

HOT WAX SHOW - Crystal Palace in Fairfield (05-06-06) : We couldn't wait for Saturday night to arrive as it seemed like forever from the time it was announced that "Hot Wax" was scheduled to play the Crystal Palace until our boys hit the Stage. We felt the same excited anticipation that we felt while waiting for the opening day back on February 18th. Again, there were so many unknowns. We had no idea what the venue was going to be like since "Hot Wax" had never played there before. We had no idea what kind of a crowd to expect. We were told that there were some new songs in the show and others removed....but we didn't know which ones. Everyone knew I would hyperventilate at some point during the show....but again, no one knew exactly when!

Our gang plus Debbie, who actually is part of our gang now and our other very nice newcomers Connie, Rita, Jim and Vicki arrived at the Crystal Palace very early, probably around 6:30. We wanted to check everything out....and we did. We were impressed as soon as we saw the building.....and it just kept getting better from there! I know a lot of what I am saying is going to seem redundant since many of the people who read my commentary were there. However, try to remember that I started writing my commentaries originally for all of the "waxers" who for one reason or another were not able to make it to the show....and that is still my main goal. Debbie stated in her flattering comments the other day that even though she was at the show that she still looks forward to reading my nonsense.....I mean my commentaries because Debbie says that I still usually come up with some interesting things that she missed....and so I hope that I'm able to that also.

We entered the building and we immediately loved everything about it! Greg, you should be proud of your place and I'm sure that you are....and rightfully so! They say that you can't have your cake and eat it to....well that's not true at the Crystal Palace! If you choose to smoke.....then there is a large room to do that.....and I don't mean a little room set off to the side whose only function is for you to smoke. It is actually another very large showroom with a house band on another big stage performing before the main show and performing again during breaks....and again after the main show. I'm not talking about some little 4 piece band either. I'm talking about a 7 or 8 piece big time band with horns (not Bob & Gail Horn) but still horns....and they are very good. They are called "the Barstool Gypsies" and can be seen most nights at the Palace. If you don't want to be in a smoking area....then you enter the main showroom where "Hot Wax" performed. The showroom is very nice and it is just a terrific place to see a big time show. The lighting is very eloquent and the wall to wall carpeting looks great also! The restroom facilities are very convenient. There is a nice sized menu for you to choose from if you get hungry. This will end my Martha Stewart portion of my commentary! There was only one complaint that I heard and it was not a major complaintbut I heard it frequently and that was that you could not order or be served food during the show. I'm not sure if that was a Palace policy or a "Hot Wax" policy....but after a few inquiries.....the Palace was very flexible....and served food to those who asked....and that was greatly appreciated. I'm in the middle on that policy....and can see pro's and cons on both sides of that issue.

I'll tell you another great feature about the Crystal Palace.....and I and many other fans wished every venue had this policy or option. When the performers go on break at the Palace.....they do not immediately blast you with recorded music that is sometimes even louder than the live music. I can't stress this enough.....but when a lot of people go to a venue like the Palace, Jim & Jacks or the Starlite Ballroom, you are usually attending with friends....and sometimes friends you haven't seen in quite awhile. It is virtually impossible to talk to anyone during the show and you usually don't want to talk during the show anyway.....but when you bring friends to a show.....you usually can't wait to get an opportunity to discuss with your friends what you are seeing.....and just have some nice conversation during the limited time that you have during the intermission. If your anything like me....and thank God that most of you aren't....LOL.....you also like to get up and mingle with others at the show or talk to some of the very nice wives and girlfriends of the band members.....and maybe even talk to their husbands every now and then....LOL! Anyway, once again, the Palace provides an excellent option. You can stay in the main showroom and mingle and talk amongst your friends in a great

quiet atmosphere....or you can go over to the other large room and listen to the Barstool Gypsies and dance the night away during the break.....which is a perfect solution for guys like the Rickster and myself when that urge to become John Travolta from Saturday Night Fever just overwhelms us! Anyway when ole "Ambassador Bob" gets his own club called.....ummm....let's see....."Ambassador Bob's"....I can assure you that you will be able to socialize during the breaks without going home with a sore throat! Now, my fellow "waxers"...I am trying to help you all out with this policy as I'm not worried about myself, because they haven't invented anything loud enough to shut me up! I knew you "waxers" were thinking that....so I just beat you to the punch....LoL! Anyway, to sum up our thoughts about the Crystal Palace.....we absolutely love it! The amazing this is that it is going to be remodeled some more! Thanks Greg for being so helpful to Gail and myself with all of our seating questions! You promised my gang of 30 the best seats in the house when we called and they truly were great seats.....but I'm not sure there is a bad seat in the house! Thanks so much Greg for booking "Hot Wax" and we will be here for everyone of their shows.....but your venue is so nice that I'm sure that we will visit on other occasions also. Greg, I'm not sure if you will see my commentarybut I hope you do....but I will tell you that as large as the crowd was Saturday night.....that "Hot Wax" usually draws even bigger crowds in the fall and winter! So not only are we fans or "waxers" delighted that our boys will be back in the fall....but Greg I think you will be delighted with the results also! Geez.....I wonder if the Palace needs an "Ambassador".

Now, it's time to get to by far the most important part of this weeks commentary! To all of my fellow "waxers".....I can't THANK you enough for coming through and "Packing the Palace" like you all did Saturday night....and I know the "Boys in the Band" can't thank you enough! This was a huge opportunity for "Hot Wax" and I can't overemphasize it and we knew it! We knew this was a great venue and might be the best place in the entire area to see a show like "Hot Wax" puts on. We also knew that if our boys had a great showing....that they would be brought back for more shows.....which was our ultimate goal! It is getting harder and harder to find clubs that book great live entertainment and the Palace looks like one of the best venues in the entire area.....so this was going to be a very big night for 'Hot Wax"! We also knew that we had to draw a bigger crowd than most of the other bands being booked because "Hot Wax" is very unique. They are one of the very, very few show bands in the area. This means that unlike most other bar bands.....there will be no dancing at a "Hot Wax" show and people will have to be there just for the show. Because "Hot Wax" is such a great show band.....then there is usually a cover charge to see them that other bands are not able to get. However, because of all of these factors, "Hot Wax" has the pressure to deliver big time strictly on their talent.....and guess what....they always do! I go see many local bands and I have seen every band on the Palace's projected schedule so far and some of them several times.....and they are all very good and entertaining....and we enjoy all of them very much. However, "Hot Wax" honestly outdraws each and everyone of those other excellent bands! I also go check out the other bands for a night of entertainment and to see what the competition is up too. However, the main reason I go.....is that it just makes me feel good and confirms what we "waxers" already knew.....and that is..... that we are following absolutely the best "Oldies" cover band in the entire area.....and now Fairfield knows it too! I'll go one step farther than the local area.....and I swear this is true. I went and saw the nationally touring and well known show band, the "Van Dels", twice in the last 2 years and I went with a large group of 20 or so.....mostly relatives who usually only see "Hot Wax" once or twice a year.....and we paid \$30.00 to get in to see the Van Dels and by a small majority.....over half of the people in my crowd said they enjoyed the "Hot Wax" show better. My friends thought that both bands were excellent but thought that the "Hot Wax" show had more energy and was more fun!

I know that I have been campaigning and probably driving some of you crazy for the last month to "Pack the Palace" and I was hoping that my "waxer" buddies would come through like the great loyal "waxers" that you are....and now I wonder what I was worried about as we already know "Hot Wax" is the best cover band in the tri-state area....and "waxers" are by far the best and most loyal fans in the entire tri-state area! Even ex- Hot Wax band members will be the first to admit that. They will say no matter how many bands I have played with or no matter how many I may

play with in the future....they will never have the great loyal fans that "Hot Wax" has! It is just simply put.... very unique! Anyway, as most of you "waxers" already know by now.....I am happy to announce that "Hot Wax" has been booked for another show in October.....and very possibly a Xmas show in December. How cool would that be? Great, great job "waxers" of "Packing the Palace" and your reward is that you will not have to hear "Pack the Palace" or "Persuade Two People" ever again.....well at least not until October! I know that makes Debbie and the Jimster very happy as they said they couldn't take it any longer....LOL! However, if we don't hear from the Starlite soon.....then we may have to (StS).....yep....."Storm the Starlite"....LOL! THANKS one last time to the entire "Hot Wax" nation!

Ok gang....SURPRISE....this could be a long one! We'll take a small break here. Get up and stretch.....Rick, go walk your dog, Debbie go get a cup of coffee. I just got me a nice cup of coffee and a couple of Oreo cookies as I listen to the 1160 Wdjo "oldies station in the background. These Oreo cookies are starting to resemble small 45 records. Hmmm.... I wonder if I may need a little longer break than I thought. Nah....the show must go on. I've seen my boys perform when they felt way worse than this! Ole "Ambassador Bob" will just have to suck it up....LOL! Ok...time to move on.

(BAND AND SHOW OBSERVATIONS!)

(1) - This 2006 edition of "Hot Wax" is really coming together.....and I believe the band had the most fun that they have had this season.....and we really enjoyed watching the fun! The band looks like a group of friends playing together and not just talented musicians who are playing music together. There was a lot of real cutting up on the stage and cracking up also and that was great to see. The first show was very entertaining like alwaysbut that second show was just sensational! I watched Johnny Rockets expression during the first show.....and then watched his expressions most of the second show as he was off on the side taking in the show. I can't really explain how different his expression was on each show....but I found it very interesting.

(2) - After a half season of getting to know all of the new guys..... we "waxers" have now reached the point where we feel like these guys are now family and close friends like we always felt about our other "Hot Waxers"! I don't believe Bobby could have brought in a nicer or more talented bunch of fellows! Like they used to say about the Reds fans.....they are not just Reds fansbut very knowledgeable baseball fans. Well, "waxers" are not only "Hot Wax" fans....but very knowledgeable band fans.....and even if we don't talk or write as much about the back line people like we do the front liners.....and that's just the nature of the beast in the band business.....believe me, we talk amongst ourselves and we know how talented and valuable our 3 great newcomers like Sticky, Boomer and Cadillac Charlie are and even just as important to most "waxers"classy, very likable people also!

(3) - "Hot Wax" added several new songs and took out a few this week. I believe that Tommy added a new one of the do-wop, falsetto variety....and I am racking my brain to think of the name of it. The ole memory just isn't what it used to be. I believe Tommy's song was a song done by the "Tokens" of "the Lion Sleeps Tonight " fame. I just know that we liked the song and gave our familiar thumbs up signal when we heard the song in our gang. Forgive my memory lapse as it is now 5:00 in the morning and I would be embarrassed to tell you how long I have been at this....LOL! Einstein has added 3 songs I believe including Frank Sinatra's "That's Life" and "New York, New York". I think that Einstein may have done a do-wop song called "Drip Drip" also or I may be confusing and mixing up the new do-wop songs. I do know for certain that the old "Tumble Weeds" song with the wooden horses are gone. Mary Montgomery will be devastated as she loved Bruno's horse! Tommy's Billy Joe Royal cover of "Cherry Hill Park" is gone also.

(4) - Frank Einstein may have had his best night with the group since he joined "Hot Wax"! While Einstein had a little "Trouble in Paradise".....he was great in "New York, New York" and you know what, "That's Life"! All kidding aside, I am not a huge Frank Sinatra fan but Einstein did fantastic job on both of the Sinatra numbers and I thought he was super on " "That's

life"! The "Hot Wax" arrangement was fantastic on both of those songs. Even though I am not a big Sinatra fan.....I appreciate good music and Einstein did them so well that I thoroughly enjoyed them and as I looked around the room so did just about everyone else. Einstein was also extra funny Saturday night and Einstein seems to get more comfortable each week. Einstein had everyone cracking up on his way over the top version of a "Man of Constant Sorrow"....LOL! Einstein has kind of morphed into a hybrid of Jerry Lewis and Eugene....and that certainly is not a bad thing. Einstein's transition from a very nerdy nerd in the first show to a sophisticated very dapper Frank Sinatra in the second show happened faster than Oprah gains weight. Quite a change and the Sinatra look is outstanding! Way to go..... Einstein!

(5) - Jean had mentioned on the comment page that she did not care what songs were added to the show as long as Bobby kept in "Hurt" and "Only Make Believe"! Jean, you and I are thinking just alike as I feel the same way. Jean, I'm not sure how happy that is going to make you to know that you think like me....try not to worry about that too much....LoL! I think Bobby's best number ever is "Hurt".....and I also think that "Only Make Believe" is the most underrated song in the show. Everyone just reacts to that song so favorably when Bobby does that number.....and if your in the audience.....you see smiles everywhere when they recognize it....but we don't talk about it as much as othersbut we love that song! I have said this before and I still believe it strongly that even after hearing the "American Trilogy" probably more than anyone else.....that it is the perfect closing number for Bobby's Elvis set! It is very dramatic and the band sounds great on it. It is a goose bump song every time it is done and a perfect song for what the country is going through these days. It is a great song also because it was never overplayed on the radio ...so it is still fresh and exciting. It is also very uniquely Elvis as no one can relate that song to anyone else but Elvis although I believe it was originally done by some obscure artistI think. I whole heartily agree with Jean that "Hurt" should never be out of the show and that "Trilogy" should always close the Elvis set! Change all of the other Elvis songs all you wantbut please leave those two songs alone. Please don't make me beg Bobby....LOL!

(6) - One of my best friends Greg Rascona and his lovely wife Sharon came to the show the other night and I can't begin to tell you how impressed they were with the show....although they only saw the second show. I told Greg who was a great musician in his day and played at one time in a show band out of Pittsburg to listen to the great little add on at the end of Bruno's "Proud to be an American" where our boys break immediately into "And crowned thy good with brotherhood from sea to shinning sea" to see what he thought of it. I think it just works so well... and it was a brilliant idea to put that in there but again I thought that maybe it was just me. My friend Greg heard it and thought that it was absolutely awesome....and wondered how could anyone not love it! Greg's wife, Sharon, by the way as usual found Bruno to be very hot and sexy guy so I've made a big decision. I'm so sick of hearing about Bruno being so hot that so I've decided since my hair is starting to thin anyway that I will put some Ortho or Weed be Gone on my head to speed the process along so I can be a stud like Bruno. I'm not sure why....but I have a gut feeling that when my hair falls out that I may not get the same reaction that Bruno gets.....just a hunch! I may need to put some more thought into this! By the way my friend Greg and his wife, Sharon, are hooked already as they made reservations for Jim & Jacks on the 3rd of June and are bringing some friends with them.

(7) - Big time "waxer" fan, Tiffany Reynolds, won the hula hoop contest this week. There must be something in the genes of this Reynolds clan as Tiff's father won the contest back on February 18th at J&J's when "Hot Wax" opened the season. You looked good up there on stage Tiff. Our boys may have to find a way to keep you up there permanently...LOL!

(8) - I'm starting to find out that Bobby has quite a sense of humor. When the band comes out to do their encore, Mary Montgomery and her Pips....not to be confused with Gladys Knight and her Pips try to copy the boys choreography on their closing Temptations number. By the wayRick & I are the Pips. I'm copying Bobby step for step.....and then being a wise guy Bobby threw a fake move at me real quick....and I fell for it quickly and did the fake move much to Bobby's pleasure! If we would have been playing "Mother may I"...I would have been eliminated! I've

also noticed that since I began giving odds on what color Elvis outfit was going to be that I have been wrong every weekwhen I used to be right 95% of the time! I suggest "waxers" that we don't let that wise guy, Bobby know the odds anymore.....what do you think?

(9) - A pat on the back to our "Syndicate of Sound" boys led by Mr. Buddy Love as Buddy, Rocky and Tiny had a very rough and extremely long day. How about a 20 hour day or close to it. Buddy was busier than a one armed coat hanger! Don't ask me what that means.....I don't know but my dad used to say it all the time and I know he was busy when he said it! Without their contribution.....we are not celebrating our new gigs at the Crystal Palace. Thanks from both the "Waxers" and us "waxers". Great job guys!

(10) - Last, but certainly not least....I want to congratulate our friends and former "Hot Wax" members from the talented group "The Vibe" on their successful debute at J & J's Friday night. Jaime, I hope you guys can make it to a show soon and Biff.....send your Mom and sister over some time as we miss seeing them!

(FAN OBSERVATIONS!)

(1) - Nikki, I tried my best to get you into the show but ole "Ambassador Bob" just couldn't pull it off this time....but we will see you at the next couple of shows and I have great seats for you. Nikki....I wished my biggest problem was that I'm not 21 years old yet. I have some really serious problems...like....well.....how to get Bobby to learn my great Bee Gees number, "To Love Somebody"! Bobby, let's face it....it would be easier to learn the song and put it in the show than to hear me mentioning it all the time. You would think that you would reward me just for my persistency....LOL!

(2) - I missed seeing Loma and Judy this weekbut I am glad to hear that we will see you in Dillsboro on the 20th. Mary Day....we miss seeing you also.....hope to see you soon!

(3) - Debbie, It was super having you join our gang and traveling with us to Fairfield. We really enjoyed it and hope you did too. You also made my day by crying right on cue like always when Bobby sang his heart felt and very moving "Fan" song. I'm sorry Debb...you just make me laugh when that happens....probably Bobby's sense of humor rubbing off on me. Debbie, on a much more serious note.....best of luck to you and your son when he has his colon surgery today. Debb, keep your chin up because if there is such a thing as law of averageand I strongly believe there is....then you are due for a windfall real soon! Know that you will be in the thoughts and prayers of everyone in the Hot Wax" nation!

(4) - Rickmeister....thanks so much for all of the time you took to provide all of us with the large packets of pictures....they were great! Now, Stop scaring Tommy....we can't afford to lose him! Thanks to the Jimster also for his usual great work with all of the publicity photos that he takes at every show! also....it goes without saying that all of our "Hot Wax" women are hot....but our group of wives and ladies at our table looked unbelievable the other night. Jimster, Rickmeister, Mcgee.....lets face it.....we married way over our heads! Mcgee, we just can't find the right words to say how great your wife Sandy looked....and I thought that Sandy told me once that she was a Tom Boy.....LOL!

(5) - To the Helwig clan....it was great having you as neighbors at the show Saturday night and most shows from now on. The Helwig sisters, Nancy & Barb, have now surpassed the Hilton sisters as my favorite sisters! We won't see you girls in Dillsboro....but Happy Birthday on the 17th, Nancy! Your friend Diane was also very nice and I really enjoyed talking to her. She told me that she is hooked now alsoso we have another new "waxer"!

(6) - To Pat & Otto Roth... my new best "waxer" buddies. I owe you guys a couple of mentions....as I just could not remember your names when I originally met you to save my life! I'm glad that I am getting to know you both so well now as you are both very nice people and I

love talking to you both at the shows. I'm still worried that Otto is after my job as I have seen some of his stuff on this site and on another site where he looked like he was applying to be their ambassador.....and he writes pretty good. To all of my fellow "waxers"....if I should die suddenly or turn up missing soon.....have the police question Otto first!

(7) - Last but not least....I used to watch a TV show when I was a youngstercalled "Spanky and our Gang". Well....today I want to thank "Spanky and her Gang" for all of the nice comments I received last week! Like always....I also want to thank everyone for treating me so great and being so nice to me. Thanks Everyone!

Ok, sorry that this ran so long as usual.....but I had 3 weeks of writing built up in me....and I wrote a little more this week because of the Palace news. I also may have to write a short one next week because of some time constraints....so I may have over compensated on this weeks commentary. I had a new feature called "Fans wish List" ready to go this week.....but it would have added too much to an already too long commentary. I actually had about 5 or 6 people tell me that they print these gems out on their printers to save or to let others read! Who knew....LOL! Otto, wait till you see how much you spend on ink this week!

Ok, gangI guess I will see you on the 20th in Dillsboro, Indiana. There is a pretty large contingent of "waxers" heading over there! If you have not been there....you may want to get there early as it is a neat little street fair. You can put your chairs down and stroll around and eat some tasty food and have a few cold beverages. Anyway....(DtD)....drive to Dillsboro! That was just a joke....I promise....LOL!

Ok, I must be OFF (insert your wisecracks here) and be safe and see you soon!

"Ambassador Bob"