

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCAST OF THE STARS'



**TELLING
IT
LIKE IT
IS**

Osmonds Headline Caesars



THE OSMONDS; KNEELING ALAN LEFT AND JAY. STANDING: L. TO R. WAYNE, DONNY, MERRILL.

You had to be there to see it. The open mouth wide-eyed stare of Bonnie, my precious nine year-old princess. The twinkle and laughter in the eyes and heart of little Michele, my darling five year-old Michepoo. Add to this potion the total satisfaction of Rita and I enjoying one of the most well rounded cabaret entertainment in the history of Las Vegas.

For those who have not as yet seen the show, I am referring to the first headline appearance of the internationally acclaimed Osmond Brothers at Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Theater.

To say that the appeal of the Osmonds is strictly to bubble gum throngs of screaming youth is utter nonsense. Sure they are the number one musical group in the country today and have sold more gold albums and singles in a one-year period than any other artist or group including Elvis and the Beatles. Sure they appear in concert all over the world to hundreds of thousands of shrieking groupies (today's bobbie-sox gang). But this is Las Vegas and they are headliners so I was very curious to see how their manager Ed Laufer would handle this unique situation.

I am pleased to report that the Osmonds have matured their act to a fine lygroomed theatrical level and not only deserve headline status, they merit it in Vegas and should continue to draw S.R.O. crowds for years to come. The casino action is also on a favorable level, according to top Caesars gaming executives. Another impressive factor in a headline draw to a major hotel in town.

But back to the Osmonds in person. Sure they appear on stage dressed in flashy attire with electric guitars wiggling down mechanical

stairways and open with one of their biggies, "Down By The Lazy River." Of course Donny has the audience in the palm of his hands when he solos with "Sweet and Innocent," "Go Away Little Girl," and "Puppy Love." But the absolute mind blower is when these sensational brothers from Salt Lake City, Alan, Wayne, Merrill, Jay and Donny rip out a medley from "Fiddler" including songs like "Matchmaker," "Sunrise-Sunset" and "Rich Man Poor Man." The combination of some adult-oriented music with teeny-bopper hit records and the staging of the Osmond Dancers and backup musicians conducted by Don Costa turns into entertainment magic. Little brother Jimmy adds to the fun when he comes on with a medley of Elvis hits. And the talented Osmonds play guitar, drums, sax and do a little juggling act for an appetizer.

We must give a bravo to Mr. George Kirby, impressionist supreme, who is the guest star. His impressions range from mimicing an elephant in the jungle, a jet airliner racing down the runway to singing vocal arrangements of Nat King Cole and Stachmo. When I asked him off stage how he mustered up the courage to appear with the Osmonds, he honestly stated that his act has always been family-orientated and he hoped that the audience would appreciate his unique brand of talent. To Mr. Kirby I can only say that after seeing his performance, he had better be careful or he might find himself headlining the same hotel some day. He was superb.

The Osmond Brothers with George Kirby is not only a don't miss show, its a plea from this reporter to be there.

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