

CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW ( 02 - 03 - 07 ) : Well...it has been about two months since we had been up to visit Mr. Greg Lack at his great establishment, the Crystal Palace! The last time we were there was December the 2nd...when we were the warm up act for Santa Claus and "Hot Wax" did their terrific Christmas show! After 2 months...we were anxious to get back to Greg's place as the Crystal Palace has become one of our favorite venues!

We like everything about the Palace! Greg always treats both "Hot Wax" and us "waxers" so well. We love everything about the facility! We love the size of the place, the parking, the decor, and the large clean restrooms. We also love the eloquent show room...and the very large round tables. The round tables just seem to work so much better when you are seating people in groups of 8 or more. However, what we really love about the Palace is that this is the only venue on the "Hot Wax" tour....where we get the best of two worlds.

Like always, our number one reason for going to the Palace is to see the best "Oldies" show band in the Mid West...and that would be "Hot Wax"! Yeah, I know the Van Dells are from the Midwest....and they are very good...but I still believe that "Hot Wax" is the best show band in the Midwest! Now, the second reason we love coming to the Palace...is because this is the only venue on the "Hot Wax" tour that has two dance floors. While the main dance floor is being occupied for the "Hot Wax" show....there is still another great dance floor for us "waxers" to get down...on the other side of the room when "Hot Wax" is not performing! This secondary dance floor at the Palace is actually better than the main dance floors at most other venues!

A perfect night of entertainment for us "waxers" is to get to the Palace early...and have a delicious meal...then hit the dance floor for about an hour or so before the "Hot Wax" show begins. Speaking of eating ....we thought the service the other night was by far the best and the fastest that we have ever seen during all of our trips to the Palace! Then after an hour of dancing...it is then time to adjourn to the main showroom and settle in for "Hot Wax's" first of two very entertaining shows! Then after being thoroughly entertained by our boys from "Hot Wax" for about an hour and 15 minutes or so...it is time for "Hot Wax" to take a 45 minute break before their second outstanding show!

Now, while "Hot Wax" is on their much deserved break....there is plenty of time for us "waxers" to hit the dance floor again....and that is what we love about the Palace. The combination of dancing and watching the "Hot Wax" show is just perfect. There just is no down time at the Crystal Palace....just fun time...the entire evening! It was also neat to look out on the dance floor...and not only see "waxers" out there but some of the "Hot Wax" performers and their lovely spouses also!

While slow dancing with Princess Gail to the Casino's great hit, "Then you can tell me, Goodbye"....it was cool to look to my right and see Bobby & Tina...and Tommy and Patty sharing the dance floor with us! It was also nice to see the entire dance floor packed with "Waxers"! Kudos to the DJ for doing a great job with his song selections! By the way...the DJ looked very familiar to me....but I just couldn't place him. Maybe it will come to me later!

Well...that is the way I started my commentary about 10 days ago...and I meant every word of what I just said! However, Unfortunately since I wrote those words...it was announced last Saturday night that the Crystal Palace has closed their doors and gone out of business. I was going to delete what you just read and start over....but decided that since I still mean every word that I said ...that there was no harm in leaving my opening remarks in. I wrote in great length about how sad that we "waxers" were to hear the news of the Palace closing on my other page...( the "A-Bob/Hot Wax chat room ). Anyway, if you are interested or would like to read those comments.... you can find them there and I won't have to take the time or the space to repeat my remarks here.

Now, at this point....I will delete most of my comments from my original commentary....because they mostly talked about what we needed to do as "waxers" to guarantee Greg, owner of the

Palace, a record breaking crowd for our next scheduled show on March 24th. However, since both the Crystal Palace and our next show on the 24th no longer exist....my original comments were no longer relevant so it made no sense to print them!

Ok...I will now start my rewrite of my Palace show commentary. One week before the Palace show..."Hot Wax" performed one of their best shows ever in front of a turn-a-way standing room only crowd at Jim & Jacks! In fact...the show was actually sold out two days in advance! In order to appease some of the fans who showed up at Jim & Jacks that evening only to find out that they could not get in...these fans were promised the best seats at the next show at Jim & Jacks on April the 7th! I'm sure that some of these great fans were still disappointed that they could not see our boys...but that was the best Jim & Jacks could do!

Now....here we were one week later...and "Hot Wax" was scheduled to play our other favorite indoor venue, the Crystal Palace. I wondered all week about what kind of crowd we would draw this week. I knew that since a lot of fans had just seen "Hot Wax" perform just a week earlier...that that might hold the crowd down some. However, what I was really worried about was the weather forecast that was calling for sub zero temperatures....and how would that affect the size of the crowd.

Well...to my amazement...while we did not draw more fans than we did the week before...Greg, owner of the Palace, informed me when I arrived at the Palace that over 135 people had still made reservations for the show...and with a decent walk up crowd...the size of the crowd was pretty impressive considering the factors that I just mentioned! Never question "Hot Wax's" drawing power...or the loyalty of the "waxers"!

By 8:30...we had finished dining and we were also done dancing ...and we were now ready to settle in, get comfortable...and enjoy another great "Hot Wax" show...which was our main reason for being at the Palace! The show the week before at Jim & Jacks was so good and there was so many exciting changes in the show....that I was anxious to see the show again...just to make sure that I wasn't dreaming when I saw that great show last week!

It turns out that I wasn't dreaming as this weeks show was just as good as last weeks! I do have to take a moment here to correct a couple of mistakes from my commentary a week ago. I made more mistakes last week...then Britney Spears made this week! I was late getting in my seat last week because of the huge crowd. I was still busy trying to get everyone seated...so when I finally got myself seated...our boys were performing some new Do-wop style songs in the opener..and I mistakenly thought that those songs replaced the rockabilly songs that usually open the show. I was wrong ...as the new songs did not replace the usual opening songs but were just added to the original opening songs to make a much larger medley.

I also commented last week that I did not think that the rockabilly type songs gave "Hot Wax" a chance to display the great vocal talent that "Hot Wax" possesses...because most of the rockabilly songs that you usually see performed by a 3 or 4 piece group do not have a lot of back up vocals in them..which is a real strength of "Hot Wax". However, upon further review...as they like to say in the National Football League..."Hot Wax"...like always has put their own special arrangements to those songs....and there are plenty of back up vocals. Anyway...Ole "Ambassador Bob" apologizes for those mistakes....and from now on...I will be in my seat when the show starts....and those of you who are not seated yet ..will have to fend for yourself...LOL!

Once again...the new show was just outstanding...and I love all of the changes that have been made in the last 4 or 5 shows. That would include the new upbeat 7 or 8 song medley that opens the show, the exciting Righteous Brothers and the rocking Grassroots medley! Other great additions are the new "America the Beautiful" opening sung by Bobby that now matches the great ending of that moving song that sandwiches Bruno's terrific "Proud to be an American"! Everyone also loves the 8 song or so medley near the end of the show that finishes with the rousing "Rock n' Roll is here to Stay"! What a great way to close the show!

Speaking of "Rock n" Roll is here to Stay" by Danny & the Juniors...."Hot Wax" also opens the show with the Danny & the Juniors hit..."At the Hop"...which I personally think are just perfect opening and closing songs for a "Hot Wax" show! However, the reason I brought up both of those Danny & the Juniors songs are that our very talented Drummer, Mr. DC Driver, informed me at the show that he has played with Danny & the Juniors before....which is pretty cool...don't you think! I mentioned last week that DC had also played with Lesi "It's My Party & I'll Cry if I Want To" Gore. DC has played with virtually a who's who of 60's rock legends! Maybe I can persuade DC to provide me with a list of the great artist that he has performed with!

The show received quite a few compliments last week...like always from the regular "waxers"and one of the more often heard compliments was the great job that Einstein does helping out Tommy on the terrific "Grassroots" medley! There were a couple of other very nice compliments overheard at the show! There were some people sitting at a table behind us ....and I heard a fellah say to his wife or girlfriend..."Didn't I tell you Honey...that they were good"...and she responded with "Yeah...but they are even better than you said!"

I heard another very nice compliment about our boys also when I was getting ready to leave the Palace. I stopped by the bar where Greg, the owner, was sitting to thank him for a great evening and to say goodbye. While I was talking to him...I asked him how our boys sounded? If you have met Greg...it doesn't take long for you to realize...that Greg is an up front guy...who speaks his mind....so I wasn't sure what his answer was going to be...but I always respect Greg's opinion because I know that he will be honest and say what he is thinking.

Greg then informed me that he has a group of regulars who always sit at the bar....and that they are used to being there and virtually never stop talking to turn around and pay any attention to the band playing. However, Greg told me Saturday night that almost all of the customers at the bar had spun their stools around and watched virtually the entire "Hot Wax" show! Greg said that "Hot Wax" sounded great ...and he wondered where in the world could you get to see entertainment like that for \$8.00! I whole heartily concur!

Although.. it has already been mentioned several time already...I want to mention one last time how much we are going to miss the Crystal Palace...and Mr. Greg Lacks great hospitality. Thanks again Greg for being so nice to the "waxer" nation"...and the best to you in your future endeavors! It's truly been an honor to know you!

When the "Hot Wax" band closes the show with their popular encore number "Get Ready" by the Temptations...it has become a tradition for the "Hot Wax Solid Gold Dancers" to rush to the front of the stage to join them...and mimic all of the choreography...and that has happened for over a year now. It has become very popular with the audiences...and the newcomers really seem to get a kick out of watching the fun we have doing that! However, this week ...there was a new wrinkle added as I was poked on the shoulder and told to look at the back of the room. When I turned around to look...what do you think I saw? This was so cool...but there were the lovely ladies and spouses of "Hot Wax" performing all of the same dance moves that we do at the end of the show.

That was so cool...and we "waxers" loved seeing that! Now we don't feel so stupid...LOL! Nah...just joking...we thought that was great of you gals to get in the spirit and do that! What took you gals so long? Now, if we could only get you to come up front and join us. Ok...one step at a time...you know ...baby steps...but we will get you there eventually...LOL! Thanks gals...that was truly fun to watch!

( A FEW MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS & COMMENTS ):

Ok...we are going to have to do something about these long breaks between shows! We all know that nothing bad ever happens during "Hot Wax" week or on "Hot Wax" day...as there is just some

kind of magic that takes over! However, I think we are finding out that there is bad karma...when there are no "Hot Wax" shows for awhile...and we just can't have this happen ever again!

Have you noticed that since "Hot Wax" has been on hiatus...that Bobby's Mom got sick and had to go to the hospital, Tiffany's dad had surgery, Gail's dad had surgery, Shirley's sister Carol had both wrists operated on, the 5/3rd bank show was canceled, we had an ice storm knocking off power, the Crystal Palace went out of business, Britney did a Tito and shaved her head, and Ole "Ambassador Bob" lost his voice for a week! Ok....most of the news was bad anyway...LOL! Anyway Bobby...no more breaks this long!

It was great getting Rocky back for the Palace show...as we really missed Rocky big time for the opening show at Jim and Jacks! Great job Rocky and all of our very talented "SoS" boys led by Mr. Buddy Love. After we thought that we were going to lose Tiny a couple of months ago...it was great to look over at Tiny's usual spot and see Tiny's smiling and reassuring face! We sure are glad that we get to keep the big guy!

I want to thank my two fellow amigos, the Jimster and the Rickmeister for the professional job they both do at each and every show!

It was great seeing the joy on "Little One's" face as Gail gave Shirley her seat for the Elvis portion of the show! It was also fun like always watching Pat Roth enjoy herself and Pat's spirit and enthusiasm is just infectious! I can't tell you how good it was to see my good friend Paulette up and about after some serious health problems...and it was just great to see her back at a "Hot Wax" show!

It was also great to see the dynamic duo of "Devil Woman" Tiffany ...and her side kick "Angel" Angie at a show together again. They were not together for the last Christmas show at J&J's on December 9th...or the opening show at J&J's on January 27. It's just not the same when you see one without the other! It's kind of like seeing Abbott without Costello! Hmm...that's a bad example...because those two kids are too young to know who I am talking about. Ok...it's like seeing the Lone Ranger without Tonto! Geez...they are still too young to know who I am talking about. Ok...let's try this one...when DW & Angel are not together...it's like seeing Beavis without Butthead ...that will work! That's a joke Devil...please no hex on me!

A couple of people have asked me if there are going to be new "Hot Wax" T-shirts soon. I don't know the answer to that question yet. Maybe Bruno can let us know on the comment page. I have told the people at Deer Park about the great following that "Hot Wax" has...so wouldn't it be great if every "waxer"...and I mean every "waxer" showed up at Deer Park...wearing "Hot Wax" apparel of some kind? Wear your "Hot Wax" T-shirts or your sweaters or your jackets or your polo shirts....and if you can't do that then I might still have some "Hot Wax" buttons to adorn yourself with...but we all need to try to find something. That would be awesome and quite impressive...I think...do you agree?

While we are talking about Deer Park...I can't emphasize how important this show is to Deer Park...as the money goes to help out a lot of the activities that the kids participate in! As we all know...it is getting harder and harder for the schools to continue funding these activities. Wouldn't we all prefer that our kids be involved with activities like Dance teams, Drill teams and Athletic activities....than some of the evil things our kids get involved with when they are not involved with school events!

This show is important to "Hot Wax" also...because if this Deer Park event is a huge success....then there are a whole lot of other schools who may want to copy their success....and book our boys for their fund raisers! This show is also very important to me personally....because I was very involved with landing this show! I convinced my oldest friends who have kids at Deer Park that if they wanted to get "Hot Wax" booked for a fund raiser...that I would guarantee them they would make money! On the other end...I convinced my good buddies in "Hot Wax" that this

is a great venue and a great cause...and that they would enjoy playing at Deer Park....so as you can see....I am in the middle of everything on this show....and I would appreciate it so much if all of my "waxer" friends would help me out on this one!

I have asked your help on several occasions to help bring a big crowd to support "Hot Wax"...and you have always come through....and both "Hot Wax" and myself have been very grateful! This time it is a little different...and I am asking you to do me a favor....and help me out on this one! Please do your best to bring everyone you can to Deer Park! Call old friends, ask neighbors, check with your brothers and sisters, ex husbands and wives, future husbands and wives....I'm not picky! Well...you get the idea...and please do remember that you are allowed to bring children to this show! I'm not going to ask you to try to have children for this show...because there just simply isn't time...but if you just want to have the fun of trying ....then that is fine with me too!

By the way...this is a great venue as it has auditorium or theatre seating...and that is really a cool way to see a "Hot Wax" show! The people who traveled to Wilmington's Murphy theatre last year in February know what I am talking about. However, Deer park seats 900 people compared to the Murphy theatre's 700....although Deer park will only have 800 seats available for the "Hot Wax" show. Deer Park seats about 600 or so on the floor and probably about 300 in the balcony if I was guessing...and I am guessing. Although Deer Park hold more people than the Murphy theatre did....Deer Park looks smaller ...and you are sitting closer to the stage....so it is much more intimate.

This is a can't miss show! The venue is great and unique for a "Hot Wax" show. It will also be the first "Hot Wax" show in 7 weeks ...so you know we need a fix! Bobby has promised me new material...and a few surprises also. There will be dancing girls...and all kinds of newcomers from Deer Park that we can have fun talking to and bragging about our boys...and then watching their faces as our boys rock the roof off the place! The acoustics are great ....so can you imagine the looks on their faces when Tommy hits that 7 second note in Cara Mia! Holy Moly...I just got goose bumps! Remember also...that all of the money goes to a good cause...so "waxers" get out there and find your newbies for the show....and please show up in big numbers!

I know a few of you are not happy that the doors don't open until only 30 minutes before the show....because we like to get there and socialize with each other and the Deer Park people before the show. Unless the doors opening at 7:00 is "Hot Wax's" idea....I think that I may be able to talk to Terry at Deer Park and get him to open the doors an hour early...and convince him we will spend more money on snacks also if he lets that happen. The seating is festival seating ...so it is first come ...first serve....so I will see you "waxers at noon...LOL! Remember that the tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. If it would be more convenient for me to purchase your tickets for you...just let me know...and I will be glad to do that for you.

I want to thank Pat and the Ottoman for taking the time to make flyers for the show and all of the rest of you "waxers" who have volunteered to help get them distributed . Deer Park will start the promotion of this show shortly. They will post the event on their nice marquee in front of the school maybe as early as this week. They plan on running ads in both the Post and the Enquirer and all of the local Deer park papers. I know that the radio station "WDJO 1160 am" will sometimes run free spots on their great oldies radio station for fund raisers...so I will have a e-mail ready to go in the next week asking them if that is a possibility. I will also thank WDJO for mentioning the name "Hot Wax" every 5 minutes on their station. Way to go Bobby...you were a genius when you were thinking ahead 24 years ago and you named the group "Hot Wax" ...LOL!

Ok as I wrap up...I want to remind all of you "waxers" that there are a couple of great shows in the area that might interest you during this "Hot Wax" break in the schedule. Direct from Broadway...the best Rock n' Roll show since "Grease" ...."All Shook Up" which features all Elvis songs will be playing at the Aronoff Center starting on February 27th until March 11th. Phone 513-241-7469 for tickets and 513-369-4363 for groups of 20 or more. Bobby will be making a

guest appearance as Elvis on closing night March 11th! Ok...maybe he won't....and maybe Ole "A-Bob" has been at this just a little too long and I need to end soon!

I know that a lot of you wanted to see the Doo-Wop show featuring a lot of the big name national acts that you have seen on the public TV concerts at the Taft theatre on March 24th...but you thought that wouldn't be possible because we were going to be playing at the Palace that night. However, as you all know by now...that won't be happening now since the Palace has closed their doors...so that is now an option. I heard that the low range tickets are \$11.00....and the top end ducats are going for \$70.00...if your interested.

Ok...before I sign off....I want to apologize for my last two commentaries running so late. As most of you know...until 3 shows ago...I have never missed getting a commentary out...and most of the time they were right on time. It bothers me a great deal that the last two have been so late. I don't want to make too many excuses but it is getting harder to stick to my commentary schedule as these very creative masterpieces take me much longer to write than you might think!

Gail and I have 2 Mom's and a Dad that are all over 80 years old and still living at home...and counting on us as their main care takers...and all of them are in poor health....so as most of you know...that takes some time. I am also writing a lot more often on the comment page...and I try to keep that current and interesting....and that will be much improved now that I have this commentary completed! I am also more involved with promoting the shows...and more involved with seating and reservations issues.

I'm also trying to help out a little on the booking end of things and trying to help Bobby and Bruno a little if I can on finding some new gigs. I was fortunate enough with the cooperation of "Hot Wax" to land this Deer Park job. I am almost certain that I can get us a good gig in Florence for their new "Florence Y'all festival" in June...if we can agree on a date...but the date issue is a serious problem at the moment. I also have some pretty good leads in Crittenden, Harrodsburg and maybe Taylor Mill or Edgewood....but landing jobs for a band this size and this talented is never as easy as you might think...so we will see.

I hope that all of you "waxers" keep your eyes and ears open for potential shows in your home area. Now, after doing so many of these commentaries...trying to come up with fresh new material is getting more and more difficult. I will not post a commentary that is poor quality or lame in my opinion. I would rather not post one than let that happen. While working on my last 2 commentaries...I was not happy with either of the first drafts...and I tore them up and started over! That as much as anything caused the commentaries to be late!

Anyway...I want to thank everyone for being so patient with me...and I want everyone to know that I am doing my best. Like always...I want to thank all of my "Hot Wax" and "waxer" friends for being so friendly and kind to me when you see me! Ok...I truly need to sign off....but taking the time to read this should run you up real close to show time at Deer Park on March 31st!  
Remember to (PTP)...Pack the Park!

Ok...I must be OFF...( insert your wisecracks here )...see you in "Deer park!"

"Ambassador Bob"