

Artists relive past at House of Blues

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

The Delfonics, Chi-lites, Dramatics and Stylistics have still got it.

I can't pinpoint what "it" is exactly, being that I'm 23 years old and wasn't born when they had their heyday, but, rest assured, at their June 13 performances at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay, I knew that they had whatever it is.

Although I missed what many told me was the best band, (I was caught in traffic), the Delfonics started off the set.

"It was very entertaining!" said Robert Bass, a local at the event. "They sounded great!"

The Chi-lites, known for hits like "Oh Girl (I'd Be in Trouble if You Left Me Now)", performed second. Donned in red and black, they



shook their things hard. They had tremendous energy despite their advanced years.

The Dramatics were on next and for me, were the most fun. They sang songs that even I've "made out" to, despite not being around when they first came out: "I Wanna Go Outside in the Rain," "What You See is What You Get," and so on. All night, I found myself saying, "I didn't know that was the group that sang that



Sentinel-Voice photos by Kimberly Edwards

Images of the Stylistics on a drum pay homage to the soulful trio. (Adjacent) The real Stylistics harmonize during their performance at the House of Blues. Joining them for the old school tribute to R & B were the Dramatics (below).

song!"

The group even added some hip hop flavor with one of the members of the band rapping and a cameo appearance by a female mc. They looked a bit uncoordinated in terms of choreography, until they did a rousing tribute to the Temptations and all of the simultaneous dance steps came into play.

Dramatic Ron Banks provided the highlight of the evening when he proposed to

his sweetheart. He pulled her out onstage while singing "Lady in Red," stopped the song and popped the question. The lovely young lady was absolutely flabbergasted and then, they tongued each other down. A wave of "Ah's"

swept through the audience and then everyone cheered. The Stylistics rounded out the show and did so with incredible finesse and savoirfaire.

Sharply dressed in double-breasted, beige suits,

the three singers intertwined intricate dance steps and fluid hand movements, while singing songs like "So in Love With You," "I'll Be Around," "Break Up to Make Up," "People Make the World

(See R & B, Page 10)



Musical

(Continued from Page 2) Thursday, June 24. They are available to job applicants and non-applicants from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In order to qualify for a free screening, women have to be at least 40 years-old, earn less than \$21,000

annually and have no health insurance. They are required to attend a follow-up appointment with a doctor of their choice or with a practitioner provided through the Clark County Health District to receive their screening results.

Tickets are \$28.50 and \$18.50 and are available at the Buffalo Bill's box office or through TicketMaster at 474-4000.

You can also purchase hotel packages that include tickets by calling 1-800-FUN-STOP.

Wilson

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you're living in," she said. "The industry is entirely different today than it was when I got started. Jazz suffers immensely. There are no outlets, no supperclubs or nightclubs anymore. There used to be one on every corner. There's no artists in development. (Industry executives are) letting young people, 13-years-old dictate the industry. Mature adults aren't buying the music and supporting the venues anymore. White people have really kept jazz going and then, the Japanese kept it alive. We (African-Americans) don't appreciate our own art."

Wilson has steadied herself through the troubled times with faith in God and focus on her family.

She credits part of her success to good management and production, working with the likes of John Levy, who also managed the late Joe Williams, and late producer David Cavanaugh, who passed recently.

Wilson released her sixtieth album on the heels of her sixtieth birthday, but downplays the feat accomplished.

"This is the recording industry. It's just another record," she said laughing.

She will team up with Puff Daddy on a new cut, though she won't be rapping.

"He just called me one day. I was shocked, but I'm glad to work with him," she said. "Puffy is the strongest person out there now. With everything going on in his life, the assault charge and what have you, there's still nothing stopping him."

Wilson's advice for young singers: Know yourself.

"I'm the master of my ship," she said. "I like myself. I don't ever want to change or be somebody else. I'm so successful because I'm me. I know that may sound arrogant, but it's what's real. Know who you are, try to do it right and you can't help but be successful."

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