

Deer Park High School Show (03-31-07) : I was enjoying the great "Hot Wax" Christmas show at the Palace last December when Greg and Sharon Rascona, a couple of my oldest and best friends, surprised me and walked in and joined us. Greg is a former musician himself as many years ago he played keyboards in a show band much like "Hot Wax" out of Pittsburg. Needless to say...both Greg and Sharon were just blown away by what they heard from "Hot Wax". Greg's enthusiasm meant more to me than normal because I knew it was coming from a guy who knew music.

While I was talking to Sharon....I found out that she was very involved with school projects and fund raising events for Deer Park High School. That was all I needed to hear...because Sharon was smiling ear to ear at the Palace as our boys were rocking as the Righteous Brothers to "Little Latin Lupe ti Lu"....and I already knew that Sharon was hooked on our boys! Both Sharon and Greg just could not believe the versatility of our boys as "Hot Wax" would be tearing the roof off the Palace with a great Rock n' roll classic one minute...and then Einstein would be serenading us the next minute with the Nat King Cole classic "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire"!

It was at this time that I asked Sharon if she had thought about bringing a band like "Hot Wax" into Deer Park to do a fund raiser of any kind. Sharon was not aware that a band like "Hot Wax" would be interested in doing anything like that...but I informed Sharon that we had done a few in the recent past like Blanchester High School...and also MT. Notre Dame. That was all of the encouragement Sharon needed...as she could not wait till Monday to set up a meeting with the Deer Park School board. Sharon met with the 12 member board...and it didn't take long for Sharon with her enthusiasm for our boys to convince the board to meet with Bobby.

Because the gig was a fundraiser and for a good cause, Bobby, like normal, gave Deer Park a very generous discount rate....and Deer Park found that rate very fair. Now, all that was left...was to find a date that would be agreeable to both....and that date was March 31. Remember that date...because that date will play a significant part in my commentary as I progress.

A few days later...I went to the school and met with Terry Hartley, the athletic director, and another very nice lady, named Catherine, who was going to be running the Deer Park event. They could not have been any nicer to me. They showed me around the school and then took me to the auditorium where the show would be held...and I was both excited and impressed as I knew that this would be both a fantastic and unique place to see a "Hot Wax" show....and that you "waxers" would really enjoy this venue.

Catherine was very excited as this was going to be the first time that she had ever run a show like this. Catherine had some great ideas though and you would have never known it was her first time. Catherine was going to have the School

dance team perform a number with "Hot Wax" so that would be cool! Catherine was going to have the tickets available at 4 different schools in the district. She was also going to run ads in the local newspapers along with the Post and the Enquirer. They had flyers sent to every home in the district. Deer park promoted the event at other school events. They also got some radio time on WGRR...and Pat & Ottman Roth were able to convince Dusty Rhodes of WDJO to plug the event all week...and I also contacted WNKU radio. By the way...we would like to thank all of those nice people at those great radio stations for all of the free plugs for the event! The free air time was a big help!

The school was hoping optimistically to sell 350 to 400 tickets....and with everything I just told you that seemed like a reasonable goal. This show was booked 3 months in advance...so that left plenty of time to stir up interest and sell tickets. At this point in time...things looked very positive and upbeat! However, as the show approached and there were only 4 weeks to go till show time...only 40 tickets had been sold and....I had purchased them!

Now, I know that I should have had more faith in my boys....and I always do ...but I have to be honest...Ole "A-Bob" was starting to get pretty worried. At this point I went to my fellow "waxers" and asked for their help....and help they did! We certainly know that "Hot Wax" has legions of fans all throughout the area...but we just had to aggressively get the word out about the show and get a little more active in the selling of tickets! "Waxers" jumped into action! Within a couple of days...Rickmeister sold 14 tickets...and Lucy Mcgee sold 14 more. Pat & the Ottoman got involved with flyers....along with both of the Hilton sisters,(Helwig). With about one week to go before "Hot Wax" hit the stage...ticket sales had increased to about 120...and Ole "A-Bob" being the worrier that I am was still very much concerned!

I was now made aware that Deer Park was about to go on Spring break the day before the show...and that students and parents were going to be flooding out of town to various Spring break vacation resorts. I was also made aware that there were going to be 3 or 4 major school parties Saturday night. I was then made aware that the school dance team was no longer going to be performing...because of some of the events mentioned above. Then the worst news of all...when everyone reminded me that the college basketball final 4 tourney was scheduled for that same March 31 date that "Hot Wax" was booked for.

This Final Four event is one of the biggest sporting events of the entire year....and just to make matters worse...Yep...you guessed it....of course....Ohio State had to be one of the Final four schools still in the event....so this was going to be a huge obstacle that we would have to overcome to sell tickets for the "Hot Wax" show!

I am getting more concerned each day...and On Sunday March 25th...6 days before the show....I decided that maybe a few of us "waxers" needed to go up to the school and stage a little "Hot Wax " rally With the help of the Rickmeister and his lovely wife Ethel...both Barb and Nancy Helwig...and of course my lovely wife, Princess Gail...we staged the rally. We hung "Hot Wax" T-shirts every where. We made signs...and we blasted "Hot Wax" music all day long!

During the rally...for the first time ...Ole "A-Bob" was starting to feel a little upbeat. While we only sold a couple of handfuls of tickets that day....the enthusiasm of the nice folks who stopped by just to talk about "Hot Wax" was simply amazing! There were so many people who had seen "Hot Wax" perform for years at the "Taste of Blue Ash" and absolutely loved our boys...but because we had not played Blue Ash in quite a few years were not aware that "Hot Wax" was still performing. The smiles on the faces on so many of these people when they realized that this was the same "Hot Wax" that they fell in love with years ago....was very encouraging!

Almost all of these nice people planned on buying tickets but were just waiting until later in the week. We talked to one very nice fellow who loved "Hot Wax" many years ago ...but did not know they were still performing. He was so excited that he wanted to buy the t-shirt off our backs. He was so disappointed when he found out that the show was on March 31...because he had to travel to down state Kentucky for a birthday party for his 24 year old daughter on that day....and he would have to miss the show. The man was so disappointed that I believe he was near tears! He told me that the only way that he could make the show was if his daughter became ill...and the party was canceled. He then asked me if it would make him a bad father if he kind of hoped that his daughter would become ill that day...nothing major...but maybe a bad cold or something...so that he could make the show! That is a true story...LOL! By the end of our rally...I was feeling much better...as it was starting to become obvious that "Hot Wax" fever was starting to spread throughout Deer Park! Ole "A-Bob" was starting to get pumped!

The day after the rally....I was told that ticket sales were starting to pick up...and on the Monday after the Sunday rally...ticket sales jumped from 120 to 170. Now...a lot of "waxers" were still concerned...but I was just the opposite at this point. There was absolutely no incentive for people to buy their tickets weeks in advance. The seating was going to be festival seating...or in other words....seating on a first come, first serve basis...and there would be no refunds! At this point ...I am thinking that only a band with "Hot Wax's" reputation could sell over 170 tickets a week before a show....so I was plesed with that number with 5 days to go!

By the time Friday or the day before the show arrived...I was called from the school office, again by one of my peeps, and told that as of 2:00 in the afternoon that over 400 tickets had been sold. By the end of Friday ...I was told that the

total had reached near 500...and that was all presale! There would still be tickets sold at the door on show night. This is an impressive number under any circumstances...but remember all of the adversity and competition from other events that was taking place that same evening...and that makes the ticket sales even more impressive! There was a lesson to be learned here...and that is...never doubt the drawing power or the magic of "Hot Wax"!

I can't thank everyone who was involved with making this show such a huge success enough! Special thanks goes out to all of my fellow "waxers" who helped me so much selling tickets and promoting the show. Special thanks to all of the great "waxers" who showed up and bought tickets to support both "Hot Wax" and the show! Special thanks to my great friends, Greg and Sharon Rascona, for getting the show! Special thanks to the Deer Park School board for taking the risk of bringing "Hot Wax" in to perform! Also ...a very special thanks to both Terry and Catherine for doing such a great job of running the event! I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone involved with the show from Deer Park for making both "Hot Wax" and us "waxers" feel so welcome! Your hospitality was just amazing and the band can never remember being treated any nicer...than they were at Deer park! Last but certainly not least...a very Special thanks to "Hot Wax" for coming into Deer Park and thrilling and entertaining the people of Deer Park...just like "Hot Wax" does...everywhere they perform!

Now...onto the show! All day Saturday was a beautiful day....until it was time to drive to Deer Park....and then the rain began to pour...so again another reason for me to worry if the weather was going to hurt the crowd size! However, as we all know though, this was "Hot Wax" night and as we also know...things just seem to go well on "Hot Wax" night...so naturally 10 minutes after we pulled into Deer park....and an hour before the show...the sun naturally broke out from behind the clouds...and the weather was perfect!

I was fortunately permitted to enter the school early Saturday night and I found Bobby, Tiny, Doc, the lovely "First Lady " Tina, Prime minister Katie, Queen Spanky...and the angelic Angie already inside the auditorium...and I enjoyed talking to each and everyone of them! I didn't enjoy chatting as much as usual ...because unfortunately I had a clogged up right ear...and was having a hard time hearing anyone. For anyone who is interested and there were more than a few of you who have written me and asked and wished me well....my ear had almost returned to normal Tuesday and Wednesday. However today, Thursday, I have taken a step backwards ...and my ear may be as bad as when it started. It looks like Ole "A-Bob" who never goes to a doctor...just may have to do that very soon....as my current condition is very uncomfortable and very frustrating!

Hopefully...my ear will clear up before tomorrow as I have a fun filled Jim & Jacks "Rock n' Roll" weekend planned. I plan on doing some of my best John Travolta moves Friday evening as we dance to our very talented friends with the Vibe at

Jim & Jacks! Hearing this great music will just wet our appetite to come back Saturday night for the main event, "Hot Wax"! No surprise here as you knew it was coming...but yep...It just don't get any better than that...does it?

I told you earlier that there was no reserve seating...so because it was a first come, first serve, seating policy...."waxers" started getting anxious as the doors were about to be opened to let everyone in! I was already inside...but my peeps tell me that the crowd was starting to stir...and getting very restless...and then they started to bunchand then lurk forward. It was getting very dangerous and believe me ...I know from past experience that "waxers" take their seating very seriously! I was starting to have flashbacks to the stampede at the ""Who" concert many years ago!

When the doors were finally opened....I was already inside and had my back turned ...and since I couldn't hear....I didn't realize that this raging mass of humanity or to put it another way these fired up "waxers" were running in my direction! When I did realize they were running at me...I ran for cover! Now...when I watch that "running with the bulls" event in Spain....I think that I will be able to relate. However, dodging passionate "waxers" looking for front row seats may be even more frightening!

For those of you who were not able to make it to the show or as Bobby likes to say..."for the thousands of party poopers who chose to stay at home"...then I will try to describe the venue to you. However, before I do that...I need to clear up something. Bobby always thanks everyone who is at the show....and he always says it was so nice of us to be there...because we could chosen to be anywhere else ...but we chose to spend an evening with "Hot Wax"....and I always shake my head yes and say your welcome Bobby!

However, my conscience has been bothering me for a long time ...because in my case that is not entirely true. I actually always chose to spend an evening with Pam Anderson...but Pam never gets back to me....so to be honest...."Hot Wax" is my second choice! Bobby and Princess Gail...I hope you don't mind...and you can forgive me!

Ok...now let me set the stage ..so to speak. The stage was huge....and the boys in the band were located near the back of the stage. DC was elevated like normal...but there was new twist at this venue as our keyboard player was elevated also which was kind of a neat look. I was talking to Bobby or Ole "Blue Eyes" Wednesday night ...and Bobby said it was a neat look ...but that you have to really have a large stage to do that....so don't look for that Saturday night...but maybe Evandale, Cold Spring or Falmouth!

Anyway...while the band members were way in the back of the stage..the vocalist were way in the front...probably about 30 feet or more in front of the band. I have to be honest about it....most of the regular "waxers" did not care for that

look...and that probably more than anything else bothered most "waxers" the most! While we don't necessarily want our boys jammed on top of each other...we do want to see the 10 of them as a group. When you looked up and saw the vocalist so far in front of the band ...you kind of had the feeling you get when you go watch a karaoke show....when there is no band rocking and rolling or Jumping and jiving right behind the singers. There is just an emptiness somehow...and a little less excitement in our humble opinion. Bobby & I talked about that the other night also...and like always...Bobby was very polite and courteous and like always willing to listen to suggestions from us "waxers". I'm sure Bobby will give it some serious thought and careful consideration....and if our suggestion has any merit...Bobby will take care of that next year.

Probably the only other complaints would have been how far the stage was from the front row of spectators...again an easy problem to take care of next year if we are invited back and every indicator that I heard or saw seems to indicate that we will be invited back! This season because of a play that is going to take place soon at Deer Park....several rows of seats had to be removed. That will not be the case next year...so both the performers and the audience will be much closer to each other and both will enjoy that much better!

Now....the last complaint again is one that can be easily remedied next year also. "Hot Wax" had to use two floor stage monitors in the center of the stage to help distribute the sound to the center of the room...and normally that is fine. However since we were sitting so much lower than this high stage....when the vocalist would be behind these monitors...you could basically only see the performers from the chest up. Now...as you know...that does not make the female members of the audience very happy....LOL! Ok...I know that sounded like a lot of complaining ...but like I said it really isn't and all of that can easily be corrected next year...if we were fortunate enough to be invited back!

Now, have you noticed that none of the complaining was about "Hot Wax's" performance....and there is a reason for that....there wasn't nothing to complain about! Our boys were superb....and the crowd loved them! I don't know if I can recall a show in the time that I have been with the boys where there were so many first timers in the crowd...and you could hear them! There was just that extra enthusiasm that you only hear when people are seeing "Hot Wax" for the first time. The facial expressions of first timers are great also! You never know what the newcomers expect to see...but you can tell by the look on their faces ...it wasn't something as special as "Hot Wax"...believe me...and I have been told that many times at shows!

I had teased people all week about there being a couple of surprises at the show....and the first surprise didn't take long! As soon as the curtain went up..."waxers" noticed one of two things....either Cadillac Charlie had shaved his head ...or we had a new keyboard player. We were so far away...that we didn't know which it was until Bobby told us! Ok...I might be exaggerating a little now.

The new member of the "Hot Wax" family is Sammy Hammond....and even after just one show ...believe me...I know that Sammy is very, very good!

If I were to describe Sammy...I would say think of Paul Schaeffer of the David Letterman show...after a diet of "Slim Fast" for about a month or so...as Sammy is a little slimmer & trimmer than Paul. Both Sammy and Paul have the shaved heads, both are very talented...and like Paul...Sammy is very enthusiastic! He bounced and jumped around all night....which added excitement to the show. That also might explain why Sammy is so slim!

Sammy is very good at the fill in stuff and that was very noticeable from the very beginning of the show. I know this is only one note and a very minute part of the show...but when I heard that very familiar "bell" sound at the beginning of Cara Mia...I just could not help from smiling. It was like having an old friend back...LoL! For you "waxer's" that might not know what I am talking about...listen Saturday night. Who knows....just like the beginning of "Little Bit Closer"....when we get to hear Sigsbee do the intro several times....maybe Saturday night we can hear the bell twice..or would that be sacrilegious to mess with that song. We take our Cara Mia pretty seriously....don't we? Anyway Sammy...you did an outstanding job in your debut....and as good as you were ...I'm sure you will get even better...if possible...as you get more familiar with your band mates and the material! Again...as a rep of the "waxers"...I would like to welcome the newest member of the "Hot Wax" band....the exciting, talented...Mr. Sammy Hammond!

Now...it wouldn't be right if I didn't take a moment or two to thank Cadillac Charlie for the great job he did in his tenure with "Hot Wax"! Charlie came along at a very important time in "Hot Wax" history ...when the band was in transition and at a very important crossroad. Cadillac Charlie was a class act all of the way...and he will be missed! We always love and welcome our new "waxer's"...but it doesn't mean that we ever forget our former "waxer's"! Charlie will be remembered fondly and will take his place along side other beloved keyboard players in my recent memory....like Major Flash, Johnny Rocket, and Big Bear! I'd be remiss if I didn't mention what a class act Charlie's lovely wife Bonita was also....and Bonita too will be missed! From all of us "waxer's"....Good Luck ...Charlie! & Bonita!

As soon as "Hot Wax" broke into their opening medley...you could immediately see the smiles on the faces of the Deer park people. This was a very polite and a very knowledgeable audience! This audience, unlike some of your nightclub audiences, was there to be entertained...and that is the only reason they were there! They were very quiet when our boys were performing...and yet very enthusiastic with their applause when the songs concluded!

Although there were hundreds of people in the theatre...when Bobby did Elvis....and he performed the very moving Trilogy.....I know this is a cliché...but I

swear ...you could literally hear a pin drop! Our boys were on their game and this crowd who began the show wondering what Ohio State was doing in the basketball game ...no longer cared what Ohio State was doing...as they were totally focused on the "Hot Wax" show at this point!

Speaking of Elvis....Bobby has added new some new Elvis material or at least some of our favorite Elvis material from the past! Elvis opened with the classic "Viva Las Vegas"...and then went into "Rock a Hula Baby"...then the great classic "Hurt"....then followed by one of the all time favorite Elvis numbers , "Suspicious Minds" then the awesome moving "Trilogy"....and then closed with the great ballad ..."Can't help falling in Love"! That is just a great set....and again as Ole "A-Bob" likes to say...it just don't get any better than those last 4 numbers does it?! Those are all true classics!

I heard so many great things throughout the entire evening about all of the guys in the band that there are just too many to repeat! However, both the newbie's and our gang of hardcore "waxer's"...thought that Bruno had just a terrific night...was right on the money...and solid like a rock...like he always is! Bruno's consistency show after show is simply amazing! For the record my cousin's 11 year old granddaughter, Keira, thought Bruno was the hunkiest guy in the band which makes me feel a little bit better about slowly losing my hair!

I can't say enough about both Bobby and Tommy's performances as both were fighting severe congestion problems...but from our view point out in the audience no one would have guessed. I knew about their condition before the show...and I still couldn't tell anything was wrong when they were performing! For the people who thought that Bobby's mic should have been louder....I suspect that maybe he was turned down a little intentionally to help cover his health issues.

As the old expression goes....there was some bad news...and there was some good news throughout the show. The bad news is that we missed quite a bit of the show that we are used to seeing. The Beach Boys did not show up in Deer Park....and it is rumored that we have seen the last of them..as they decided if it is going to be in the 20's in mid April...then it is too cold for them here....and they have permanently moved South! Actually the truth is and this is what makes "Hot Wax" so special...is that as good as the Beach Boys were....there were a few flaws ...and to Bobby that is a few flaws too many. I know some of you were disappointed....others like myself not so much...but we all kind of agreed that it would be nice if "Barbara Ann" could stick around somehow as that song truly rocks....and still would be a great closer for the first show....don't you think?

Einstein did only one of his Frank Sinatra numbers....and did not do it in his usual Frank Sinatra garb. Doc Roc...did not do his solo medley. The Hoola hoop skit was missing also. Now...to all us regular "waxer's"...that was bad news because that is less show than we are used to seeing....and we like seeing our "Hot Wax"

boys as much as possible! To the newcomers they did not know the difference so it had no affect on them!

Now, here is the good news....these songs were removed from the show...because "Hot Wax" is working on great new material to take those missing songs place. Because those songs are being replaced shortly and hopefully after the 2 month breakthey have not been rehearsing those songs and that is why we didn't hear them. I am aware of several of the new songs that will be entering the show....and you will be thrilled when you hear them!

Now...we have several reasons to be thrilled after the next two month break! One is that we will be getting into the fun great outdoor season....and the other will be to hear all of the new material! Can you even begin to imagine how good this band is going to sound with Sigsbee...and DC now being seasoned veterans with "Hot Wax"...and Sammy getting a couple of more months to settle in!

By the time "Hot Wax" had reached their rocking closing medley...Deer Park was on their feet ...and "Hot Wax" had created a new love affair! The Deer park people...fortunately for them...I mean unfortunately for them...did not get to see the "Hot Wax Solid Gold Dancers" perform at the end of the show. We were disappointed that we could not perform in front of the stage like normal...during the Temptations "Get Ready" encore number...but we did the best we could at our seats...but it just wasn't the same! It's a shame that we could not get to the stage...because I had a couple of the lovely "Hot Wax" spouses, Queen Spanky ...and the Angelic Angie, sitting directly in front of meand I would have made them join us...LOL! You know...they both seem like good sports....and I have a hunch that these fun ladies would have joined us willingly!

Both of these lovely young ladies were spared my usual nonsense at the show as I was very quiet the entire evening...and on my best behavior because of my ear problem. Spanky kept looking back....as I think she wanted to make sure it was me because I was so well behaved! I do need to apologize to Angie or Mrs. Boomer...if you don't know who I am talking about. Every time I stood up for a standing ovation...my big belly kept bumping her in the back of the head no matter how careful...I tried to be! Actually...my belly is not that big...it is just those rows were so small! That's my story...and I'm sticking too it.....anyway...I'm sorry Angie!

When the show ended it was nice to see the band having a group photo taken with a couple of key people from Deer Park like Terry and Catherine included! I talked to many people outside after the show ended and their enthusiasm and excitement over what they had just seen and heard was just terrific! Catherine said she had never worked with a nicer bunch of guys... and as she talked to me...it almost sounded for certain that they will be bringing our boys back next year...but again maybe in January or February.

I asked Catherine what kind of response she was receiving and Catherine said it was all positive! If our boys sold over 500 tickets with everything they had to compete with in the Spring time yet...can you imagine the crowd they would have next year in the dead of winter....and after word gets out about how good they were this year. I predict a sell out....anyone want to bet against me?

Well, after a two month hiatus...it was great to get back and see everyone! I always feel bad after a show that I didn't get to talk to nearly as many people as I would have liked. However, as you know...I get a little gabby when I am discussing our boys....and I just run out of time. It was very nice to get a chance to speak to Jean before the show....as we have not had a chance to speak in quite awhile....and I really enjoyed our little chat! After all...we are Bobby's two biggest fans....so we should be talking to each other more often and comparing notes...LOL!

Before I go....I forgot to tell you that Bruno said that they had more people sign up for the "Future Shows Notification E-mail List" than any other show since he has been doing the list...so needless to say we have made some new "waxers"...and hopefully....some of them will show up at Jim & Jacks Saturday night! Usually the night before Easter is a tough sell...but my reservations don't reflect that as I have gone from 29 a few days ago to 43 right now...and that is right up there with some of my better shows...reservation wise!

I originally planned on waiting till next week and combining the two shows into one commentary since they were only a week apart...and I have been hard pressed for time lately....and that would have been much easier on me. However, after a 2 month layoff and the uniqueness of this venue and show....that just didn't feel right. I felt like I would be cheating some of my readers who couldn't make the show...like my good buddy Debbie....and also Tiff, the "Devil Woman", Connie and Jim Steigert, Judy, Loma, Barb and Christina Gabbard, and my sister and brother-in-laws Joan & Randal Smith who were counting on me telling them what they missed...so I hope everyone enjoyed reading my comments about this very successful show at Deer Park!

Last...but certainly not least...I missed my 'Syndicate of Sound" boys, Buddy, Rocky and Tiny and it was great to see them...and once again they did their usually great job! Rickmeister was at his best with his souvenir stand....and he had just a terrific display set up in the lobby. The Jimster was all over the place with his photo's...and even though he is afraid of heights ...he was up in the rafters, the side cubby holes....and everywhere. I don't think he sat down for more than 10 minutes the entire evening! There just can't be another local band in America...with a support team this large ...and this professional! Great job...everyone!

After this very long commentary and only a week between shows ...expect a brief commentary next week... and probably a late one since I will want this one

posted for a little whileand the Jim and Jacks commentary will be posted for about 8 weeks when it is done. Don't hold me to that short commentary...seems like I have said that before...LOL!

Ok....I hope you enjoy the commentary...and like always "Thank You" for always being so nice to me when you see me at the shows! Take care! I must be OFF (Insert your wisecracks here!).

"Ambassador Bob"