

CRYSTAL PALACE Christmas Show (12 - 02 - 06): My original plan...was that I was not going to do a commentary this week. I was just going to wait until after the Christmas show at Jim and Jacks this week....and then write just one commentary covering both the Palace and the Jim & Jacks Xmas show at the same time!

However, those original plans changed very quickly once I saw the terrific show that "Hot Wax" put on last Saturday night at the Palace! Hot Wax's first Xmas show ever was just outstanding! I was so impressed and excited at what I had seen at the Palace Saturday night that I just couldn't wait to tell everyone about how good "Hot Wax's" Christmas show actually was! I have already said quite a bit on the comment page....but there is so much more to say!

I've got to be honest about something. When I first heard that our boys were going to do a Christmas show....I wasn't sure how I felt about that. I knew it was good for the band...and it would be something new and fresh. I also knew that the female "waxers" would absolutely love the idea of a Xmas show....and the kids would too....and they certainly did! I have to admit though that ole "Ambassador Scrooge" was being a little selfish. I was thinking only of myself. I was thinking that at my age...that I had heard all of these Xmas songs a million times or more ...and if I wanted to hear them some more ...all I had to do was turn on the radio or the TV and catch one of the many Xmas specials that will be on in during the next couple of weeks.

Now, here is where the selfish part comes in. I was worried about how many of my great "Hot Wax" rock n' roll songs would have to be removed from the show to make room for the Xmas songs. I had some old musician friends of mine coming to the show....and I was wishing that they would see the normal "Hot Wax" show....because I thought that would be the way to see my boys at their best...and I didn't want any songs missing!

Well, as usual, Ole "Ambassador Scrooge" could not have been any more wrong! I don't know what we were expecting...but I know none of us were expecting what we got! The Xmas songs were absolutely fantastic! Einstein did the first Xmas song about 8 songs into the show....and Einstein didn't pick an easy one as it was the Nat King Cole Classic, "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire".

When Einstein got about 10 notes into the song...it got so quiet in the room....that you truly could hear a pin drop. People just stopped talking and anything else they were doing to stop and listen. I looked around at my fellow "waxers"....and everyone had the look of amazement on their face....and then we would all break into a large approving smile....and then flash each other the thumbs up sign! I don't know that anyone can do that song quite as well as Mr. Cole did it. However, I swear....Einstein knocked that one out of the park...and did as good a job on that song as I have ever heard...other than the late great Mr. Cole! I

also think Mr. Cole would have approved of the job that Mr. Einstein did on that great standard!

As the night progressed....each one of our 4 great vocalist took a turn or two at a Xmas song....and they were all absolutely fantastic! I don't want to say much more about who sings what...because there will be new people at the show Saturday night who missed the awesome show at the Crystal Palace last week....and I want them to be as surprised as we were!

I couldn't figure out why I loved all of the Xmas material so much the other night ...because like I explained earlier...I really didn't expect too....then it occurred to me. It is much the same way...that I felt about "Oldies" originally I always loved that music when I was growing up....but many years later....I thought that I had grown tired of those songs as they seemed dated...and I didn't think I would be interested in seeing a band that played those songs any longer. However, that was before I had ever heard of "Hot Wax"!

Then I accidentally saw a "Hot Wax" show in Bellevue about 8 years ago or so....and then suddenly everything changed! Songs that I thought were old or tired suddenly came back to life...and some songs that I never even liked originally sounded great all of a sudden! When you hear a band the size of "Hot Wax" with all of their talent performing these great songs live...these songs suddenly come alive again...and in most cases sound even better than the originals.

"Hot Wax" has the unique ability, skills and experience to take these old classics.....and put a new arrangement to them by adding extra vocals...or maybe more harmonies...or in some cases....adding the great "Hot Wax" horns in places in the songs where there were no horns...originally....and make these great "Oldies" songs sound fresh and new again! Now, you throw in all of that jumpin and Jivin with all of the choreography and energy that "Hot Wax" provides....and you are now seeing a whale of a show....and everything is totally fresh and exciting again!

To make a long story short (watch your wisecracks out there)....that is what happened with the Xmas songs the other night at the Palace. "Hot Wax" put their magic to work.....and did a tremendous job on these old standards...and I can honestly say...that I have never enjoyed these Xmas songs more! Most of us "waxers" honestly were in awe at this show!

A couple of weeks ago at Sunman, "Hot Wax" showed their flexibility....by having to adjust on the fly on very short notice to compensate for the important loss of Tito, our great sax player, who suffered back spasms shortly before the show started. This week, "Hot Wax" displayed their versatility....as Hot Wax" did it all at the Crystal Palace! My musician friend Greg, who I had talked about earlier, was just flabbergasted at "Hot Wax's versatility ....and the number of quality

vocalist that "Hot Wax" possesses! Actually he was amazed at virtually everything....and my friend Greg has been a round a lot of bands....so he is not easily impressed!

He couldn't believe that our boys would be doing Rockabilly one minute, then a song by the Statler Brothers like "the Wall" next....then Frank Sinatra, then the Ides of March's "Vehicle"....then maybe a Do-wop number....then the next minute our military tribute!

That would be amazing in it's own right....but then he heard and we all heard what a fantastic job our guys did on the Christmas Standards originally done by the likes of Bing Crosby, Nat king Cole....Gene Autry...etc....and that just blew my friend Greg...and his lovely wife Sharon away! Sharon was so impressed that I just received an e-mail from her a few minutes ago....and she has met with the Deer Park school board today and they would like to meet again with her....and a rep of "Hot Wax" to discuss a fund raiser show in the spring! I believe the meeting would be next week. You guys are getting a scoop...as I haven't even had time to tell Bobby about that yet!

Probably the most amazing thing about the Xmas part of the show was that "Hot Wax" was able to put all of that new material in the show with only two rehearsals! I am going to flatter and probably make the "Great Sigsbee" blush a little now....but when I ask how they could possibly learn all of this stuff so quickly and do it so well....I was told by several of the band members that Sigsbee makes it easy! Every time a song would be suggested at rehearsal...Sigsbee knew it....no matter how obscure the song was. I noticed that on most of the beautiful Xmas standards...that Sigsbee made them sound so much better and classier by eloquently picking on his guitar just enough to fill in the bare spots! The "Great One" is truly Great...and we are very fortunate to have him!

Talking about Sigsbee making things a lot easier for everybody... reminds me of a similar story about a super group called the "Traveling Wilbury's" in the late 80's. It was a group made up of all stars....consisting of George Harrison of the Beatles, Jeff Lynn of Electric Light Orchestra, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty and the late, great Roy Orbison. Tom Petty used to say that they would sit around and decide who was going to do what in each song...but whenever there was a tough part to sing....they would all turn to Roy Orbison....and tell Roy...this is your part! So much like Sigsbee.....Roy made it easier on everyone in the band!

I don't want to leave anyone in "Hot Wax" out of my commentary ...because the entire band was just tremendous the other night ...and I sincerely mean everyone as it was a true team effort! Cadillac's harmonica accompaniment to several of the Xmas numbers was just the perfect touch...and everyone commented about it! The "Hot Wax" horns consisting of the dynamic duo of Doc Roc..and Tito also filled in beautifully on several of the numbers...and I virtually love any song where

both Doc and Tito are joining in....as the horns add such a full sound! By the way...it was great to have Tito back....and what a difference he makes!

Boomer...what can I say about him....as he has quickly become a real "waxer" favorite.... because of his great talent, his enthusiasm and his consistent performance, show after show! However, just as important...is that Boomer relates so well to the fans! If you don't believe me ....listen to the chants of Boomer, Boomer, when he does his solo on the "I'm so glad I'm Livin in the Usa" number! Although DC Driver, our great drummer, has only been with us a short time, he too has become a crowd favorite because of his warm personality and great sense of humor....and he has just been remarkable....learning all of this material in such a short time! It's like Dc has been with "Hot wax" forever...and we hope that he will be!

I'm not going to say too much about our Fab Four vocalist other than to say ....a star was born the other night at the Palace...as Mr. Einstein....just simply overwhelmed all of us....and I can't find the words to describe how good he was! I'm not going to say too much about the other 3 vocalist...because frankly....no one should be born with their good looks and talent both...and personally, I'm sick of our wives bragging about those guys all the time...LoL!. I don't want their heads to swell anymore than they already have. Actually, the best part about our talented vocalist....is that they all are as nice and as humble as they are talented ...and that truly makes them special!

Not only did "Hot Wax" do it all Saturday night at the Palace...but they did it in front of the largest non-Van-Del show to ever play the Palace! I don't mean to be bragging on our boys....but I believe that "Hot Wax" now has drawn maybe 4 of the Palace's largest crowds! I think there is a real love fest going on between "Hot Wax", the Crystal Palace...and us "waxers"! I hope it continues...as we absolutely love everything about Greg Lacks Palace...and it is only going to get better and better! There are strong rumors that the "waxer" nation will be hearing some good news very soon pertaining to the Crystal Palace....so cross your fingers!

To sum up the show portion of my commentary....with the Buddy Holly tribute, the Tom Jones tribute, the Beach Boys tribute, Righteous Brothers, Elvis, the Patriotic portion....and the amazing Finale...that is about as good as a show can get. Now, throw in the superb job our boys did on the Xmas standards....and now...this becomes honestly...the best show that I have ever seen since I have been involved with "Hot Wax"...and I am looking forward to seeing the show again this Saturday at our home away from home....Jim & Jacks!

NOW FOR SOME MISCELLANEOUS AND UNRELATED THOUGHTS!.....

( 1 ) Greg Lack always gets on Stage before the show and introduces the upcoming act....and he always has nice things to say about "Hot Wax" and the "waxer" nation and this week was no different. It was great to hear Greg say that "Hot Wax" is his favorite band that he books...and also his biggest drawing act....and that he hopes to sit down with Bobby and work something out for next year!

We also want to thank Greg for always being so willing to give us whatever we want when we go to his great establishment. Greg makes it as easy as he can for me to bring large groups of fans to the Palace. We also asked for a discount for the kids Saturday night....and Greg was willing to do that for us....so again...Thank You ....Greg! The best way for us to thank Greg is to visit the Palace as often as we can....when "Hot Wax" is not playing...much like we do Jim & Jacks!

Prior to the show Saturday night....Greg thought that the October show was the best one he had seen....but like many of us "waxers" ....Greg thought our boys did a fantastic job with the Xmas show....and now thinks that Saturday night was "Hot Wax's" best show! Greg absolutely loved the rocking finale....and also the "Proud to be an American" number...and he thought that the spotlight shining on the flag on the wall during that song was a real nice touch!

Greg also told me that he thought that the policy of letting the kids attend the Xmas show worked very well....and he thought that the parents and grandparents of all of the kids did a great job keeping an eye on the kids. I thought that the kids added a special feel for a Xmas show that would not have existed without them....and it was fun watching them enjoy the show.

Rickmeister and Ethel....Your 5 grandchildren led by their ringleader Khrystian couldn't have been any better....and listening to them sing Jingle Bells and Rudolph over the speaker system was a real treat! Tiffany...it was great to see Corey, Dakota and Jake also...and we really enjoyed Corey's performance on stage with the Hoola Hoop. Thought it was great also that Boomer let Corey handle his bass guitar. I can see Corey replacing Boomer in about 10 years or so ....and that will be a nice transition...LOL!

( 2 ) Does any band have better looking female fans than "Hot Wax" has....and I thought that all of our gals looked great in their Xmas outfits! "Hot Wax" would like to thank Bob Adamskiewicz for bringing his good friend Santa Claus with him! Santa was just great...and thrilled everyone...and we hope we get to see him again this week! I know there are a lot of Santa look a likes out there who are the real Santa's helper....but as good as our Santa looked....I'm pretty sure that we had the real Santa at our show! I thought that Santa's little helpers....Selena and Nikki were great also! Thanks guys!

( 3 ) I want to thank Tiffany's dad for the very nice gift he brought me. Bill always wears his veterans ball cap so proudly...and he bought me one just like his...and being a Vietnam vet...I really appreciate that! I'm not normally a big hat wearer....but I do have a wall in my family room with some of my favorite hats displayed...so I will hang it there and display it very proudly. Right now...it is next to my University of Bearcats hat. However, I will bring it with me for special events like 4th of July shows, Labor day, Veterans day shows...etc. Thanks again Bill! Bob & Selena and Nikki...thanks for your little silver snowman also....and I think we will hang that on our tree!

( 4 ) The only down note on the night was the announcement that our gentle giant, Tiny, will be leaving the show soon...but we will still see Tiny this week at Jim & Jacks. Tiny has his priorities straight though...as he is leaving so he can spend more time with his lovely wife Kim...and their beautiful daughter....and you certainly can't fault Tiny for that! Best to you "Big Guy"!

( 5 ) We were missing some "waxers" like Gwinnie, Angie, Jenny, and of course Debb.at the Palace We were also missing Mike and Jeff also....and Christina and Barb to mention a few. We have not seen our good friend Mary Day and her lovely Mom for quite awhile now...maybe since Falmouth . Mary.... I know you have a lot going on right now...and you may even be out of the country....but if you are home....you need to come Saturday night and check out this terrific Xmas show that "Hot Wax" has put together! I know both you and your mother would love it! I believe that everyone on this list except maybe Mary and her Mom....will be at Jim & Jacks...and it will be fun to see them all witness at Jim & Jacks what we saw last Saturday night at the Palace!

( 6 ) I need to take a moment to apologize to the O'connor family. When we were in Sunman a few weeks ago at the new Horizon's fund raiser....during the show...both Lisa and Bobby read moving tributes to Pegan O'connor who unfortunately had passed away earlier this year. Lisa was Pegan's sister. Bobby read some very moving remarks that were written by Pegan's beloved granddaughter...and that was a very nice touch. Pegan was very instrumental in bringing "Hot Wax" and New Horizons together...and Pegan played a huge role in making this event as successful as it is today! Pegan absolutely loved "Hot Wax"....and Bobby and the boys also loved Pegan. I made a major but unintentional mistake when I wrote my commentary that week....and I mistakenly referred to Pegan as Megan....and I would like to sincerely apologize for that!

CLOSING.....

Ok..."waxers"....Saturday night will be party night....as this will be the last show of the season....and it will be a Xmas show...and we will be at our home base Jim & Jacks! This will be the last opportunity for some of us to see each other for

about two months.....so we all need to show up Saturday night.....and based on what I know....I think everyone is showing up...or it sure seems like it anyway!

"Hot Wax" also deserves a full house! Think back to about a year ago....when "Hot Wax" had to bring in 6 new people...and how difficult that was ...and how much work that took. Then ...at the Palace the other night...you see our boys put on the best performance that I have ever seen since I have been involved with "Hot Wax"! That needs to be rewarded ...don't you think? I sure do....and I think you would all agree with me on that...so let's show up in big numbers!

I made 47 reservations today...including a few newbies....so we are doing our best to fill Jim & Jacks Saturday night. If you have ever been thinking of bringing a friend or relative to a show ...then this is the show to bring them ....because they certainly will be impressed with our boys and this great Xmas show!

Ok..."waxers"...I want to wish you all a very Happy and a safe holiday season....and I hope to see you Saturday evening! I must be OFF insert your wisecracks here!)

"Ambassador Bob"