

DILLSBORO OUTDOOR STREET FAIR SHOW (05 - 17 - 08): After missing a season...It was great once again to open the "Hot Wax" outdoor season with our good friends in Dillsboro! Although the weather was very threatening all day long ...we knew it was going to clear up for the evening show....because...we all know the weather always clears up on "Hot Wax" day. Well...at least it seems that way...doesn't it?

Anyway...by 5:30...the weather was absolutely perfect...and so was the setting for the 2008 "Hot Wax" outdoor show opener. I have said this before...but it bares repeating. This was true "Americana" at its best. Here we were on a beautiful spring afternoon in the Midwest heartland of America on Main Street USA in small town America! Dillsboro Indiana fits that description perfectly....and when I say that...I mean that in the most flattering way!

Before the show...I strolled along the midway...and took in that wonderful aroma that you can only smell in the air at a carnival or street fair. It's a unique mix of hot dogs, burgers, pizza, polish sausage, cotton candy, elephant ears, funnel cake....and homemade pies...that somehow all blends together...and combines to make a smell that needs to be bottled and sold as perfume! I know...that Ole "A-Bob" would love to smell that sweet smelling aroma on Princess Gail's neck!

I was only in Dillsboro for a very short time before I was amazed at a couple of things. I was amazed at how many "waxer's" had made the drive from the greater Cincinnati area to Dillsboro....although "loyal "waxer's" make those kind of trips so often anymore...that I should no longer be surprised! After all...we will be making a 3 hour trip to Liberty Kentucky this Saturday...and then another 3 hour trip to Bryant Indiana on the 5th of July.

My second surprise...was the large number of "Hot Wax" fans who live in Dillsboro...and have seen "Hot Wax" perform only in Dillsboro...but were so impressed when they had seen "Hot Wax" perform in the past...that they had already grabbed up seats on the very hard, very uncomfortable bleacher seats....3 hours before the show was scheduled to start...just to make sure they had a good seat for the upcoming show!

Ole "A-Bob" was very honored and flattered...that about a half an hour before the show...I was invited and welcomed into the "Hot Wax" dressing room, locker room, sanctuary or whatever you want to call it. Ladies...I have been asked this question over and over again....but I will answer this question one last time....Yes....the guys were all dressed when I went into their locker room...so please don't ask me that question again...lol!

I have to admit ...it was pretty cool being in the "Hot Wax" locker room before the show. Being in the "Hot Wax" locker room had the same feel as being in the Bengal's locker room before a game...except...not everyone in the "Hot Wax" locker room had a criminal record or a rap sheet!

In the locker room...Bobby was giving a very fiery Rah Rah speech to fire up our "Hot Wax" boys, right before the show....and Ole "A-Bob" got goose bumps! The atmosphere in the "Hot Wax" locker room was very intense as our boys were going over their last minute show plans...and show strategy.

To break the tension...Einstein led the boys in a pre-show prayer. Then...all of the fellows gathered around in a small tight circle...then in a show of comraderie....all of the "Hot Wax" members put their hands together...then at the count of 3....shouted "GOoooo Hot Wax"! Ok...maybe it didn't happen exactly that way....but that was the way I had always imagined it...lol!!

Our boys stormed the stage at 8:00 to a very large and receptive crowd....and our boys didn't disappoint that enthusiastic crowd! For those of you who could not get into the sold out show at Jim & Jacks a few weeks ago...I will tell you about some of the changes and excellent new material that has been added to the "Hot Wax" show.

When we perform at Jim & Jack's...there is plenty of time in the show to add new material....without having to take anything out of the show...but unfortunately that is not always the case at other venues...so there were a few numbers removed at Dillsboro. I know that the "Hand Jive" number was removed...and I know that DC's drum solo was missing. I felt that Tito's solo number was a bit shorter also...but I might be wrong about that. I'm certain there were maybe a few other numbers missing...but I can't recall them at the moment.

I know that the encore obviously at the end of the show where the "Hot Wax Solid Gold All Star Dancers" usually get up to dance...was missing also. In this case..."Hot Wax" had planned on doing the encore....but because of some city ordinance, curfew or something of that nature...the power was cut off.

I have a great suggestion for the Dillsboro show in the future...if we are fortunate enough to be invited back....and I hope that we are. My suggestion would be to start this show at 7:00 instead of 8:00. Two years ago in Dillsboro...it was very coldand last Saturday night it was very chilly again. Because...we do that show in mid May...and we are performing well into the evening....I'm afraid more often than not that cold weather is likely to be the norm. Obviously...it gets colder as the night goes on...so an earlier start would certainly help.

Since we were not allowed to perform the encore number...because the show had run too late into the evening...it would seem to me that a 7:00 start would solve that problem also. I mentioned the 7:00 start to many people Saturday night...and I couldn't find even one dissenter...so maybe...again if we are fortunate enough to be invited back...a 7:00 start might have some merit to it.

I won't spend too much time telling you how great our boys sounded ...because that simply goes without saying...doesn't it? Because all of our shows have been sold out this season...and our show last Saturday night was a long road trip for a lot of "waxer's"....many "waxer's" have not seen a "Hot Wax" show yet this season. For that reason...I will just take a little time to tell you about some of the great new show additions!

There have been some changes involving Tom Jones. Calm down ladies....Tom is still in the show...ruffled low cut shirt and all...lol! Instead of doing the 3 complete Tom Jones songs....that Bruno has done for awhile now...Bruno is now doing a new shorter medley of 3 or 4 Tom Jones songs ...including the classic..."What's New Pussycat".

I did panic a couple of weeks ago when the change was made in the Tom Jones medley...because the classic song..."I Who Have Nothing" was missing from the Tom Jones portion of the show. That song is just done so well by both Bruno and the band from the beginning of the song with the Great Sigsbee's wah wah pedal....through the dramatic back up vocals...to Bruno's last soaring note....that this classic number should always be in the show somewhere....much like "Trilogy" "Hurt", "Cara Mia"...and the Grass Roots medley!

Even if we regular hardcore "waxer's" have heard those terrific songs many times...we still love them because they are extra special numbers or classics....and when newcomer's come to the show....I know for certain that they are going to be very impressed by those great numbers! How could anyone hear "Hot Wax" do those songs and not be super impressed!

My good buddy Boomer asked me at the break at Jim & Jack's...what I thought about the new changes in the first show. I told Boomer...that I thought that the two new brief additions to the Guitarzan portion of the show were very funny and right on the money!

DC suggested that the band play a little bit of Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman" when that gorgeous hunk of a woman, Jane, (Tommy) struts her stuff out on the stage...and that works perfectly! Then DC also suggested that the band do just a little bit of the Turtles "You & Me"...and Tarzan & Jane do a lovely duet on that tune....and that is very funny also!

Now...what I also told Boomer at the break...was that there was definitely one change in the show...that I didn't like at all...and that was taking the great "I Who Have Nothing" number that I just talked about a minute ago out of the show...for all of the reasons that I just mentioned above. Anyway ...Boomer let me rant and rave for about 10 minutes about why removing that great song was not a good idea. Then Boomer patted me on the shoulder...and then whispered to me....be patient "A-Bob". Now...I know what he meant...because that great Tom Jones number was not removed from the show....but just moved out of the Tom Jones medley in the first show...and moved to the second show as a feature song!

Three weeks ago at Jim & Jacks right after our awesome Grass Roots medley in the second show...our boys also unveiled a brand new rocking "Paul Revere & the Raiders" 3 song medley with Raider hats and all....although the hats were missing this week....for some reason. This 3 song medley was immediately followed by 2 abbreviated new "Young Rascals" numbers...and they were very well done also!

The only problem with those new additions to the show to me was that they followed the fantastic "Grass Roots" medley! In my humble opinion...almost anything that follows that fantastic Grass Roots medley...is going to pale a little and seem a little mild when compared to that show stopping last Grass Roots number..."Temptation Eyes"! Having the Grass Roots first....and then following with the new Raiders & Rascals medley's....is kind of like eating your desert first...and then eating your meal. While both may be delicious....something is out of place.

This week "Hot wax" changed it around...and put the new material...the Raiders and the Rascals first...and then immediately followed that with the "Grass Roots"...and this worked much, much better in my humble opinion! With the new material first...all of these new numbers by the Raiders & the Rascals seemed way more upbeat without following the Grass Roots.

Now...after reversing the order of the groups...the new material with the Raiders & Rascals rocked and seemed much more up tempo....and they were now like the main course of a great meal! However...what was cool about this change was that we knew before long...that the show was going to take it up...yet another step and rock even more...as we still had our desert, the "Grass Roots" to look forward to! I thought the new line-up worked perfectly!

It now appears to me that with maybe the exception of the Righteous Brother's in the first show....that the two shows are now breaking down in chronological order....as the first show seems to be early Rock & Roll from the late 50's and early 60's with also some Rock-a-Billy and Doo-wop.....thrown in. The second show now seems to move up maybe to 5 to 10 years later or to the mid and late 60's. I don't know if that was done by accident or by design...but knowing "Hot Wax"... I'm guessing that was done by design....and I think it works very well!

I very recently saw the pioneers of what it is that "Hot Wax" does, the very talented "Van-dells"....and they put on a great show like always! I had some of my family with me and they are huge Van-dell's fans...but they have recently been converted to "Hot Wax" fans also. I asked all of them again...just like I did last year....which group they enjoyed the most....and they all told me the same thing. The vocals and the tight harmonies in the Van-dells are hard to beat. These guys have been together so long and done these same songs in the shows for so long ...that they could do them in their sleep....but all of that repetition makes the Van-dells sound so tight!

"Hot Wax" does not have the luxury of leaving songs in the show for years and years....because "Hot Wax" does not travel regionally like the Van-dells do. Because of that factor..."Hot Wax" performs in front of a lot of the same fans very often...and because they do...it is necessary to change their play list much more often than the Van-dells do. While changing songs adds to the variety of the "Hot Wax" show....it is hard to match the tightness of the Van-dells.

Now...again...I asked my family and friends and old Van-dell fans if they could only see one show....which show would it be? Just like last year...the vote was nearly unanimous in favor of "Hot Wax"! Most agreed that the Van-dells vocals were hard to beat....but that the "Hot Wax" show was just so much more entertaining and had way more energy in it! They also very much liked the longer show that "Hot Wax" performs!

The Van-dell's provide a lot of joking, talking and humor in their show...but the group of fans I was with... preferred by far...more music...and less talking....and that is what a "Hot Wax" show provides! To be fair to our good buds in the Van-dells....their second show...much like our entire show...is all music.

Now..."Waxer's... it is time to pat yourself on the back. The main thing that we all noticed at the Van-dells show...was the lack of enthusiasm in the crowd....at least when compared to a "Hot Wax" crowd! That might be... because most of the fans at a Van-dells show don't know each other....like we do at a "Hot Wax" show!

We always expect a party atmosphere at a "Hot Wax" show....and that is the way it always feels! People are smiling, hugging, chair dancing, and singing along with the band at a "Hot Wax" show! We just didn't see much of that at the Van-dells show.

There was virtually no rhythmic clapping at the Van-dell show during the songs....and believe it or not...there was only one standing ovation....and that came during the Van-dell's tremendous rendition of the "American Trilogy"!

Once again....both the very talented and entertaining "Van-dells" and "Hot Wax" put on terrific shows....but when my group was asked...if they could only see one show....they all agreed....that the choice was an easy one and it wasn't even close. "Hot Wax" performs a much more fun filled ...high energy...show!

Ok....I originally did this little commentary to tell all of you "waxer's" who have not been able to see "Hot Wax" yet...because all of the indoor shows have been sold out so far this year....about the new changes in the "Hot Wax" show....and I hope that I was able to do that.

While there have been some changes in the "Hot Wax" show...there is one thing that just never changes...and that is... that "Hot Wax" is still ...the best show band in the land!!!!

Before I sign off....I want to thank our "SOS" boys ...Rocky & Tiny....for their great job...like always, for setting up and operating all of the sound & lighting....and I want to thank my other two Musketeers...the Jimster & the Rickmeister for their usual great job....with the photo's and the souvenir stand!

Like alwaysthanks for being so nice to Ole "A-Bob" when I see you at the shows....and I hope to see all of you either at the 6:00 Liberty Kentucky show this Saturday May the 24th or at Jim & Jacks next Saturday May 31 at 9:15.

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