

# The Legends in Concert WOW!

I have seen the legends several times and each time I am amazed at the tremendous talent possessed by the persons who portray the legendary figures. This time was no exception. The performers, first of all look like the person they are playing and secondly they use their own voice. It's a stunning show that always amazes me.

Let me begin by telling you that the show I attended heralded a true show-stopper. I am not going to tell you about it just yet, so be patient and bear with me. I will tell you all about it later. You will not be disappointed.

Steve Fairchild, who just happens to be the nephew of Barbara Fairchild, started out the show with his performance of Garth Brooks. All the way, from the microphone on his cheek, the 20 gallon wide-brimmed hat on his head to the boots on his feet, he was, for all entertainment purposes, Garth Brooks. Steve gave an exciting and fast paced performance. He went into the audience sang, shook hands and let people know that the show was theirs to enjoy and he was merely a part of it. Steve was in fact, a large part of it, because he set the pace for the rest of the show. There is

younger Frank as I probably should, so after the show I looked him up on the internet and found that the photos I had

mountain fame or perhaps the milk-maid, Iowa, fresh farm girl look. I expect to see Liza as, perhaps, another Liza in times to

older than you, but I'm not totally dead yet.

LADY: Kurt, that is a completely chauvinistic viewpoint. Too bad they weren't male dancers.

KURT: And you think I'm chauvinistic?

Next came 20 minutes of total insanity, punctuated only by staccato bursts of foolish dancing and

ing, running, kicking, sliding and prat falling. They burn more calories in one performance than I do in a year of my Tae-Bo classes.

KURT: Hey Lady, did you notice how they really did look like John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd? They definitely have a following.

OK. Now I will tell you about Whitney Houston. Whitney, played by Jasmine, closed the first half of the show and I will guarantee you that any act following her, would have a hard load to tow. Jasmine pulled out all the stops and let Whitney rule the stage, the theater and the night. Her voice and her presence filled the house. Goosebumps ran rampant throughout the audience, wonderful thoughts filled their minds and they approved. The audience waited until the last note echoed from the back of the theater and then stood to show how they approved of Jasmine as Whitney Houston. That was the first time I have ever personally witnessed a standing ovation at the Legends in Concert Show.

LADY: I am a cynic and I hate everything, but she just blew me away. Jasmine was so convincing as Whitney Houston that I expected the police to come in and drag Bobby Brown away for possession.

KURT: I read one time that Whitney has won nearly every award a singer can get. I think Jasmine, as she portrayed Whitney, could have won those same awards.

Dear reader, in all fairness I have to tell you that Tony Roi, who portrays Elvis, was not there the night I reviewed the Legends show. Tony was in New Jersey, due to a family illness. I have seen Tony, as Elvis, many times in the past and will tell you that he is one of the strongest tribute performers I have had the pleasure to see onstage. He normally closes the show and his act is one, like Jasmine's Whitney Houston, that leaves no stops unpulled and one that for any performer would be a nightmare to follow.

Overall, the Legends in Concert are a must-see when you are in the Branson area. For show times, reservations or information,



taken of Brian, as the younger Sinatra, were remarkably like the photos I found on the web. You will enjoy Brian Duprey as Frank Sinatra.

LADY: I don't know a whole lot about Frank Sinatra; he was only more than 50 years older than me. I haven't heard too many of his songs, but I thought Brian Duprey, who played Sinatra, did a good job of imitating his style.

I was almost, a little bit, concerned about you being so close to the stage with your camera. I remember reading something, one time about Frank slugging photographers.

KURT: Yeah, Kall, he had a reputation as a tough guy and was known as the chairman of the board. He was the Elvis of the 30's and 40's, he had all the women of that day swooning

come. She was very refreshing.

LADY: My mom still has a Karen Carpenter frisbee.

KURT: No Kall, that is what they call a record.

LADY: Oh, (pause) what's a record.

KURT: Lady Kall, we don't have a generation gap, we have a generation canyon.

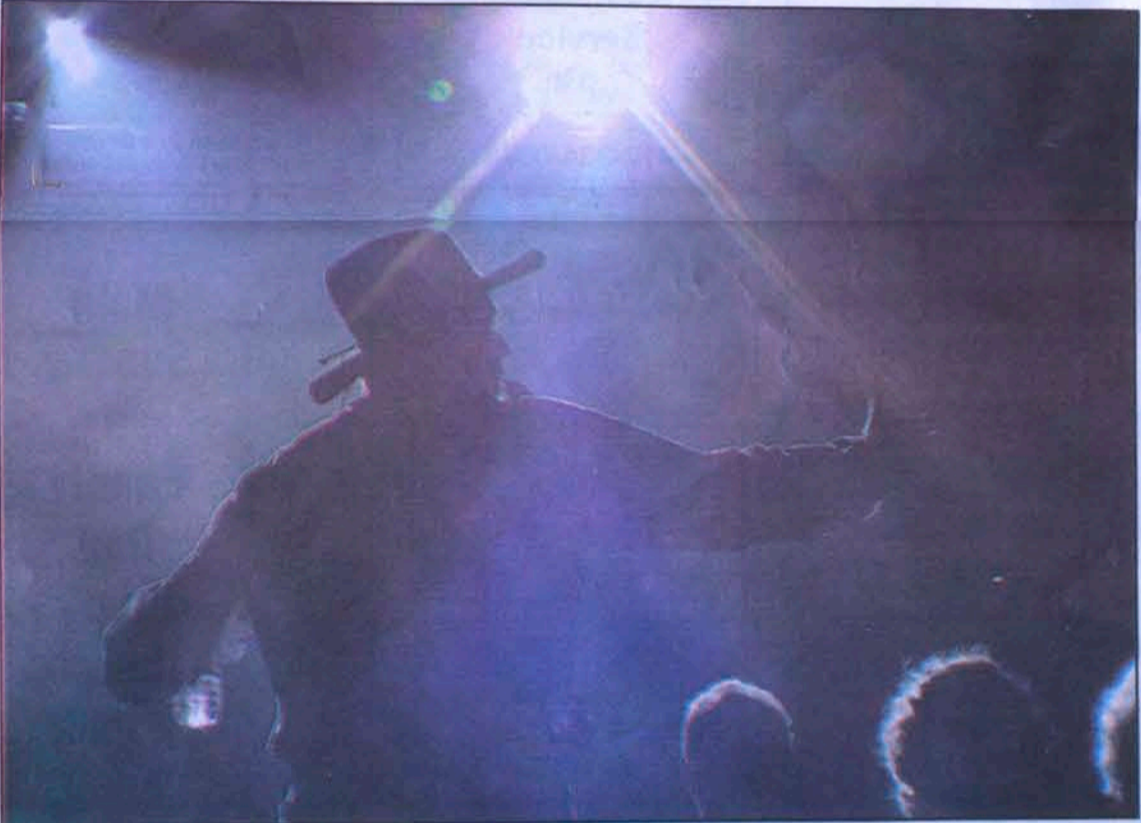
Then came the unstoppable, unsinkable and always bouncy, Bette Midler. Bette Midler was done to perfection by Kathy Thompson. Bette Midler, because of her always off the wall moves and com-



The always popular Frank Sinatra, played by Brian Duprey, looked and sounded like the younger Sinatra. Brian is very good as Frank and has won contests around the nation with his portrayal.

songs that made little sense to me. The Blues Brothers, Joliet Jake and Elwood, played by two high-energy people, Justin Clark and Bucky Heard, made themselves seen and definitely heard. It is hard to imagine any fast paced act that requires more in the way of stamina than this act. The Blues Brothers are a true symbol of perpetual motion. They never stopped, from the time they hit the stage until the last dance that took them off stage. I have never been able to understand the cult appeal of the Blues Brothers, but whether I understood them or not, they were definitely entertaining.

LADY: They made me tired just watching them-all that jump-



Steve Fairchild, nephew of Barbara Fairchild, plays a very convincing Garth Brooks. Here Steve is in the audience, shaking hands, grinning from ear-to-ear and creating tremendous goodwill as he opens the Legends in Concert show.

nothing worse, or more intimidating for a performer than starting with a cold audience, and Steve Fairchild as Garth Brooks, handled it with savvy openness and an ear-to-ear grin that went far beyond his years. Steve was at ease with the audience and the audience, because of his performance, was at peace with the world. It was a great curtain raiser for the show.

LADY: He was entertaining and performed songs just like the real thing. He made use of the entire stage.

KURT: Lady, you are on the money with that one.

Then came Old Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra. Frank was on stage in the person of Brian Duprey. Brian did Frank proud by being Sinatra in song, dress, mannerisms and class. Brian played the younger Sinatra and it was a gas as he was surrounded by the always present beautiful dancers. I did not remember the

over him. He was a street kid from Hoboken, NJ, who idolized his mom and when he grew up, and in his heyday, the women of our country idolized him.

Next in the line-up of legends portrayed on the show was Whitney Houston. I will get back to her later. Trust me on this one. You will want to hear about it.

The second half of the show was opened by Liza Rose as Karen Carpenter. Liza was much prettier than Karen was. Karen, to me, always seemed haggard and drawn. Liza was beautiful and had great stage composure. When she started singing you knew you were listening to Karen Carpenter. I have never heard "I'm On Top of the World" done any better at any time. I can envision good things happening to Liza Rose, as Liza Rose and not just as Karen Carpenter. As a matter of fact, she had a wholesome Swiss look. Much as you would imagine Heidi, of Swiss

ments, is a hard person to do. There is NO standard Bette Midler and that makes her an extremely difficult person to portray. Kathy Thompson did Bette Midler well, probably as well as any person could have done her. She was witty, bouncy and all over the yard. Bette Midler, at the Legends was a pleasure to watch and a task to keep up with.

LADY: Kurt, did you notice how good the Legends Dancers in the show were?

KURT: Kall, I may be



Whitney Houston, portrayed by Jasmine, took the honors of the evening with a standing ovation. Jasmine pulled out all the stops as she sang "I'll Always Love You." Jasmine was sensational as Whitney Houston and is a must-see when in the Branson area.

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