was beautiful....and there was a terrific pond and water fountain set right in the middle of the venue. The stage was huge....and surrounded with tons of red flowers and that was fantastic also. The stage had great lighting...and I don't think that I have ever seen so many spotlights on a stage before! Both the lighting and the sound were provided by the city of Blue Ash....which made it very convenient for our boys from "Hot Wax".

In addition to everything I mentioned already...the venue was surrounded by small shops and restaurants. The restaurants were designed with small outdoor balconies or porches that faced the stage so that you could enjoy your candlelit meal outside...as you watched our boys rock the night away! You were also able to order a pizza from one of the shops...and have them deliver it right to your chair. How cool is that! Yep...I certainly don't want to have to get out of my chair to burn off any of those 34,000 calories that I will be consuming with that delicious pizza ...do I?

Since we arrived at Blue Ash so early...I got to talk to a lot of my buds before the show...and of course I love that! I got to spend some time chatting with Jean...and also Jean's good friend Gail. I also got to spend some time with one of my new buds, Tito's lovely wife, Spanky. Spanky was displaying her great new "Hot Wax" shirt that the Jimster got for her...and Spanky...you looked great! It was also very nice to get a chance to chat with my good friends Jim & Connie Steigert...and their very good friend Vicki! I also enjoyed sitting with my new bud, Stan the man Schirmerman," also!

Long time "waxer", Mary Day, who lives out of town tipped me off that Mary's lovely mother, Jean, and Mary's sister, Diane, would be attending the Blue Ash show. Mary also told us that it was her Mom, Jean's, birthday. When I spotted Jean...I said Hello...and then shocked Jean by wishing her a Happy Birthday! Jean had no idea that I was tipped off...and was totally baffled as Jean didn't even know that I knew that she was coming to the show!

I asked Bobby if he could wish Jean a Happy Birthday from on stage and of course Bobby did just that...and again Jean was shocked and very pleasantly surprised! This is just a hunch...but I think that Mary's Mom had a great birthday...although...I'm sure Jean's birthday would have been better if Mary could have made the show! Hopefully...we will see Mary at a show real soon!

It was also very nice of Mark, Jeanee, Dan & Connie of the very talented "Cincy Rocker's" band to attend the show...and hopefully we can get Jeff and the rest of the band to a show soon! Before the show...I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk to a couple of my "SoS" boys...and that is always great fun! Rocky is just a great kid...and a great asset to "Hot Wax"...and I really enjoyed joking with him before the show .

Now, my boy, Mr. Buddy Bah Humbug Ebenezer Scrooge Love, was not in a joking mood at the show...as Buddy was a little grouchy...but that is kind of his persona. Buddy is never funnier than when he is crabby...and I like him that way...LoL! Someone told me that Buddy was in a bad mood because he just found out recently that he was not the father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby! I'm not sure if that is true or not...but that is what I heard! I think Rocky might have told me that...but I'm not sure about that!

Before the show started...there were rumors flying all over the place that "Hot Wax" would be unveiling their new shirts....and everyone was trying to guess what color the shirts would be. Of course "Hot Wax" was trying to keep this a secret. Bobby & the boys keep more secrets than the CIA and the KGB put together! There was a better chance of us finding out how the last

episode of the Soprano's was going to end than finding out about those shirts...so basically...no chance!

Right before the show started...I heard someone holler out my name...and then ask me if I had a seat saved next to me. The sun was directly in my eyes...and I did not realize that it was Mr. Sonny Shondell! Sonny sat with us throughout the entire show...and that was a great treat. I not only got to watch my boys of "Hot Wax" perform another one of their awesome shows...but I was going to be able to talk shop with a pro like Sonny...and see the show through his eyes.

In fact...I have decided to make Sonny's observations a large part of the remainder of my commentary. You have heard me talk about our boys plenty of times...but I thought you all would find Sonny's comments much more interesting than mine...especially...since he is such a pro and I am not. Sonny has been in the Rock n' Roll business for a long time....including being a very popular long time member of the "Hot Wax" band at one time. For all of the reasons that I just mentioned...I thought you "waxer's" would find Sonny's comments on the Blue Ash show very interesting!

I looked around the venue at the huge crowd...just as our boys from "Hot Wax" were storming the stage...10 strong...in their brand new great looking shirts....and what an impressive site it was! The new shirts are a kind of a Sky Blue with a couple of bold black stripes running vertically down the front of the shirts. Geez...I'll be writing for "Vogue Magazine" soon...if I keep this up!

Anyway, the style of the new shirts is very similar to the red and black shirts that we just had...but the blue color works much better on these. These shirts also have the "Hot Wax" name embroidered on them along with each performer's name...and that works well. Once again...the front men have their shirts tucked in...while the other "Hot Wax" member's have their shirts hanging out....and it was a very good look! If you're interested ...then go to the show page on the website and check them out.

The sky was as blue as the sky can be...or as blue as the new shirts and the sun was just setting on this perfect evening as our boys struck up their first chord in their new outfits on this terrific large stage. Over 3000 people were settling into their seats for this much anticipated show! I was sitting with the lovely Princess Gail and a lot of my very good friends...when I glanced around...and I wondered...can life possibly get any better than this...and I suggest to you...that it simply cannot! Ok...I might be going just a little overboard now...but not by much!

As soon as Bobby & Bruno spotted Sonny in the front row....they all exchanged glances and then smiles like old friends do when they are surprised to see each other! As "waxer's" started to notice what was happening....they all began to smile also! "Waxer's" have been emotionally torn for so long over how they are supposed to feel about our good "Hot Wax" friends that stayed with "Hot Wax"...and our very good friends that left "Hot Wax"! We "waxer's" loved all of these guys...and it was very tough on all of us...when we always felt like we had to choose sides! Then...when we would choose...we always felt like we were hurting the other groups feelings...and again..that made us feel awfully uncomfortable!

I...for one...no longer feel that way...and I think most of you "waxer's" no longer feel like we have to choose one group or the other either....and that is a great feeling! The main reason we feel this way is because we sense that both our beloved boys of "Hot Wax"...and our good buds with the very talented "Vibe" band have put most...if not all of this behind them!

Both bands are doing great...and we thoroughly enjoy both of them! However, after saying that, we do know where our priorities lie....and there is never any doubt that we are "Waxer's" through and through! Sonny once told me that he understands that we are loyal "Waxer's"....and that he thinks that is awesome...and he personally wouldn't want it any other way! Sonny also told me once...that finishing second in our hearts...when we follow a great group like "Hot Wax" isn't all that bad....and they would be thrilled to be second on our list of favorite bands!

Speaking of thrilled....I think I can speak for everybody...including band members, family members, "Waxer's" and Vibesters...and even new "Hot Wax" band members...when I say...I think once and for all..it is time for all of us to realize that we all are still good friends and we will always be good friends! I wish both great bands nothing but the best...and let's put all of this behind us and lets finally move on! I hope I never have to hear or talk about this subject again...and I think or at least hope that we all feel that way!

Now...lets get back to the fun part of my commentary...the show itself! When the show began...it was great to steal glances at the expression on Sonny's face when certain numbers that Sonny had never heard before were performed. In fact it was pretty cool to see Sonny's expressions when there were songs that he was familiar with also...now that I think about it.

Without getting too gooey here....the Princess and I thought that most of the night....Sonny's expression was that of a younger brother proudly watching his older brothers doing something extremely well and something...that he was very proud of. You know ole "A-Bob's" theory...once a "waxer"...always a "waxer"... as you just can never quite get "Hot Wax" out of your system...and I'm not even sure if you want to get rid of that feeling...to be honest about it!

We also had the feeling that while Sonny no longer was performing with "Hot Wax"... that he was still thrilled and delighted to know that the band that he helped build...is still providing us with..."Heaven from 57...and the Glory that was Grease"...."Hot Wax"..and that the band is still very much alive and well! The rich "Hot Wax" tradition just continues to grow and the band is bigger and better than ever! That was never more obvious than Friday night at Blue Ash!

It didn't take long for our boys to have this huge crowd eating out of their hands! The more I see this current show...the more I am impressed with it! There are just so many highlights or goose bump moments as I like to call them in the show...and the show is just so full...and fast paced...with virtually no lulls whatsoever. I personally love it that way. The more music...the better for my taste...and I think most "waxer's" would agree with me on that!

If you haven't seen a show in the last couple of months or even weeks for that matter...your in for quite a few new surprises. Tommy Casino has added one of his great classic's from the past to the 10 song or so opening medley...and that already outstanding medley got even better! I have to apologize because I'm not sure of the title...but I love the song and I know you older fans will remember it.

Bear with me gang...but...the title is something like..."Have you ever Rock'n Rolled"...and there is a little "Chingy Chang" thrown in there somewhere...I think...does that help...LoL? Probably not...and I can see the Princess shaking her head in bewilderment as she is just amazed that I know so much about music...yet...I don't know the entire lyrics of a single song...well...maybe "Happy Birthday"! I have to admit...I am much more interested in the melodies, the back up vocals, the harmonies...and basically the arrangements on each song....than I am interested in the lyrics.

Sonny told me that Tommy is just a tremendous talent...and he told me at Mason last year that Tommy's voice may be as good as any voice that he has ever heard that doesn't sing professionally for a living..and that is great praise coming from someone with Sonny's singing ability! Sonny also told me that Tommy's stage presence is just amazing...and that Tommy is the ultimate pro in every aspect...and a joy to watch!

In the last couple of shows Einstein is doing several new numbers including our old favorite and the Dupree's classic, "You belong to me", Bobby Darin's "Mack the Knife" and the old Cab Calloway number, "Heidy Heidy Heidy Ho" and he does a great job on all of them!

I don't know about you...but I thought Einstein just took over the stage at Blue Ash...and that great venue with that large crowd did not intimidate Einstein in the least! All of the fan fare and the great venue of Blue Ash just made Einstein shine even more than normal as he was just basking in all of that...and enjoying everything to the fullest! Einstein was as cool as the other side of the pillow...all evening!

I was standing behind the stage when Einstein was doing his "Heidy Ho" audience participation number...and when he held the mike out to the crowd for the first "Heidy Heidy Ho" there must have been 2000 people who chanted back...and it sounded awesome! Then it got a little more complicated and difficult...and then there was about 500 folks responding...and finally at the very end where Einstein is speaking a million words a minute...and no one can ever repeat it...I was amazed as I heard just one man out in the audience do it and get it right!

I didn't think it was possible...and I was right...because... when I went to congratulate that man...it turned out that he didn't have it right. The man just had too much to drink and his speech was slurred...and I thought he had it right!

Sonny was having a great time at the show...and was a great sport...and even more importantly a great "waxer"! Sonny was clapping along with every song...and he also led all of the standing ovations...which was pretty cool! Sonny told me that he couldn't believe how much hard work Bobby & the boys had to put in to get the show at that high level! He thought the show was slick as ice ...and had a Las Vegas look and feel to it!

When Bruno was doing his shortened Tom Jones medley because of time constraints...Sonny was hollering "Take it Off"...and many of the female "waxer's" agreed with him! I've heard that chant many times before...when Bruno is performing....just never from Sonny! By the way Bruno...if you ever have to shorten your Tom Jones medley again...please leave "I who have nothing" in as that is a classic song that should never leave the show ...ever...and we mean even after Tom Jones leaves!

Bruno has a great new two song "Vogues medley...and it sounds awesome! The arrangement is great as Bruno jumps back and forth mixing the "Five O'clock world" number with the "Your the one that I love" tune...and he does it perfectly...very impressive! Sonny & I were talking about what a great a voice Bruno has...and when you listen to Cd's...it becomes even more obvious...as his voice is so smooth and he sings so effortlessly!

Sonny and I both felt that since Bruno was originally the lead guitar player...who sang some...that some "waxer's still think that he is a great guitar player who can happen to sing some. Sonny said anyone who thinks that...would be sadly mistaken...because Bruno has a great voice ...and in most cases as good as anyone in the band!

At one point I asked Sonny if Sigsbee was as good as I thought that he was...and Sonny told me that he was simply fantastic. I asked the same question about DC...and again...Sonny thought he was outstanding! I then asked Sonny since this was the first time he had heard Sammy or "Jumpin Jack Flash" as I like to refer to him play keyboards...could he tell anything about him. Sonny told me emphatically....Oh yeah...he was terrific....and he didn't take him long to realize that.

Sonny then told me...that the entire band was just super...and when you throw in the "Hot Wax" horns with Doc & Tito....that this was virtually an all star band! That is the way most of us "waxer's feel....but to hear someone like Sonny say that with his musical background means a lot more and carries a lot more weight!!

When Bobby was doing his great rendition of "Only Make Believe"....Sonny shouted out..."I Love You Bobby...and of course that made us laugh! Speaking of Bobby...he has brought back some of our all time favorite Elvis tunes to his Elvis medley. Because several of the Elvis songs are

in the quicker medley form...Bobby is now able to do 7 great Elvis songs in the show! Those great classics are "Viva Las Vegas", "Hula Rock", "Are you lonesome tonight", "Hurt", "Suspicious Minds", "Trilogy"...and "Can't help falling in love"! Don't get much better than that ...does it?

Speaking of Elvis....I was out in the crowd roaming around when Sigsbee played the familiar opening notes to the dramatic "Trilogy" number....and all of a sudden it was like someone turned down the volume on the people in the crowd. People started shushing each other...and within seconds ...no one was talking...including me..and you could literally hear a pin drop! That was goose bump city for me...and may be one of the most memorable highlights for me that I have ever witnessed at a show! It was just chilling!

I'm still going to hold up and not reveal too many details about the comedy skit at the end of the first show. The skit has been done before and the kids love it...but it is being done differently than you have ever seen it done before. There is also a little bonus song added to the skit that Tommy does. Tito has some participation in this new revived skit also...but you need to see that for yourself also!

At the end of this great very entertaining show...is a new 5 or 6 song medley that replaces the "Temptation's...get ready " number as the show's encore song! It is very clever...as it starts out with "Dancing in the Street"....and then goes into several songs that started dance crazes like "the Locomotion", "the Peppermint twist", "the Jerk", "the Swim"...and a few more before the very versatile Tommy Casino leads us into a little Hip Hop as Tommy stuns everyone with his rapping ability!

It is very amusing...but also very entertaining. I hope I get this name right as it has been a couple of weeks since I heard it...but we must give a lot of credit to Tommy's very talented son, Brodie, as he taught Dad everything he knows about Hip Hop and Rapping...and he taught Dad very well! There is a lot of dancing talent in that family as Tommy's very lovely wife Patty is a very skilled dancer in her own right!

Now, we "waxer's" who are also members of the "Hot Wax Solid Gold Dancer's & Performers Troup" have to learn all of the new dance steps during the new encore...just like we did when "Get ready" was the encore! By the way...we are becoming very famous in our own right. After the band "Blue Stone Ivory " saw our choreography while they were playing "Get ready"...they now want us...to do our dance on stage with them...the next time we see them!

Last Saturday...we performed that dance with the "Cincy Rockers"...and last night we performed that in front of the "American Graffiti" band...much to their delight...and like always the crowds just get the biggest kick watching us do our "Get Ready" dance! The crowds usually stop whatever they are doing to watch us do our choreography....and then come over to us to tell us...what a fun bunch we are...LOL!

Oh...I almost forgot that we performed our get ready number with the "Vibe" at Putters two weeks ago...and Paris and myself were also asked to come on stage and sing the chorus to that personal favorite of mine (NOT)... "Mustang Sally"! The Princess Gail was then asked to get on stage and play the cowbell to Delbert's "Every time I roll the Dice" which she did...and did it very well!

I almost forgot that there are also about 10 of us who now lock arms in front of the stage as we lead the crowd in singing the chorus to everybody's favorite "Bee Gee's" tune..."To Love Somebody" ...and that has now become one of the highlights at a Vibe gig ...and is just great fun!

As you can see...it is now just a matter of time before the "Hot Wax" Solid Gold Singer's & Dancer's Troupe" put our own show together and take this show on the road. If there are any agents out there who are interested in signing us ...please contact me! However...do not book

us on any night that our boys from "Hot Wax" are performing...because we simply refuse to EVER miss a "Hot Wax" show...so keep that in mind!

Before I close...I must say that when you consider this great venue in Blue Ash, the great weather, the huge enthusiastic crowd (3000)...and the talent of this outstanding "Hot Wax" band...this may be the best all around show that I have ever seen! That is if you consider every factor that I just mentioned...and that is saying a lot...because I have seen a whole lot of outstanding shows!!!!

One last thing about this fantastic night in Blue Ash. I think "Hot Wax" may have missed a promoters dream! I stood in the back of the venue for quite awhile during the second half of the show talking to a few officials about our boys. The visual image of the show at that point in the show was simply unbelievable! On a perfect starlit night with the sparkling water fountain...and the crowd of over 3000 people in front of me staring intently at the stage....well...that was quite an impressive site!

Now throw in the fact that the stage was lit up so brightlyand our boys were in their black sparkly vests that were shimmering and shinning everywhere...then that became just an awesome visual! At the same time...Tommy and the boys were just tearing it up on the "Grass Roots" medley...and were displaying all of their best choreography moves! At this point in the show...the crowd in the back of the venue were just Oooing & Awwing over what they were seeing! A 15 minute or so video of this part of the show would have made a great promotional tool for "Hot Wax"!

I must admit...that Ole "Ambassador Bob's" buttons were popping off my "Hot wax" shirt with pride as I heard people raving about our boys from "Hot Wax"...and even though I am only a small part of this great organization...I still felt very proud to be associated in any way with all of my very talented buds on the stage that night! Kudos to everyone involved with that great show...including the skilled light and sound personnel from Blue Ash....and of course our "SoS" boys!

We "waxer's" thoroughly enjoyed absolutely everything about the Blue Ash gig! The venue couldn't have been any better, the crowd couldn't have been any larger or any more enthusiastic! The very nice folks from Blue Ash also could not possibly have been any nicer or more hospitable to "Hot Wax"...or us "waxer's"! We would love to be invited back to the wonderful city of Blue Ash....and based on what I saw...I like our chances! Thanks Blue Ash!

Ok...before I sign off...I want to thank Sonny (Jamie) for not objecting to me using his comments in my commentary! By the way...all of Sonny's comments were candid...as he had no idea that I was going to use his remarks until I told him two days ago that I already had! Thanks Jamie for being such a good sport!

I also need to thank both "Lucy" and the "Little One" for doing just an outstanding job of filling some big shoes...as they filled in for the "Rickmeister" at the souvenir stand...and we all know what a great job that Rick does! I know this goes without saying...but my good buddy, the Jimster, did his usual great job taking photo's as the Jimster was everywhere...including in the rafters taking his great photo's!

Ok Gang...rest up...as our biggest weekend in years is drawing near...as we will be at the huge festival at St. Rita's on Friday July 13th, then Bellevue with our second annual picnic and show on July the 14th...and then Mason Ohio on Sunday July the 15th. Then only 6 days later on July 21...we will be making our return appearance to one of my favorite parks, the outstanding park in Evendale!

Thanks gang once again for your patience...and because you were so patient...I may reward you all with a bonus commentary next week! Thanks like always...for always being so nice to me when you see me!

I must be OFF...(Insert your wisecracks here!). "Ambassador Bob"