

Hot Wax Show - Starlite Ballroom - 3-18-06: The "Hot Wax" 2006 World Tour just continues to roll along gathering more and more momentum at every stop along the way! After completely winning the hearts and minds of the good people of Wilmington 2 weeks ago, "Hot Wax" triumphantly returned home Saturday night to play at a much more familiar venue, the Starlite Ballroom.

"Hot Wax" continues to pack in large crowds wherever they perform and the venue doesn't seem to matter. "Hot Wax" completely sold out Jim & Jacks, a very warm and cozy established night club on the west side of Cincinnati several weeks ago....and then traveled to Wilmington 2 weeks ago to perform at the grand old prestigious Murphy Theatre before a near sell out crowd. Like I mentioned earlier, Saturday night "Hot Wax" performed at the spacious Starlite ballroom and drew "Hot Wax's" largest crowd ever at that venue! I have a feeling that our boys could play in a cave or a canyon right now and it wouldn't matter and they would fill those up with fans also. Let's face it...."Hot Wax" iswell....hot right now! Imagine how large the crowds will be as the summer progresses and the word gets out about this new 2006 edition! Remember...."Hot Wax" has really only performed twice so far with the entire group....so can you imagine how good they will be as the season progresses? I happened to notice that our boys are not booked at the moment for another appearance at the Starlite. I think it might be a good idea to give Amy from the Starlite a call at 513-624-0020 and see if we could talk her into booking "Hot Wax" for maybe an October show? How about it "waxers"? Can we all find time in the next couple of days to give Amy a call and tell her how much we would enjoy that? By the way....Amy is a real nice lady and is always very helpful to us when we talk to her...so don't be shy....as I'm sure Amy will enjoy talking to all of us "waxers".

Ok, I can't contain myself any longer! Usually, I save talking about the show till the end of my commentary....but I can't wait this week....so I am going to talk about it now! Wow....what a show or as my good buddy Shirley would say "That was just awesome!" Gail and I have now seen 50 consecutive shows and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself at 49 of them and even the obvious show that I left out....we still had a great time spending the evening with the guys and all of our "waxer" friends! When we attend a "Hot Wax" show we smile so much the entire evening that it looks like someone stuck a coat hanger in my mouth....and when we leave a show....there is always a extra bounce in my step! My only disappointment is that were never sure if we can wait for the next show! However, now I have to be honest with you and when I said that I enjoyed every show spent with "Hot Wax"....I meant that....but the extra bounce in my step after the shows has been missing for about the last 10 shows. When it was made public last year that Sonny and all of the boys were going to be moving on....it made it tough for me to completely enjoy a "Hot Wax" show. This was my reasoning on that. I certainly did not want to come to a show and hope to see a bad show...but every time "Hot Wax" put on a great show....which they always do....it would kind of make me sad and just remind me how much I was going to miss that edition of "Hot Wax" and would I ever enjoy a show this much again after Sonny and our other friends were gone. Again, I got to be honest....I had serious doubts that I would ever enjoy my "Hot Wax" experience or have as much pride as I had in the band at that time ever again.....and I was going to miss that feeling! I was pretty sure that I would still enjoy the shows....but that extra bounce in my step after the shows and that pride that I had just being associated in my small way with the best cover band in the area would just never quite be the same....or so I thought anyway.

Then, we found Donnie Diamond and everything looked brighter again.... and then he was gone. Then Tommy came along and helped the band put on a real professional show at the Murphy....but something was still missing. I was still missing that extra bounce in my step after the show. Then it occurred to me that the Murphy show was great...but it wasn't as much fun because all of us "waxers" weren't there to enjoy the show together as only us "waxers" can! Then Saturday night at the Starlite.....the magic was back....and it was

just like old times again! The boys were rockin and I mean really rockin and all of them really looked like they were enjoying themselves and really having a great time. As fanswe can pick up on that and when the band is having fun...then the crowd has more fun also! Even when last years band was performing so well....I never sensed that all of them were having that much fun...and as it turns out.... obviously some of them weren't. I looked around the room Saturday night...and there were frozen smiles on everyone's faces. The "waxers" were cheering and clapping and hooting and hollering! We were standing and we were dancing! There were standing ovations everywhere. Then I saw an amazing thing happen.....Tommy Casino stepped to the front of the stage and never said a word and was getting ready to sing....and we "waxers" anticipated that he was about to sing Cara Mia. We were right and before Tommy could sing a note....people slowly started to yell and clap....and then it grew and then it grew some more and it kept growing...and before long there was a bunch of people standing and cheering! I have never seen anything like that beforeever...and it was just amazing....and remember again this was before Tommy had sung a note! Then of course Tommy then proceeded to tear the roof off the place.....and again received another huge standing ovation! Just like Rick and I'm sure most of you other "waxers", I have goose bumps all over again just reliving that part of the evening! Anyway....when the show was over....I had that special feeling back...and I was so impressed with the boys Saturday night that I won't think about last year any longer and the talent level is so good that I know I am going to thoroughly enjoy all the shows just like I did Saturday night!. Again, "Hot Wax" has only have 3 shows under their belts....so they will continue to improve every week....if that is even possible! All I know is that I left the show and for the first time in quite awhile....that special bounce in my step was back. This is the happiest I have been since last September or so. Now ...if we can just find a way to keep Tommy! I tried to work on Tommy's lovely wife Patty....but she said it is Tommy that we have to work on. Ok "waxers" go to work....LOL!

Ok, I was going to consider quitting here....but just rehashing the fun we had at the show Saturday night just has me too pumped up to quit now.....and besides I'm also having too much fun to quit now! Remember "waxers", you are partially to blame for the length of my novels....LOL! When I said on the comment page a few weeks ago that I would try to shorten my commentaries in the future.....I received 6 e-mails that said they like them just the way they are and would be disappointed if I shorten them. Some "waxers" even said they wouldn't even mind if they were longer.....LOL! I'm not exactly sure what that says about us. Rick even suggested that if someone objected to the length of my comments that he would suggest where they could goand I don't believe it was Jim & Jacks!

I just got too much more to say to quit now so I feel that it is only fair that I warn everyone that I am going to go on for quite awhile yet....so we will take a break here. Go to the bathroom if you need to. Smoke em if you got em. Go get you something to snack on....and remember we have souvenirs on sale in the lobby including photos, DVD's, CD's and "Hot Wax" T-shirts! I'll be back in a few minutes....and remember ..."Elvis is in the building!" I apologize for that as I have been at this for awhile....and my mind started to wander there for a moment or two....LOL!

Ok...I'm back and now with some more details about the great show Saturday night at the Starlite. In my mind there are 3 important factors to make a perfect show for me. Well...of course ...I mean after Bobby brings in the great talent. A great play list is very, very important to me and an ideal Play list is where everyone looks forward to nearly every song in the show....and while that is not as easy as it sounds because everyone's taste is so different.... there are enough great songs from that era that it can be done....and "Hot Wax" is getting close and they keep adding great new songs each show. We see a lot of bands and I think we have seen just about every band that Jim & Jacks has to offer. I have seen many more bands other than at Jim & Jacks in my life time as I have always loved

seeing live music and several of my friends are in bands.....and we have decided that most of the time.....that we will prefer a band with a little less talent but who plays our favorite songs....than a band that has much more abilitybut we don't care for the play list! That is a very important factor to me and most of my group. The second important thing to me is that I love the full sound that "Hot Wax" always seems to have because of the number of talented vocalist they always have.....and I just love the back up harmonies and I love to hear them loud and strong. I don't want them to drown out the lead singer....but I also don't want to have to strain my ears to hear them also! The third factor that is very important to me is the volume of the sound itself. I told Buddy Love my theory on this the other night and it goes like this. If you stand in the back of the venue and look out into the audience and everyone's head is perfectly still and nothing is moving ...then the volume is way too low. If you look at the audience and you see people with grimaces on their faces and a frown....then the music is too loud and almost painful. However, if you look out and heads are bobbing and feet are tapping and fingers are drumming on the table then that is just right...because it is not possible to hear the great music that "Hot Wax" performs and sit still at a "Hot Wax" show....if the volume is loud enough. If you are going to err on one side or the otherthen I would rather have it a touch too loud then too low! That is my humble opinion....and I am wondering if you "waxers" agree with me or not?

Anyway, the main reasons the show was so outstanding to me the other night was most of those factors that I just mentioned were better than they have been all year. I thought the volume was a little too strong for the first couple of songs Saturday night...but I thought it was super the rest of the night. The band sounded so much more powerful and full...than I had heard in earlier shows! I think that had a lot to do with the great time we all had as we just could not sit still and that is what put all the smile on everyone's faces....again in my humble opinion. Who knowsmaybe I am dead wrong but that is the way it sounded to me. I also loved hearing Cadillac Charlie's keyboard much louder and really loved hearing loud and clear the piano chops in songs like "Only Make Believe" and "Hurt". I know those are not very hard to play for someone with Charlie's ability....but it sure is an important sound in a whole lot of the great oldie songs! I loved what I heard from Charlie this week and again being able to hear him clearly made the entire band sound so much fuller to me! Now, after saying that I think a lot of this credit must go to Buddy Love as he actually checked with me several times to see if we were happy with what we were hearing and I saw him make several adjustments....and I also saw Bobby suggest a few changes also. I don't want this in anyway to take away from the great job that Rocky does as he is a very talented young fellow also...and a great kid besides. I also know that a new sound system is being worked into the show....and the first two venues, Jim & Jacks & the Murphy Theatre could not have been more different. There are so many factors involved with getting the sound right and again ...it is very subjective. While I might think that the volume is too low....the person right next to me might think it is too loud....but anyway ...it sounded great to me!

Part of the magic Saturday night might have been seeing Mr. Buddy Love back where we were familiar seeing him and of course having the lovely Miss Sable back doing what she does so well....and that is running the light show. Miss Sable....that was a very short retirement by the way...LOL. Actually I believe that both Buddy Love and Sable came to the rescue as the "Syndicate of Sound " tech crew was shorthanded. I was told that Rocky was in New Orleans doing some volunteer work....I believe. I was also told that my new buddy, Buckaroo Billy, has moved out of the area and will be settling in Texas where he can be a real cowboy. Best of luck to you "Roo" as you made a lot of friends in your short time with "Hot Wax" and you will be missed!

Now I will jump around some with a few random observations. Tommy Casino sung 2 songs this week that he did not sing in the previous show and they were very well received. Tommy covered the Los Bravos song "Black is Black" and the Billy Joe Royal

number "Cherry Hill Park"....and did his usual great job on both of them! Tommy is just a great talent and has the rare ability to cover a song so well that we wind up liking it better than when the original artist did it! Bruno does the same thing on his cover of "I Who Have No One". That doesn't happen very often! After the show was over Tommy came over to chat for a few minutes and we were joined shortly by his teenage son and this was really cool...as Tommy and his son did some accapella 2 part street corner Do-wop harmony....and of course ...right on key!

Bobby was really on his game Saturday night like he always is....but he just seemed to have a little extra energy....and really seemed to be enjoying himself. All of Bobby's numbers just seemed to have some extra zip to them. Bobby did one of my all time favorite songs and Bobby's best in my opinion, "Hurt", so well Saturday night that I almost had to be restrained on his standing ovation. It was so hot....and I enjoyed it so much that I worried for a moment or two that I was turning bisexual! I told my gang that.....and I had to pick several of them up off the floor as they were laughing so hard and some of them are still laughing....LOL! Bobby, don't take the song out of the show....I swear I'm just kidding!

Speaking of hot....Doc Roc needs to cool down his great version of "Love Potion # 9" because it has that burlesque sound and feel to it and as I looked around our table....Sandy, Gail, Gwen, Shirley, and Carol were all in the process of peeling off clothing! We love the look of the dueling horns in that song, and I don't mean Gail & I (Horn is our last name). Doc and Tito just do a fantastic job on that song and the arrangement is just terrific!

There is a very strong rumor that a couple of our favorite Bruno songs of the past will be back in the show againreal soon.....and we will all be very pleased if it happens!

Kudos go out to both of our "Syndicate of Sound" tech guys, Buddy Love and Tiny, as both of these troopers set the show up and took it down basically by themselves because again they were shorthanded. Buddy & Tiny got to the Starlite around noon Saturday and Buddy Love called me at 2:00 in the morning to tell me they were just finishing....and that didn't include the drive time to and from home! By my math ...that is at least 14 hours!

Great job guys from all of us "waxers"! Speaking of Tiny....what a thrill it was for all of us to see Tiny and Kim's beautiful 4 month old little girl, Makenzie. Makenzie is not only our youngest waxer....but without a doubt, our cutest also! The girls at our table were oohing and cooing over how sweet it was to see a large man like Tiny being so caring and tender with their little bundle of joy! Tiny told me that she was very good and slept most of the night...but I was amazed as I am almost sure that I saw Makenzie stand up and wave her arms back and forth when Bruno sang his stirring rendition of "Proud to be an American"....and it was just another incredible event on this incredible evening....LOL!

Ok, gang we are coming down the stretch and so to Rick, Shirley, Jean, Mary, Debbie and a few others.....I hope this was long enough for you...and remember you asked for it.....so if anyone is upset talk to them....LOL! Actually believe it or not....I have never received a single complaint from anyone about my commentaries....which once again proves what great people "waxers" are! Oops....I forgot that I did get one complaint now that I think about it awhile back....but whose counting?

Now, time for a few acknowledgements and then we can call it a day. Thanks Bruno for spending some time chatting with our group when we arrived at the show....and we really enjoyed and appreciated that! Thank you Tommy and Boomer very much for your time also! I thoroughly enjoyed my chat with the entire Helwig clan and also with Loma and Judy as well! Jean, it was great talking to you and I hope I still have as much passion for our boys as you do when I get a little older and I hope I look as good as you also. My wife,

Gail, really enjoyed meeting you Jean! Mary Day, after seeing you at several shows including our trip to Clyde....I finally got to actually spend a little time talking with you and I really enjoyed that. You were just as friendly as I had heard. I love your passion for our boys also....and as I looked over at your table during the evening....I did not see you once where you weren't smiling....and I was pretty much the same way! In fact it seemed like everyone was that way!

To Bob, Selena and one of my youngest supporters, Nikki, It was great to see you at the show! Nikki asked to take my picture a few weeks ago and she surprised me by blowing them up and bringing about 10 copies or so to the show. Nikki asked me to sign her photo of me and soon there was a line of about 7 people or so waiting for me to sign their copies which I was thrilled to do....although I am still shocked that that actually happens occasionally...but it is very flattering. However the best part was watching the look on my good pal, Mr. Buddy Love's, face as he witnessed my signings. I'm not sure if Buddy quite knows what to make of this whole "Ambassador Bob" situation. Buddy, bring me a photo next week and I will sign it for you....LOL! Now, on a more serious note....best of luck to you Selena on your upcoming knee surgery....and I know Nikki that you will not be able to make the Blanchester show because of some health problems but we all wish you the best also. We will think about you and you will be with us in spirit at the show! Thanks again Nikki for the photos.....and I promise I won't tell Sonny how much fun you had at the show....wink ...wink!

Ok, I'm pretty sure that this commentary will now officially enter the Guinness book of records as the longest recorded commentary on record...and I can guarantee you that I will never top it.....will I? Nah, that's not possible...not even for me! In summing up.....I will just say that Ole "Ambassador Bob" is a very happy "waxer" again...and I can now officially say that "HOT WAX" is all the way back!!! Great job guys!

I must be OFF (your wisecracks here) and keep on Rockin!

"Ambassador Bob"