

ENTERTAINMENT

Wilson credits longevity to God, family

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

By the time Nancy Wilson was 15-years-old, she had her own television show.

She sang on the local Columbus, Ohio TV station twice a week, often obliging requests from viewers who would call in and write letters.

"I guess you could say I was a big fish in a little pond," said the legendary song stylist in an interview with the Sentinel-Voice after a recent performance in the Jubilee showroom at Bally's.

Though many audience members sat in awe, admiring Wilson's voice as much as her longevity, she says she was just doing her job.

"All of these years, I've been working, just like anybody else," she said. "It's a job."

At 62, Wilson is living well off of her gig. She has a home in Las Vegas and a ranch she calls "The Big House" in Pioneer Town, Calif. She's been married for 26 years and has recently witnessed the marriages of daughters Sam and Sheryl.

She says her only regret is not being able to spend more

time with her children and family, given her career.

"You can't do both. My kids had a life; they were in school and had things to do. I couldn't take them on the road with me," said Wilson, adding that a scaled-down schedule gave her time to raise her children. "I never stayed away too long."

"The hotels, the suitcases, the constant moving around — it gets old after 45 years," she said. She plans on retiring in 10 years.

Wilson has established herself among the true divas of song. She refers to herself as "the baby" of the group — the group comprising artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Louis Armstrong, Dinah Washington, Duke Ellington and others. Enamored with the public praise, she is nonetheless unfazed by the fame.

"I am not in love with show business. I didn't see a lot of happiness, especially as a female singer. Billie Holliday and singers like her were miserable. I never wanted to be like that," she said. "Don't get me wrong, though. Once I get on the floor, it's pure

joy."

A lot of things have changed, Wilson admits readily, since she came into

the business in the '50s.

"You've got to know yourself in the times that (See Wilson, Page 9)



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy
Nancy Wilson chats about life, music and her career after a weekend performance at Bally's.



Jackson buys 'Gone with the Wind' Oscar

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jackson got an Oscar for best motion picture. The film was "Gone With the Wind," and he had to pay \$1.5 million for it.

The entertainer phoned in his bid to Sotheby's to purchase the statuette awarded to David O. Selznick for the 1939 movie, Sotheby's officials said.

Before the auction, the Oscar had been estimated at a value of up to only about \$300,000.

Also sold on Sotheby's auction block Saturday was the film's final shooting script, containing the then-controversial line spoken by Clark Gable — "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" — Rhett Butler's famous last words to petulant wife Scarlett O'Hara.

The dog-eared script, with last-minute changes scribbled on pink and cream pages, was sold to an unidentified New York collector for \$46,000, against a pre-sale estimate of \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Grammy winner draws raves at old high school

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. (AP) — When opportunity knocks, answer with open arms, hip-hop diva Lauryn Hill told students at her old high school.

"I want you all to know that there are vast opportunities you can tap into. You just have to believe in yourself and start to do it. Do what you have to, to increase your mind," the singer said at an unannounced appearance Thursday at Columbia High School to be inducted into its hall of fame.

Hill, who won five Grammys this year, delighted students with impromptu a cappella versions of her songs "Doo Wop (That Thing)" and "Ex-Factor" during an assembly.

"She just touched me a lot," said teary-eyed Mara Ostfeld, 18. "She is just a great role model."

The 24-year-old singer with the Fugees lives in nearby South Orange with fiance Rohan Marley and her mother.

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Featured performers from the 3-day festival will showcase some of the talent that will be displayed at the main event from Friday through Sunday at the Las Vegas Convention Center's Gold Lot.

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<p>FRIDAY, June 18 • 10 a.m.—9 p.m.</p> <p>"Official Opening Ceremony & Cultural Carnival Parade" 10 a.m. at the festival site on Convention Center Drive</p> <p>MAIN STAGE (Noon to 8 p.m.): Segment 1: "ROOTS: Gathering for the Harvest" Segment 2: "Viva La Cultura: A Celebration of Afro-Latin Culture"</p> <p>STAGE II (Begins at 2 p.m.): Variety Show & Dance Hall Music</p> <p>GRAND FINALE: "Fiesta Time" — A Carnival Bachanall led by the Caribbean Zone Masquerade Dance Troupe</p>	<p>SATURDAY, June 19 • 10 a.m.—10 p.m.</p> <p>"Entertainment Extravaganza, Food & Fun"</p> <p>MAIN STAGE (Noon to 10 p.m.): Segment 1: "ROOTS: Gathering for the Harvest" Segment 2: "Caribbean Delights: The Rhythms and Spice of the Exotic Caribbean Isles"</p> <p>STAGE II (Begins at 2 p.m.): Variety Show & Reggae Dance Hall</p> <p>GRAND FINALE: "Fiesta Time" — A Carnival Bachanall led by the Caribbean Zone Masquerade Dance Troupe</p>	<p>SUNDAY, June 20 • Noon—8 p.m.</p> <p>"Entertainment Extravaganza, Food & Fun"</p> <p>MAIN STAGE (Noon to 7 p.m.): Segment 1: "ROOTS: Gathering for the Harvest" Segment 2: "Smokey Joe's Cabaret: A Retrospective on the African-American Experience"</p> <p>STAGE II (Begins at 2 p.m.): Rhythm & Blues Variety Show & Dance Hall</p>
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