Review

LEGENDS

by Richard Freihofer, Editor & Publisher

**egends in Concert** is that slick and flashy Vegas production that has become a legend in itself, being largely responsible for creating the enormously popular tribute artist genre altogether!

Although it began and still headlines in Vegas, Legends in Concert has just been too good to live up to "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas". An instant sensation, Legends in Concert now tours the world besides residing not only in Vegas and Branson, but in such diverse places as Myrtle Beach, Atlantic City and Connecticut's Foxwood Resort.

Since Legends came along, tribute shows have been all the rage, but the star power and production pizzazz served up by Legends in Concert sets this show very far from the pack. From the outset the show put the bar insanely high. The vision was to give audiences the thrill of experiencing live performances of the world's greatest entertainers recreated up close and personal. What was expected, and of course demanded, was authenticity. But Legends audiences got more—they got a slam dunk, shut-the-

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door, whale of a show, full of glitz, glamour, gorgeous costumes, heart pounding choreography and high energy fun!

We sat in on a recent performance and caught George Trullinger doing the Buddy Holly set. (George is the last remaining star from the original Vegas production of yore, going back 18 years.) Within minutes, George had the crowd on their feet shouting the house down.

Shortly after came Branson fixtures Bucky Heard and Justin Clark doing The Blues Brothers. Those guys lit the place on fire! If you think Branson audiences are laid back or too

mature to get crazy, you should have seen them dancing in the aisles and shrieking Soul Man at the top of their lungs! Good thing intermission came after The Blues Brothers. Whipped into such hysteria, it's hard to figure what the Brothers could have done with an audience that wound up!

Legends in Concert will star a revolving cast of visiting superstars throughout the 2011 season, headed up by mainstays The Blues Brothers and premiere Elvis tribute artist Dean Z. Dean portrays a youthful and electrifying rockabilly Elvis. Although young in years, Dean is one of the top Elvis historians on the planet. Authenticity? No problem.

A few names to drop for 2011 appearances: Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Toby Keith, Martina McBride, Marilyn Monroe, Alan Jackson, Michael Jackson, Johnny Mathis, Bette Midler, Dolly Parton, and The Temptations. Catch them all at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre.

Free Coupons to Legends in Concert are available at BransonSavings.com ❖



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