

Entertainment

That infectious laugh is back....



"Love Is (Even) Lovlier The Second Time Around"

By Betty Brown

Catching the Lovelace Watkins show at the Imperial Palace for the second time last Saturday was like taking one step further into heaven.

After such a beautiful opening, which left little to be desired, one

would not have thought that his performance could get much better. But, wow! Is he really turned on!

"Love's" performance Saturday night gives proof to the old saying that success breeds more success. He had not seemed a bit nervous or "tight" on opening night; however, he was so much

freer and looser on Saturday that his show was just a sheer delight to witness.

He seemed to be enjoying himself so much that his audience couldn't help but catch the magic of the moment and enjoy him and themselves, too. He was doing a lot of great ad libbing in his songs and there was a great

camaraderie between him and his musicians, who were really turned on by his performance, too.

There were a number of new songs in his repertoire this time, also. One of the most memorable was "All Is Fair In Love." I'm sure Stevie Wonder didn't know it at the time, but he had to have written

that song especially for "Love" to sing.

The tremendous power of "Love's" voice was demonstrated as he sang the well-known Italian song, "I Love You So," when, in the second chorus, he just "threw away" his microphone and projected his voice out over his large audience without it.

It was interesting to watch various members of the audience as he sang such romantic ballads as Lionel Ritchie's "Still," "I Know I'll Never Love This Way Again," "You Needed Me," "Sometimes When We Touch," and "I Honestly Love You." He can really put you in an amorous frame of mind!!!

Another highlight of his performance was his rendition of "By My Love," which was made famous by the great Mario Lanza.

The biggest climax of his show came at the end, appropriately, when he so beautifully sang "The Impossible Dream." He dedicated the number to a guest in the audience, Father Joseph Anthony, who was leaving Las Vegas to serve the church up in Reno.

That's another lovely thing about "Love." He is so close to and personal with and caring of his audience.

When he was appearing at the Flamingo Hilton seven or eight years ago, he had a very catchy little laugh that he used to share with his audience — a surprising yet appealing little laugh — rather short and high pitched, which was at first somewhat startling, coming from such a big man with such a powerful voice. Yet, one would find oneself really wanting to hear more of that laugh, because it was so full of the joy of life. When "Love" was appearing the last few months at the Landmark, that laugh was sorely missing to those of us who had heard it before.

Now we can happily feel that everything is lovelier for "Love," because that infectious laugh is back. Hooray!! And if everything is lovelier for "Love," it cannot help but be lovelier for his audience as well. Lucky us!!

Don't miss Lovelace Watkins, the smash hit of the year, appearing nightly at the Imperial Theatre of the Imperial Palace, 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and at 8 p.m. and 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday.

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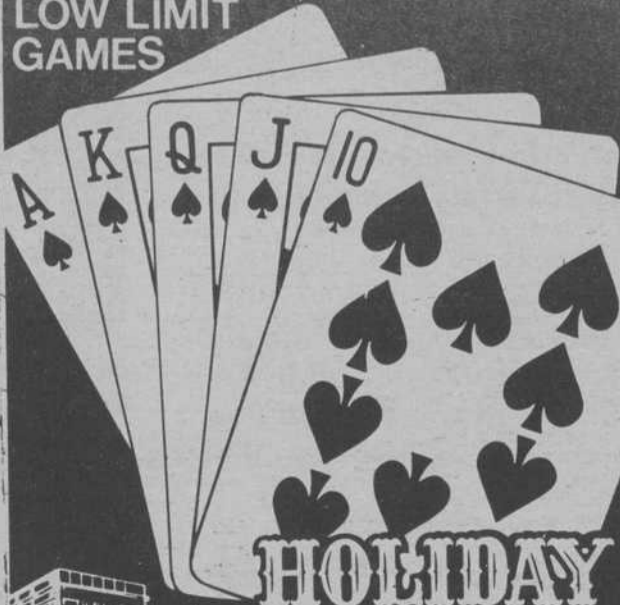
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