

Sheena Easton returns to Las Vegas

by Brad Palmer
Staff Reporter



Sheena Easton

Scottish native and three-time Grammy winner Sheena Easton returned to Bally's Celebrity Room to show her versatility, and a style that's all her own.

Easton graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in June of 1979 as a teacher of speech and drama. She began her music career, however, back in 1981 with a self-titled gold LP and #1 single "Morning Train (9 to 5). The famed theme song and title track from the movie "For Your Eyes Only" and the bluesy "Modern Girl" firmly established Easton in the pop industry.

Unlike a majority of pop singers, she has had number one singles in three separate categories. In 1985, when the album "Private Heaven" was released, "Strut" was a chart-topper, but the only song off of that album that went to #1, was the Prince composed "Sugar Walls," which posed some controversy to the press and Capitol Hill.

"This song had Capitol Hill roaring and calling me a slut, and pointing the finger like I was to blame" she said.

Two years earlier she hit the top of the charts with her other crossover smash that skyrocketed

both the country and pop charts, "We've Got Tonight," a duet with Kenny Rogers. The song, previously recorded by Bob Seger, was a sentimental note for listeners, a ballad she is quite proud of.

"I got a call from Kenny one day asking me to come do the duet with him. I said sure," Easton said.

The third of her crossover hits was the 1987 duet with Prince, "U Got the Look," that also included her in the film and concert movie, "Sign O' the Times."

During her show, she was active, hopping around like a ten-year-old and her back-up singers had moves also. Her latest LP, "The Lover in Me," was highlighted by fast dance moves, harmonizing vocals, and a string of solos by the band members. "The Lover in Me" was the opener of the show, and was started by an instrumental of notable songs done in the early years of her career.

At 30, Easton is quoted as being one of the most versatile female pop singers to date, able to sing any style and top the charts with anything she sings. Over her nine year singing span, she has had several gold albums, and a wide range of chart topping successes.

During one set of Easton's

concert, she highlighted the hits from her latest album. "Follow My Rainbow," which she sang on the hit TV show "Miami Vice" after her engagement to the character played by Don Johnson, was the highlight of that segment of the show. The song written by L.A. Reid and Babyface, is what she called her "moral to the story" song.

"Before I worked with the writers and producers on the album, I told them I wanted to protect a lot of different sides of relationships," she explained.

Other songs during the set included: "Days Like This," which showcased the backup singers and the band, "One Love," another song written and composed by Prince, and "No Deposit, No Return."

Closing her show was the classic "Wind Beneath My Wings," which she quotes is her "own version."

Easton is also very involved in the "Rock Against Drugs" campaign.

"I feel the only thing you've really got to be able to hold onto in the world, which is crazy enough without drugs, is yourself," she said.

Easton's fans' applause indicated their gratitude for her return to the Las Vegas Showrooms.

NICA to host photo essay



Unusual - This picture, "Crater and Destroyed", is one of the photos on exhibit.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Art Department and Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA) will co-sponsor Richard Misrach's photo essay, "Bravo 20: The Bombing of the American West," beginning November 19 and running through December 22.

This unusual exhibition is a photographic documentation of the heart of the bombing range near Fallon. The landscape resembles a post-apocalyptic scenario with live bombs, craters and shrapnel as far as the eye can see. At the same time, the ancient sea bed is uniquely beautiful in addition to its important environmental, geologic, anthropological and cultural (Indian) significance.

The results of his efforts is a breathtaking collection of more than 50 full color photographs and a remarkable proposal for America's first environmental memorial: "Bravo 20: National Park."

Because of its regional importance, this exhibition will "kick off" in Nevada before it travels the United States, Europe and Japan from 1991 to 1993. Richard Misrach is a San Francisco Bay Area photographer well-known for his beautiful and provocative imagery of the American West. He is the recipient of numerous awards and grants including three Artist's Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and a distinguished Guggenheim Fellowship. His previous work includes the highly acclaimed Desert Cantos, which was published by the University of New Mexico Press in 1987 and traveled nationally as an exhibition. Johns Hopkins University Press will publish "Bravo 20: The Bombing of the American West" in November to coincide with the traveling exhibition. In the accompanying text, Myriam Weisang Misrach addresses the controversial history of the site and provides a political context for Misrach's work.

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