

Swain, Ben

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MERRY CHRISTMAS LAS VEGAS

Tony Sacca's 20th Annual "Merry Christmas Las Vegas" television show taping took place last Sunday afternoon in the **Theatre of the Stars Showroom** at the **Stratosphere Hotel**.



by **Norm Johnson**
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What a wonderful show it was too. Tony, as usual, opened with his beautiful dancers, followed by **Helen Joy's Young Entertainers** who help to open and close every show Sacca does of this type. These kids range in age from, I guess, five to perhaps 18 and they all dance and sing. **Denita Asberry** performed a wonderful "Noel" and was followed by **L.D. Miller**, a 12-year-old entertainer in "Buck Wild" at the **Sahara Hotel**. Without question this youngster is destined for major stardom. Not only does he sing, but he plays a harmonica as good as any I've ever heard (I would venture to say he plays other instruments too). I

THIS AND THAT QUICK Vegas Hilton, over on P; a media conference the c announce that they have **Reba McEntire** to a mult engagement in 2006. He May 3, 2006, with tickets

The La Concha Motel, n **Riviera Hotel**, was built i closed. There is a huge f underway to raise a total preserve and move it to a **Museum** area downtown have raised a total of \$1& city of Las Vegas and the Convention and Visitors / to furnish \$300,000 in ma Anyone donating \$2,500 their name placed on a p museum. Also a percent **Ermenegildo Zegna Me** inside the **Forum** (if you i Concha) will be donated according to **Barbara Mc** leading the cause...

Steve Connolly, billed a

remember when I first saw a young **Wayne Newton** performing downtown at the **Fremont Hotel** way back when. If there is any comparison it would be here. Miller did a great "**Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**" and received a standing ovation.

Laurence T. was next with "**Raindrops**" and then Tony showed a film prior to introducing the next performer - **Kelly Clinton**. Kelly was one of the first singers to perform for Tony 20 years ago at the **Mount Charleston Hotel** (the original location for a number of years) and has been with him ever since. **Curtis Adams**, a wonderful close-up magician performing at the **Plaza**, did some quick slight of hand to the amazement of the audience. **Bill Acosta**, a regular at the **SunCoast Casino**, brought a few of his 1001 voices to the show, and was then joined by Tony as they sang **Santa Clause is Coming to Town.**"

Spectrum, a group of four absolutely fantastic singers, performed two beautiful Christmas songs in perfect harmony, ending with "**Silent Night.**" They are currently at the Boardwalk on the Strip. The Boardwalk is closing in January.

Clint Holmes, who really needs no introduction, and his conductor **Bill Fayne**, were the last of the stars to perform on stage with a really neat "**White Christmas.**" Clint, along with Acosta and Tony, would later close the show in an unrehearsed rendition of "**Merry Christmas.**"

It is without a doubt one of the best shows we have been privileged to watch in a long time-at least since last Christmas!

"Twist" opened the other evening at the **Fitzgeralds** downtown to a SRO crowd. This is not just a guy doing Elvis but a total well choreographed show. More to come later...

A book launching party took place last week for **Jim Bickford**, author of "**Vegas Dreams**" at the Stirling Club on Turnberry Place. The author has plenty of residents of Las Vegas, with about 100 actually at the party...

Good news gang. My favorite entertainer **Steve & Eydie** will be at the **Stardust** March 22-25 and again May 24-27



"**Love is a Pain**" is in final rehearsal and will premiere in the **La Cage** show at the Riviera Hotel December 26. More to come as the date nears...

And I do not want to forget to remind that my friend **Fay McKay's "12 Days of Christmas"** is without question one of the funniest CD's you'll ever listen to. I'm selling them from her home. If you like a copy send me an email and forward your request to her...

Well, gang, that's about it for this v

I'm outa here!

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