

HOT WAX SHOW - Mason Ohio Pine Hill Park ( 06-11-06 ) : As we headed north up I-71 Sunday afternoon we wondered if there would be a show.....and if there was a show ....would there be anyone there. It was cold, cloudy, windy and rainy.....and again....remember this was a Sunday evening show.....which is not the most convenient night to see a show for most people. Well, I was worrying needlessly...because the rain stopped exactly when the show started.....and if anyone doesn't believe that "Hot Wax" has the most loyal fans of any band in the entire Tri-state area....then they needed to be in Mason on Sunday. I believe that just about every hardcore "waxer" you could think of was there. There were so few missing that I can name most of them. Pat, Otto and Debb missed for health reasons.....and Barb Gabbard and her daughter Christina had work related problems. Tiffany was missing....and I'm not sure why but I'm guessing the fact that Tiff lives in Greensburg Indiana had something to do with Tiff not being there Sunday night! Bob, Selena and Nikki weren't able to make it but I guarantee you there was a good reason. Anyway, all of these very loyal "waxers" had my permission to miss this show and no written excuses will be needed! We missed you all....but we know we will see you at the next show. It was truly like a "waxer" convention.....and we all had a great time mixing and mingling with each other.

I tell my friends all the time that nothing ever goes wrong on "Hot Wax" day.....so we knew that the rain would stop for the show and of course it did! Everything is just better on "Hot Wax" day....it's like magic! Everyone is friendlier on "Hot Wax" day, the sun is brighter, the sky is more blue. The food taste better and the drinks are colder. The best thing about "Hot Wax" day is that all of your problems just don't seem as worrisome.....at least for that one day! Isn't it great to escape just for a little while.....and just let the great "Hot Wax" music take you back to your teenage days! It makes me smile and feel good just writing about it. I'll give you a perfect example of the "Hot Wax" magic. Last September.....we made the 250 mile trip to Clyde Ohio to see our boys.....and the weather forecast called for rain nearly the entire weekend. All the way up to Clyde....it was very cloudy and dark or raining....and there was a lot of concern that we were making this long trip and then we were not even going to get to see a show. I kept telling my gang.....remember ....nothing ever goes wrong on a "Hot Wax" day.....and then when we got about 15 minutes from Clyde the sky started to clear some for the first time all day. Your not going to believe this next part...but I swear it is true and I have plenty of witnesses.....but as soon as we saw the sign that said "Welcome to Clyde"....the sun came out and a beautiful rainbow appeared!!! Pretty spooky .....huh? I ask you, what other band has that kind of magic?

When I first got to the Mason show Sunday night.....Bobby came over and told me that Tommy was not going to be there for at least the first show.....but that there was an outside chance that Tommy might make it for the second show. While I was very disappointed to hear about Tommy....this was not all bad news. Tommy is going to have to miss another show because of vacation commitments that Tommy made prior to rejoining "Hot Wax". Tommy's absence yesterday was going to allow Bobby & the boys to work on some of the adjustments that they would have to make when Tommy is on vacation. This is no easy feat..and I don't think the average fan realizes how difficult it is to change a show on such short notice. It's not as simple as just leaving out Tommy's feature songs. They are missing Tommy's guitar playing and his backup vocals which are just as important to me as Tommy's solo's. It also changes all or most of the harmonies and of course effects the choreography also.

I think we found out ....if we didn't know already ....how much talent we have with this group of "waxers"! Our boys kind of had to wing it and make changes on the fly.....and they were able to pull it off. I was amazed as I noticed on several of the songs that Bruno had to sing that our boys were performing without anyone playing lead guitar.....and yet the songs still sounded pretty darn good and these songs were also missing Tommy's backup vocals. I am no music expert by any means.....but I'm pretty sure that the lead guitar provides a lot of the rhythm and a whole lot of the melody of any song.....and still the songs were very good. I'm still not sure how that was possible.....but I would find out later!

Early in the show.....I glanced to my right and looked way up on the hill that surrounds the park and someone was standing on top of the hill waving at us. It turns out that the person on top of the hill was our surprise guest for the day, Mr. Sonny Shondell! Yep, I know his real name is Jamie but to us "waxers".....he will always be Sonny Shondell. Jamie, Sonny Shondell is such a cool name.....you just might want to change your name officially to Sonny Shondell.....LoL! At the intermission a bunch of us "waxers" went up to talk to Sonny and Sonny was gracious enough to spend at least 45 minutes to an hour talking to all of us. Sonny was very complimentary about our boys even though he had not heard "Hot Wax" play with Tommy Casino yet. Sonny said he noticed when he pulled up in his car that there was no lead guitar.....and he knew someone was missing. I asked Sonny how you can even do a song without a lead guitar....and he said it's not easy.....but it meant that we had a talented keyboard man in Cadillac Charlie and that Charlie did a great job filling in and covering the void. Sonny also without any prompting from me told me that the "Stickman" was an outstanding drummer....and that he basically thought everyone sounded great. Sonny told me again just like he did way back in November of last year.....that he knew that Bobby would put a great group together. He told me that Bobby just really knows what he is doing.....and that he just has a unique ability to know what us "waxers" enjoy.....and he knows how to put a great show together for a golden oldies show band like "Hot Wax"!

Sonny and I were discussing music as I love to do and we were talking about some of the bands that I have seen recently and I was telling Sonny about "American Graffiti" and he asked me what they were like and if they were similar to "Hot Wax". I told Sonny that they played the same type of music.....but that they came up short of "Hot Wax" in just about every area....but that they were good....just not "Hot Wax" good .....but then...who is....LOL? I was also telling Sonny that the "American Graffiti" band did not have near the equipment that "Hot Wax" has.....and Sonny laughed and said no kidding ....who does....LOL? Thanks Bruno!!!! As a huge "Hot Wax" fan.....I really appreciated all of Sonny's very flattering comments about our boys. From a very knowledgeable musician like Sonny that was very nice to hear!

It was great to see Bobby and Sonny greet each other.....and it was also nice to see Bruno and Sonny exchanging barbs and having a nice conversation with each other! One of the coolest parts of the night was to see Tommy Casino racing from his car already dressed in his second half show clothes and as Tommy saw Sonny and I talking.....Tommy came over to Sonny and said you look familiar.....and then they both shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. That was terrific to see these two future "Hot Wax" Hall of Famers together! As the second show began, I told Sonny to be sure and stick around long enough to hear Tommy do his "Cara Mia" number.....and Sonny said he was looking forward to it....and he did. Unfortunately....I didn't know where Sonny was sitting when Tommy did "Cara Mia" so I couldn't see his reaction....but I'm sure that Sonny being the consummate pro that he is appreciated the outstanding job that another pro like Tommy did on that awesome song! I wished I could have talked to Sonny before he left and got his opinion.....but I will ask him next time I see him or hear from him. By the way.... I'd be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank Tommy's very nice wife, Patty, for letting us steal Tommy away from Patty's dance recital so that we were all able to hear Tommy perform in the second show. Thanks so much Patty from all of us "waxers".....as I know it created some hardships for you! All of a sudden it didn't seem as wet or cold once we knew in a few minutes that our boys would be complete again and in a few minutes and that "Cara Mia" would be coming soon!

Because of time constraints.....quite a few songs were left out of the show.....but as usual our boys put on a very entertaining show.....and even though it was cold, damp and late, our lovely "First Lady" Tina just insisted that I lead the cheering for "One more song" at the end of the show....LoL! Our choreography line during the encore song just gets better and better....and larger and larger! My dancing has really improved since I quit looking at the wise guy Bobby. I was watching the group of very nice people who helped put on this show in Mason as we were doing our dancing at the end of the show.....and they were really getting a kick out of watching us mimic our boys up on the stage. That may have been their favorite part of the show.....LoL!

Now, I get to tell you about some potentially great news for our boys. Bobby has hired a new guitar player and I mean an outstanding guitar player! I use the word potentially....because Bobby once told me that until you see them up on the stage and in their "Hot Wax" outfits.....you just never know if they are coming onboard for sure or not . In Kingsley and Donny Diamond's case.....even being up on the stage didn't guarantee anything.....but in this case ....I feel confident that we have us a great guitar player! This fellow is scary good! Tommy and Bruno are outstanding guitar players.....but Tommy said this guy is extra special and that Tommy always wished he was as good as this guy. How cool is that? Now ...if that wasn't enough.....Bobby says he sings also! As you can tell ...Ole "Ambassador Bob" is getting that coat hanger stuffed in his mouth smile again as I think of all the new possibilities with the new guitar player.

We now will be 10 strong on the stage which is a great look.....and I remember how much I liked that look when we had it in Wilmington at the Murphy theatre! I also love the fact that we will have 4 front men again which is a much better show band look.....and the choreography works so much better. Now throw in the fact that Tommy and Bruno get to do what they would prefer to do....and that is be front men.....and everything is nicely falling into place. Now, if this new guitar player is as good as I have heard ...and he sings besides.....then that is an upgrade there also.....so it appears to me that the band has upgraded in many areas!!! There is a small chance that we may see our new guitar player for a little bit Thursday night.....and maybe in Bellevue. Like I said last week and Boomer was telling me this week.....this band as good as it is.....is just going to keep getting better and better and hasn't even scratched the surface yet on how good they are going to be! Ole "A-Bob" is very excited to say the least! Now, I must give a big thanks to both Tommy & Bruno for taking one for the team and filling in so well on the guitar until we could fill the gap with a new guitarist!

( MORE MISCELLANEOUS BAND & SHOW NOTES): ( 1 ) For the first time that I'm aware of....Tommy added his voice to Bobby's on the "I'm so glad that I'm livin in the USA" number.....and as Bobby would say...."I like it!"

( 2 ) For the second show in a row Tommy Joined Einstein, Bobby, and Bruno on the accapella "I Believe" number and this week....they nailed it! It was always great in 3 part harmony.....but 4 part is even better! Great job ...guys!

( 3 ) I want to thank both Boomer and Tommy for taking the time to talk with me about my favorite subject.....music! Tommy and I had an interesting conversation about the new guitar player and what it is like to come in and have to learn all of the material in a relatively short time. We also talked about how fast our new "Hot Wax" member is at picking things up. We also talked some about chord charts as an aid.....and many other interesting things. Boomer talked to me before the show about some of the other bands he has been in.....and what he has done in other bands. Boomer is very excited about how far this band can go and like Boomer told me last week.... this band has not even come close to reaching their potential yet! If that is true ....can you imagine how good our boys will be in the future.....hard to imagine....isn't it? I also asked Boomer if he was happy and enjoying himself. You know how insecure we "waxers" are. We are always worried that we will be losing one of our beloved "Hot Wax" members. However, Boomer told me that he is having a great time and even if Boomer wanted to leave....which he doesn't, Boomer told me that his lovely wife, Angie, wouldn't let him as she is having too much fun! Very soon.... I hope to get to spend some time talking to both Cadillac Charlie and the "Stickman". I would really enjoy that especially since I have always been a "wannabe" drummer.....and I love the keyboards! Bobby will tell you that no one was happier than me when I heard that we had a keyboard player....and not just a keyboard player ....but a very talented keyboard player! Ok.....Bobby might have been happier than me....but I'm not sure about that....LoL!

( 4 ) Tito's very lovely wife, Karen, was involved in a very nasty traffic accident on 275 recently and totaled her vehicle. While Karen hurt her arm real bad and actually thought that she broke her arm.....it just turned out to be a very severe bruise from the airbags. Karen also had 2 of her

little ones with her.....but fortunately no one was badly injured....and all of us "waxers" are very glad to hear that!

( 5 ) The next part of my commentary is intended for the women fans only. A source that will go unnamed reported seeing Tito in the middle of changing outfits at the show and reported that Bobby is not exaggerating about Tito being the strongest Sax player in the world! My source tells me that Tito has muscle on top of muscle underneath that "Hot Wax" shirt! Now, kind of on the same subject. I'm sure that most of you fans may have already noticed ....but Bruno has dropped about 20 pounds and now is a svelte 184 pounds! We always knew that our boys were the most talented band around.....but maybe they are the best conditioned band also. What do you think? In case you are wondering how Bruno lost the weight.....he did it on the mostly meat and no carb diet.....which I believe is called the Atkins diet. Geez....Bruno is about 3 feet taller than me and yet I still weigh a pound more than he does! That can't be good ....can it ? While I am in the diet and fashion part of my article.....I will tell all of the party poopers.....who stayed at home ....all though there weren't many.....that Bobby wore his bright red Elvis suit this week. Ok....Ole "ambassador Bob" needs to get out of this part of my commentary. There was already enough talk about my pink shirt that I wore to Mason....."not that there is anything wrong with that" as Seinfeld would say on his TV show.

( 6 ) Our "Syndicate of Sound " boys , Buddy, Rocky and Tiny deserve some extra thanks this week. All of these guys put in some very long hours over the last 4 days....and I believe they had worked 4 shows in a row.....including all night in the rain at a couple of those shows before they set up the Mason show. All of them looked like they had not slept in about a week and maybe they didn't. Buddy .....I hate to say it ...but you looked like you had aged about 20 years. Heck ...you looked older than ole "Ambassador Bob" ....LOL! All kidding aside.....great job guys!!!!

( MISCELLANEOUS FAN NOTES ) ( 1 ) Pat and Otto... we missed you at the show and I know that you would have loved to been there.....but the conditions might not have been the best for you. Maybe you can make the Lawrenceburg show or maybe Bellevue. We are working on kind of a real informal picnic idea for Bellevue.....might be fun. I'll have more to say about that in my next commentary.

( 2 ) Jean brought her childhood friend to the show. Jean had bragged about "Hot Wax" so much that Jean's friend just finally had to check our boys out for herself. I could see the look of disappointment on Jean's face when she found out that Tommy wasn't going to be there for her friends first show....so it was great when Tommy was able to make it for the second show! I watched her reactions throughout the entire show and she seemed to really enjoy the show. Jean, I hope you can get your friend back for a full show with Tommy and our new guitar player. I'm sure that she would have loved Bruno's Tom Jones also! By the way Jean.....your friend was very young looking.....much like yourself.....and I think you two could pass for sisters! I'm sorry that I do not remember your friends name.....but hopefully I will get to meet her again soon.

( 3 ) I greeted my good buddies, the Helwig Sisters, who I refer to as the Hilton sisters as soon as they arrived at the show. Barb then walked me over to their chairs where they had name tags on their chairs that said "Hilton Sisters".....very funny girls....LOL!

( 4 ) Rick & Mary Montgomery brought a couple of their grand kids, including 8 year old Khrystian to the show....and they couldn't have been any cuter as they sat right in front of the stage and watched the entire show. The kids ranged in age from about 4 to 8 maybe. Guess what .....even at this age they still love Bobby. Khrystian, the 8 year old, told us in her own exact words that "Bobby was hot!" Gail heard Khrystian make that statement and then Gail pointed to me and said "I'm married to a Bobby also". I waited for the compliment that I was sure was coming and then Khrystian said " Yeah but your Bobby has a pink shirt on and has gray hair!" much to the delight of all of my so-called friends sitting at our table in Frisch's. That pretty much shut up Ole "Ambassador Bob" for the rest of the evening and we know how hard that is to do! Looks like I need to go back to my hair color for men products again!

( 5 ) While I am on the subject of cute kids.....a new star was born at Mason on Sunday! I hope that I have her name right ....but remembering names is not my strong suit....but I am getting much better at it. I believe her name was Emily and she is Karen and Tito's little girl. She is just too cute to describe so you need to go to the "Fans Pics" part of the web site and check out her 2 pictures. They are right next to the goofy guy in the pink shirt with the gray hair! Emily kept my gang entertained for the entire evening and as much as we love our boys.....I think we spent as much time watching Emily and she had us smiling continuously as Emily put on quite a show! I really do like Tito....but Karen, I think I have to agree with you. Emily is really a lot cuter.....what a sweetie! Jimster, you did a great job with the photo's.....but really how hard is it to take good pictures with a subject like Emily! Actually, Jimster always does a great job....even when he has subjects....like me!

( 6 ) I believe that Sticky's lovely wife Karen was at the show in Mason....but I did not get a chance to meet Karen....but I hope to real soon! We also missed seeing the smiling faces of Doc's wife, Katie and we also missed seeing Boomers lovely wife, Angie. I hope we get to see you both at Lawrenceburg Thursday night.

( 7 ) There appears to be a big scandal brewing in "Hot Wax Land". First we had the Iran - Contra scandal.....then we had the Watergate scandal.....and now we have the Hoola Hoop scandal! For the last couple of weeks, guys like Otto, the Rickmeister, myself and who knows how many others have been practicing with the hoop and frustrating ourselves because we can't seem to learn to do what Bobby and Bruno have made look so easy.....and that is to master the Hoola Hoop! We were just baffled how Bobby and Bruno made it look so easy to master that Hoop.....and we couldn't! Then finally there was a break in the case as a secret very important unnamed witness stepped forward to shed some light on this growing scandal. We have now put that witness in a witness protection plan! This witness revealed to my investigators that Bobby and Bruno may have had lessons which I strongly suspected all along. My star witness however revealed some other shocking news that I was not aware of. My star witness actually turned over to my investigators.....a trick specially weighted Hoola Hoop.....that anyone can learn to use! I am just shocked that our boys would stoop to that level and put us other guys through all of our frustration at not being able to Hoop. I now realize why the Bruno man did not fear the hoop.....LOL! Stay tuned for more on this growing scandal. Subpoena's will go out next week.....and this may go to the grand jury!

( 8 ) Speaking of Hoola Hoops.....I asked my star witness....oops I mean.... our lovely "First Lady", Miss Tina, if she could hoop and she said she could.....and she did! Unfortunately, I don't remember if it was with the fake hoop or the real one....but there is proof that she can hoop with something... on the "Fans Pic " page. I know that Bobby can shake his hips with the best of them.....and maybe even as good as the real Elvis.....but you know what after seeing the other member of that family shake her hips with that Hoop..... I think I enjoyed her performance even more.....LOL!

Ok, gang...I hope to see everybody at Lawrenceburg Thursday night. The weather looks great and it should be a lot of fun. Ok, time to run and ( I must be Off....your wisecracks here!

) "Ambassador Bob"