

# Strictly ELVIS UK



**ELVIS**  
TRAVEL SERVICE

**Newsletter No. 29**

Winter 2022

Good Morning,

Well as we come to the end of our 50th consecutive year of taking fellow fans to Memphis I wonder how many people had the belief to think we'd achieve that or, for that matter, when we started Strictly Elvis UK as the 'communications and events arm' of the Elvis Travel Service, just how long that would last and how many issues we'd publish and send out for free? Well, I see above that we're now up to Issue 29 – not bad going – and all due to one man, Elvis Presley, plus a devil of a lot of determination and kindness from a bunch of good people (YOU) who have supported us.

You will have probably seen on Social Media that we've been incredibly busy this year with tours to the USA and this has led to even more enquiries for what we're doing in the future (see Diary pages 2 & 3) and the comments we hear most are regarding comparison (on both price and content) and travelling alone. Let me answer both.



*An early Christmas Present - DJW with the Proclamation from the Mayor of Memphis commemorating 50 years of taking Elvis Fans to Memphis*

much is included in the original price (and not charged extra whilst on the holiday!), the time of year that they travel and just as important, the quality of care and attention that they offer...and the lack of nice surprises that we include but other organisations wouldn't even know how to. On any special interest tour, be it for Elvis, steam trains, gardens or whatever it's always wise to travel with the companies that know what they're talking about.

It would be easy for fans to assume that all tour operators are basically the same and they might as well save money by taking the cheapest alternative. Well, there's probably a good reason why some may be cheaper – something to do with how long they stay in Memphis, how

And remember travelling alone doesn't mean you have to have a single room, and it definitely doesn't mean that you'd be lonely...far from it. The cost of a 'single room' (or rather nowadays it's a double or twin room for single use) is expensive simply because hotels are designed to maximise space and income and they charge the same per room regardless of whether there is one or two people in it. Rather than miss out on a trip to Graceland or Bad Nauheim and not wanting to 'blow their budget' just on a room for, basically, just sleeping in we've found a huge increase in people willing to share if we can find them a Room-mate. Well, we usually can – same sex (obviously – duh!), often similar age and similar interests (ie Elvis!) and do you know what? – in practically every case it's the start of a long-term friendship and future trips together. What might start as a cost saving turns into great companionship. Mind you, no-one is ever 'lonely' on our tours...our dedicated tour managers see to that.

Finally, with this issue you'll find a brochure for our next Elvis Festival which takes place from the 8th to the 15th September 2023....a real 'Summer' Festival. We're giving the event a new look with a change in activities, more Guests and a mix of the best bands. You'll see on the cover that we're bringing over from the USA Elvis' cousin, the delightful singer and writer Donna Presley plus we'll see the much-requested return of the rockin'est lady in the world, Linda Gail Lewis (and all of you who attended our 2015 Festival will remember her outstanding performance) plus leading Elvis Author Alanna Nash – an unbelievable bevy of talent.

It just leaves me enough space to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, from myself and all the crew at Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service.

Take care.

**T**  
Cheers for now  
**B**

**David J. Wade**

# DIARY UPDATE

Find us on...



**The Elvis Presley Travel  
Service/Strictly Elvis**



**@ElvisTravel**



**@StrictlyElvis**

News spreads pretty quickly and whilst we'll always update you via our newsletters, if you're on Facebook head over to our page and give it a 'Like' by clicking the big blue thumb and being part of our friendly Elvis on-line family you'll get to see all of our latest news, photos, videos and even the odd free prize giveaway as soon as we post it.

## FOR FANS, BY FANS

**Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service**  
Unit D Bristol Court  
Martlesham Heath Business Park  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RY, UK  
**Tel: 01473 621 564**  
**Email: [enquiries@strictlyelvis.net](mailto:enquiries@strictlyelvis.net)**  
**Website: [www.strictlyelvis.net](http://www.strictlyelvis.net)**

Strictly Elvis UK is the Newsletter of Strictly Elvis UK and the Elvis Travel Service – trading names of David Wade Ltd, an organisation that has led the way in Elvis holidays and events since being founded by lifelong Elvis fan David Wade in 1972. This professional organisation is registered with Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc and works closely with them to promote Graceland, the Guest House at Graceland, Graceland's Chapel in the Woods and Elvis' legacy. The names 'Elvis', 'Elvis Presley', 'Graceland' and 'The Guest House at Graceland' are registered to Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc with the USPTO.

# 2023

**Memphis & Tupelo Luxury Break**  
**19th – 25th April 2023**  
**Memphis & Tupelo**  
**plus Hawaii & Seattle Extension**  
**19th April – 4th May 2023**

Every few years the Elvis Travel Service adds a fabulous Hawaii Extension onto its Memphis and Tupelo tour and this time we've chosen to do it in the Spring in order to take advantage of better weather (not too cold or too hot) and more reasonable flight and hotel prices.

**Elvis Summer Ball**  
**17th June 2023**

A fabulous Early Summer Elvis Break in Liverpool incorporating a Charity Ball. See advertisement alongside.

**Bad Nauheim**  
**& European Elvis Festival**  
**17th to 21st August 2023**

Join us for a fabulous 5 day break to Germany at the time of the European Elvis Festival in the beautiful Spa town where Elvis lived while stationed in Germany.

**Nashville, Memphis and Tupelo**  
**9th to 20th August 2023**

A wonderful 12 day tour featuring three of the places most significant to Elvis' life, and to places just packed with music heritage – in fact we've even added Muscle Shoals (one time 'Hit Capital of the World') into the itinerary – a 'must' for all music as well as Elvis, fans.

**UK Elvis Festival**  
**8th - 15th September 2023**

Our 43rd Festival held at Parkdean's 5 Star Vauxhall Holiday Park in glorious Great Yarmouth. This weeklong event features great bands, all-Elvis and alternative Disco's, Elvis on the big Screen, an Elvis Marketplace, competitions and interviews with Elvis Guests from the USA...and not an Elvis impersonator in sight!

**Bad Nauheim/G I Blues Tour**  
**12th - 16th October 2023**

How would you like to stay in the same hotel that Elvis lived in during his tour of duty with the US Army in Germany? Well on this tour you can – plus you'll be able to see all the location sites used in Elvis' famous movie G I Blues as well as explore Bad Nauheim and see his army base at nearby Friedberg.

## Looking Ahead

We get many fans wanting to know what we have planned (or up our sleeves!) for some 2 years ahead so that they can plan their holidays and savings accordingly. Obviously we cannot provide the exact details so far out but we are happy to share our thoughts and intentions with you. For the USA Spring Tour to the USA in 2024 we are looking at Memphis and Tupelo but with the Option of travelling on to New Orleans, Biloxi and Crystal River – a lovely extension combination of King Creole, Elvis' time with June Juanico and Follow that Dream and at a delightful time of year weatherwise. And in the August we'll combine Elvis week in Memphis with Tupelo and the much-asked-for visits to Niagara Falls and Toronto. Oh, and for those who missed out on New York because of Covid we are still planning to go there – possibly as a Winter long-weekend. Watch this space.

**Join us for our Early Summer  
Weekender in Liverpool and  
combine it with our great  
Charity Ball.**

**Saturday 17th – Monday 19th June  
2023 at The Liner Hotel (Rated 4.5  
Excellent on Tripadvisor) in the  
heart of Liverpool.**

The price is from £236 per person sharing a double or twin room, or £348 in a single room, is inclusive of 2 nights at the hotel, breakfasts, the Charity Ball on the Saturday including dinner, live band, disco and goody bag, and an all Elvis Disco on the Sunday night.

Alternatively you can book the Charity Ball only at £89 per person inclusive of dinner, live band, disco and goody bag.

All prices are inclusive of a £10 Donation to Charity.

For further details or to book contact Strictly Elvis on 01473 621564 or visit our website on [www.strictlyelvis.net](http://www.strictlyelvis.net)





# AND I'LL COME FLYING TO YOU

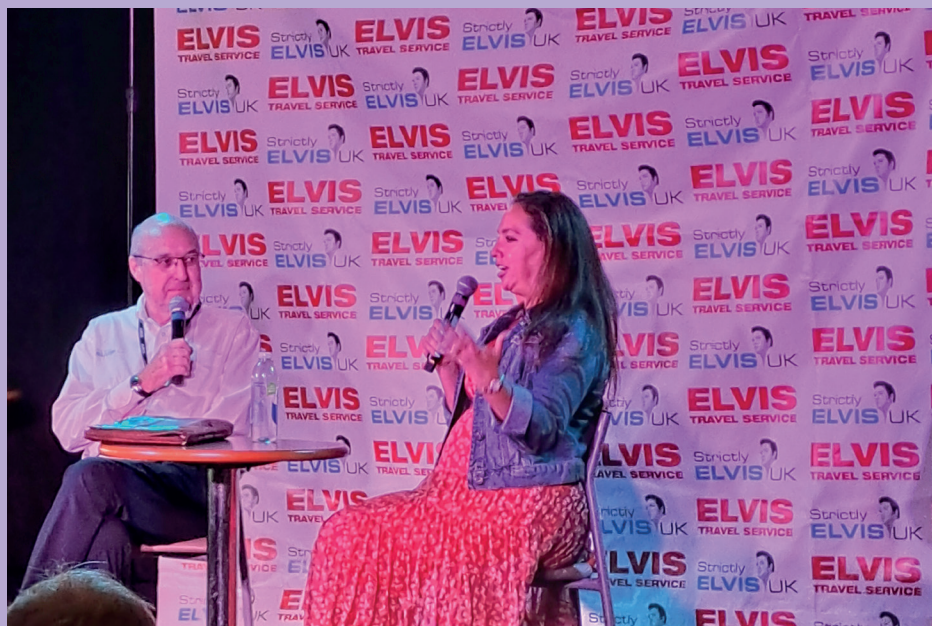
by Sally Hoedel

When I finished *Destined to Die Young* and the day came for it to be released to the world, I had no idea what would come next. Success and failure were both possible outcomes. Would I be stuck with thousands of copies for all eternity as a reminder of the failure? At the same time, I felt a quiet confidence and contentment the day I shared with the world what had been mine alone for so long. I knew I had done the best job I could do and that I did it with integrity, both for me and for Elvis. And with that, I sent it off on its journey...

I had no idea that day that the book would take me on a journey – one that hasn't ended yet and hopefully never will. When Strictly Elvis first presented the opportunity of traveling to England and attending the Great Yarmouth Festival, I was blown away. The

invitation felt like success. In all honesty, I was nervous and reluctant too. Being on an airplane for eight hours has never been high on my agenda and leaving my family an ocean away was a definite worry. One of my daughters told me I had to go because it was an incredible opportunity. She was right.

Even though I did leave my family behind in the States, I quickly found the elements of family in the Strictly Elvis crew – comfort, support, community and social connection. I had the most amazing time at the festival, not only meeting the Elvis fans, but making friends with so many. I hope those friendships continue. A group of ladies invited me to a beautiful afternoon tea, even presenting me with my own gluten-free sandwiches. Lovely! Although jet lag made the late evenings sometimes tough, one



was more fun than the last. The bands were amazing and the Elvis music that followed was perfection. Each day, I looked forward to seeing what everyone was wearing. The English Elvis fans have such style! When I spoke with my American Elvis friends back home, I declared that we must go shopping and take dance lessons immediately in any hopes of measuring up to some of the most dedicated and sincere Elvis fans I've ever met.

I've said a million times in interviews that Elvis is universal. To really experience that was bigger than just making a statement. I'm already well versed in how powerful Elvis Magic can be with the way he brings people together. Each time I have dinner with Ron Strauss, he is sure to say to the group, "If it wasn't for Elvis, we wouldn't be here together." Elvis has connected so many of us from around the world. I've experienced that in Memphis countless times. To travel to another country and experience it first-hand, has given me such a new perspective.

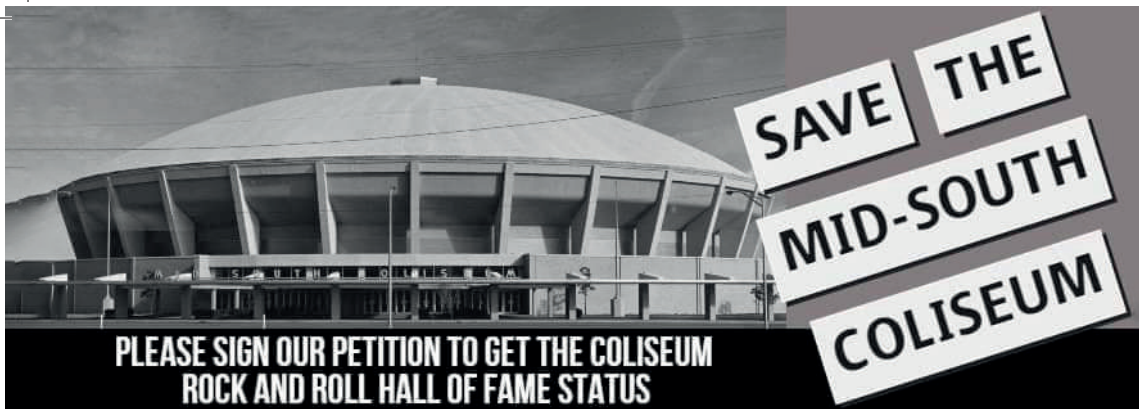
One thing that popped in my mind many times while in the UK was one of those unanswered Elvis questions – what is the real reason why Elvis never toured outside of the U.S? I've always thought of that question as merely a good discussion topic with my Elvis friends over a glass or two of

wine. After spending time at the festival and witnessing the dedication and love the fans have for Elvis, I now know that it is not just one of those unanswered questions. For the fans in the UK, it will forever be a missed opportunity. The continual state of wonder of what could have been. It's personal.

After the festival, I spent two days in London. As a student of history, I am still amazed that I found myself in London during the time of mourning for Queen Elizabeth. I am forever changed, by not only the outpouring of grief that I witnessed, but by the coming together of a nation in that grief. It was sad and profoundly beautiful at the same time. Truly a gift for this American.

Lastly, seeing Buckingham Palace for the first time left me in complete awe. I stood there for quite some time thinking about the impact the Queen had on so many. The true impact of one. Then I thought about the king, Elvis Presley. I thought to myself, thank you Elvis. I even said it out loud a couple of times. Elvis had brought me there and gave me that once in a lifetime experience. Of course, that sentiment was quickly followed with a big thank you to David, Carol & Neil and all the incredible people associated with Strictly Elvis UK. You're the best!! Thank you!!





## WORKING ON THE BUILDING by Strictly Elvis

On behalf of the UK organisation Strictly Elvis and our Elvis Family around the globe we'd like to share a petition that we have started to maybe help protect the future of the Mid-South Coliseum.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has a category (that sits alongside the more well known one of celebrating notable figures in the music world) which bestows a landmark status upon structures or locations that have played an important role in rock and roll history.

Having played host to hundreds of legendary musicians in its long and illustrious history such as The Beatles, The Who, Frank Sinatra, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, David Bowie, Blondie, James Brown, Eric Clapton, ZZ Top, Bruce Springsteen, Queen, Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys and of course Memphis' very own Elvis Presley having all graced the stage, along with so many others, in this legendary venue.

For us Elvis fans, the Coliseum is hallowed turf – this was of course Elvis' 'backyard arena' and a venue that he played on a number of occasions, as well as releasing one of those concerts as a best-selling album.

The Mid-South Coliseum deserves the accolade of being a Rock and Roll Landmark, after all Memphis is the recognised home of Rock and Roll – so what could be more fitting?

We've long been supporters of the saving the Coliseum campaign – we have proudly donated to the Roundhouse Revival days and also have written to the Mayor, City and the Tourism Office (we're not saying that we have any power, but 50 years of bringing groups to Memphis to see Elvis' history proves that it's something that brings business to the city).

The fact that the Coliseum has such a strong cultural history as a venue, built to focus on non-segregated audiences, is yet another reason to ensure its survival. Our company ethos is 'Everyone is welcome, everyone gets on and everyone belongs' these words could certainly have been written about the Coliseum too.

So please, sign our petition and share it far and wide so that we can get a strong number of supporters to show the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame that the Coliseum is a worthy inductee into its Landmark category. It doesn't cost anything and it will at least show that it is still important to so many people, as well as historically too.

Thank you from Strictly Elvis and our Elvis Family around the world – as the man himself would say keep on 'Taking Care of Business'.

To sign just go through to: <https://www.change.org/p/nominate-memphis-mid-south-coliseum-as-an-official-rock-and-roll-hall-of-fame-landmark>

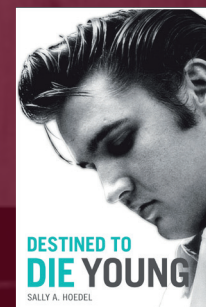
Or you can  
scan this  
QR Code!



## THE STRICTLY ELVIS BOOK-MART

The Strictly Elvis Book-Mart has some great Elvis books in stock, all at great prices, and some signed by the authors, should you wish to catch up on your reading, add to your Elvis library or to gift to someone as a great Christmas present.

Postage and packing are included in the price of these books. To order your copy/ies simply call us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 with your Credit or Debit card details or, if you prefer to pay by cheque or Postal Order then drop us a line with payment to the address below...and if you order more than one book then there's a special £1 per book discount. Happy Reading!



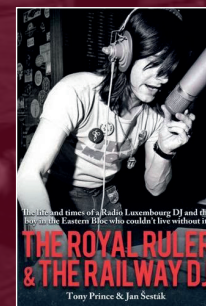
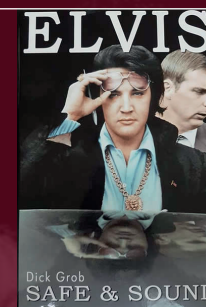
### 1. **Elvis: Destined To Die Young** by Sally Hoedel. **Price £27.95**

This is the definitive examination of why the world lost Elvis Presley when he was only forty-two years old. Author Sally Hoedel has painstakingly researched the subject and offers factual and scientific data, plus never-before-published information she gained by interviewing people who personally knew Elvis.

### 2. **ELVIS: Safe and Sound** by Dick Grob.

**Price £29.95**

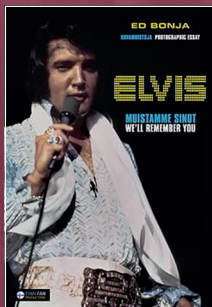
This classy hardcover award-winning book by Dick Grob, Elvis' Head of Security, tells the inside story of what it was like 'on the road' with Elvis. Supported by many never-before-seen photo's and documents it is one of those 'must have' items of any Elvis book collection.



### 3. **The Royal Ruler and the Railway DJ** by Tony Prince (Signed by the author). **Price Hardback £19.95 | Price Paperback £12.95**

A look behind the scenes of the radio and music industries by the first British DJ to interview Elvis and the only British DJ to introduce Elvis on-stage.





**4. Elvis, We'll Remember You** by Ed Bonja. **Price £21.95**  
 Elvis' official photographer brings you hundreds of photos, many before unpublished, along with stories of life in the Elvis business in this fabulous hardback volume.

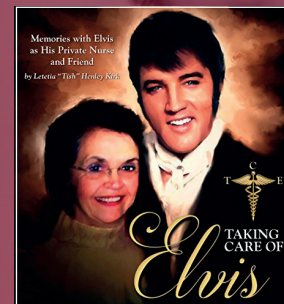
**8. Destined To Fly** by Sally A. Hoedel (Signed by author). **Price £27.95**

The brand new book by the award winning author of Destined to Die Young tells the extraordinary story of Ron Strauss, Elvis' pilot from 1975-77. Never before told stories



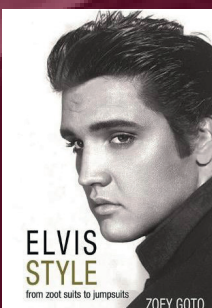
**5. Elvis in Paris** by Jean-Marie Pouzenc. **Price £23.90**

This huge book, featuring more than 400 photos and documents, is the definitive guide to Elvis' trips to Paris. A truly fabulous book and now in high demand due to its sold-out print runs.



**9. Taking Care of Elvis** by Letetia 'Tish' Henley Kirk (Signed by author). **Price £24.95**

Elvis' private nurse shares short stories on her time working with Elvis. Features dozens of fantastic photos.

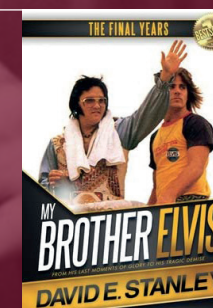


**6. Elvis Style** by Zoey Goto (Signed by the author). **Price £12.95**

In this informative book, journalist and writer Zoey Goto explores Elvis' unique style through his clothes, jewellery, cars and more. This book features many stunning photos!

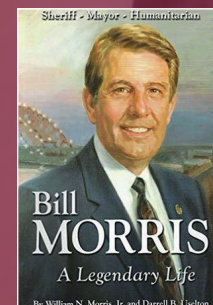
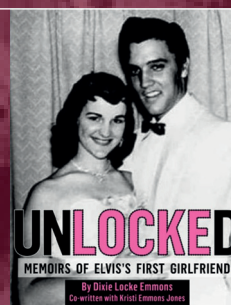
**10. My Brother Elvis** by David E. Stanley (Signed by author). **Price £27.95**

An intimate look at Elvis' relationship with his Step-brother. This book is an uncensored account of Elvis' life both professionally and privately.



**7. Elvis Unlocked** by Dixie Locke Emmons (Signed by the author) **Price: £39.95** / (Unsigned) **Price: £27.95**

Memoirs of Elvis' first girlfriend. A tale of teenage love, of longing looks in church and how the 'innocent' Miss Locke contrived to 'bump into' Elvis at the Roller Rink sparking a relationship straight out of a fairytale...only this one was true.



**11. Bill Morris: A Legendary Life** by William N. Morris Jr (Signed by the author). **Price £27.95**

This autobiography is from one of Memphis's most legendary characters; Former Memphis Mayor, Sheriff and close friend of Elvis Presley. This book is a lifetime of fantastic stories.





**Worldwide 78's / 45's / EP's / LP's**

**Worldwide CD's / Club Promo's / DVD & Video**

**Vegas & Tour Memorabilia | 1956 epe Merchandise**

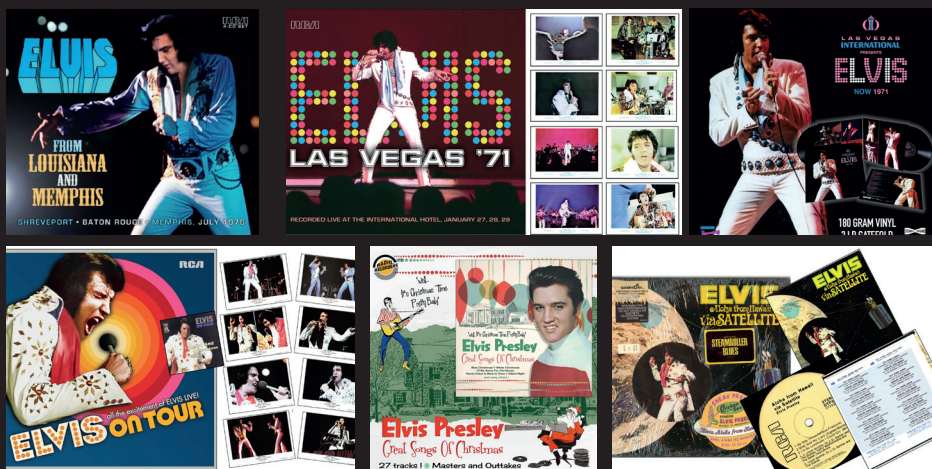
**Movie Memorabilia Stills / Lobby Cards / Press Books**

**Worldwide Sheet Music | Books & Magazines**

**www.theelvisshoplondon.com**

**theelvisshop@hotmail.co.uk**

**020 8552 7551 (10:30am - 6:00pm)**



## SOUVENIR ENAMEL PIN-BADGES

Support us and, at the same time, show the world that you're a member of the Elvis family with this unique and beautifully British-made Strictly Elvis UK enamel pin badge. At 35mm long by 12mm high it's the perfect size for wearing in a lapel but would be equally attractive worn on a jumper or fastened to a bag. Or add it to your badge collection because this 1st Edition is sure to become a Collector's item.



Priced at just £5.95\* (and that includes VAT, postage, packing!) it's a lovely little treat for yourself or would make a great present for family and friends.

For your badge/s simply call us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 with Credit or Debit card details to hand and we'll take your order over the phone. Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by cheque or Postal Order simply send your name and address to us with the correct payment and we'll forward you the badge/s.

Remember, Strictly Elvis UK doesn't charge anything for you to be a member of our Elvis family and hopefully we'll never have to, but it does cost thousands of £'s to print and mail out our Newsletters so the support that you show by purchasing a badge helps pay for these and that's so appreciated by us all.

## A Message from Reverend Derek



Hello everyone,

We're getting near to that special time of the year, and before we know it SANTA CLAUS IS BACK IN TOWN.

I wonder if we'll have a WHITE CHRISTMAS together with a WINTER WONDERLAND for I have to admit I really do like the snow when it first arrives.

However, what I do know is that many people's thoughts will turn to that O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM and think about all that the story means.

At its heart, it talks about the giving of a gift in the birth of a child.

Elvis always enjoyed Christmas, especially the giving of gifts, no doubt remembering how God had gifted him with such talent.

I wonder how he would have felt if one of his gifts remained unopened, even forgotten.

Surely for him, what was once THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHRISTMAS would suddenly become a very BLUE CHRISTMAS.

Yet, perhaps we are often guilty of the same thing simply by not opening the gift that is offered to us every Christmas.

God's gift was really the gift of Himself in the wrapping of the infant Jesus.

So, let this year be the one in which we get past all of the tinsel and glitter, the HOLLY LEAVES AND CHRISTMAS TREES and accept what is on offer.

Could it be possible that in all of this God is saying IT WON'T SEEM LIKE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT YOU.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Rev Derek



# SUMMER KISSES...

by Neil Cameron

Ah, summer days (and as John Travolta once proclaimed “Oh, those summer nights” too) are usually the most relaxing of the year. Carefree times of sunny weather, ice creams, garden lounging and slicin’ sand at the beach.

Here at Strictly Elvis HQ though the summer months are one of non-stop frantic activity, and no matter how warm it is outside, the heat rises an extra few degrees in the office with the manic energy produced by over-worked printers, telephones, keyboards - and by an ever so slightly frazzled staff!

The summer months are always our most busy period, and have been for most of the 50 years we’ve been in existence, but 2022 may go down as the busiest yet.

When you travel with us you’re not going on holiday (we refer you to our tour managers favourite lines “Where does it

say sleep on the itinerary?”), you could say you’re going on a tour – but for us perhaps the best word to sum it up best, is an experience – and we are dedicated to giving the very best in Elvis experiences with exclusives that you just can’t get if you travel on your own or with other companies.

And this summer was one of epic Elvis experiences.

Our mega USA 45th Anniversary tour got underway first. We had over 100 of our Elvis Family join us in which we crammed the most amount of Elvis we possibly ever have into an itinerary – no wonder we called it our ‘Elvis Aficionados’ tour!

We took in the sights and sounds of Elvis Week, visited Tupelo and took our now legendary Memphis sightseeing tour (over 70 Elvis locations!) and then there was our special Strictly Elvis party night in Memphis’ Hard Rock Café. To steal that famous line “Oh, What a night!” The great and the good of the Elvis World came out for the most star-filled bash of Elvis Week; hosted by Donna Presley we welcomed Marlyn Mason, Ron Strauss, Glen D. Hardin, Betty Harper, Sally Hoedel amongst others who came out to meet our group (as well as have a dance and a drink or two!)

On then from Memphis to our West Coast extension – and lots more surprises! Las Vegas was our first stop and our group got to tour the showroom and backstage area of the Westgate Hotel (formerly the Hilton) where Elvis gave hundreds of sold-out performances in the 1970’s. We also had the pleasure of Elvis’ step-brother David Stanley who came and told stories about growing up with Elvis.

We then hit the road for Palm Springs and even more Elvis Travel Service exclusives! Elvis’ Chino Canyon home (aka Graceland West) has remained an elusive visit for fans. Privately owned, it’s never been accessible – but that doesn’t stop the Elvis Travel Service! Our group got to tour inside, which remains largely unchanged since Elvis resided there, and even got to paddle in the pool – now how about that for something special?

Onwards then to Los Angeles, our final stop, and where we had a big surprise waiting for us. Steve Binder, legendary producer of the ‘68 Comeback, met the group and regaled us with stories of Elvis, The Colonel and the new Elvis Movie.

And whilst the group were taking in the USA, we had another group exploring the sights of Elvis’ Germany – one too that came with some very unique experiences. Fancy visiting the room (and bathroom!) where Elvis once lived? Well our group did just that as they visited inside the Hotel Grunewald, checking out many of the original fixtures and fittings that were there when Elvis was in residence.

The group also had another exclusive, with a tour inside of Elvis’ former Army

HQ, Ray Barracks. Long since closed, we were once again given access to explore this piece of Elvis history – including the barrack block that he was assigned to. And just to make it extra memorable, our group took the tour in a vintage bus.

By the end of August, with our overseas groups safely back in the UK, we were getting ready for the Elvis Festival – and yet again more exclusives including author Sally A. Hoedel making her very first UK trip to talk about her books ‘Destined To Die Young’ and ‘Destined To Fly’ and a rare appearance on these shores of Linda Thompson, who gave a truly heartfelt interview and took the time for photos and autographs with everyone.

It was busy, it was hectic and we’re not sure we would’ve found time to sleep even if it had been on the itinerary, but boy what a summer it was. We gave our Elvis Family experiences that were truly special, and made memories that we’ll remember for a lifetime.

If you’d like the very best in Elvis experiences then make your next holiday a Strictly Elvis / Elvis Travel Service one!





# ELVIS REVIEW

## A 2ND GENERATION FAN'S OPINION

By Sallie Phillips



'Before Elvis, there was nothing,' said John Lennon. As a second-generation fan, this rings true for me, now and forever.

Growing up, I was surrounded by Elvis, going to my first concert at three and even being born to 'Moody Blue'. He has been ingrained into my world that I couldn't imagine not loving his music.

For over a decade, I have been trying to convince people that Elvis is and always will be a legend, and that without him, we would not have today's artists.

Sadly, my generation only seemed to know the very tip of Elvis' legacy and tended to find more interest in how his story ended. I used to have so many friends tell me 'Elvis died on the toilet' and I've always felt this was disrespecting one of the greatest musicians in history.

In my eyes, Elvis needed a reintroduction to this generation, in a way that would do his story justice. Then came the announcement of Elvis this year. I was delighted that this would hopefully be the eye-opener that I felt was desperately needed.

When I first discovered that it was going to be a tale narrated by Col. Tom Parker, who I have always hated, I was concerned. This being because I, and many other Elvis fans, believe he was responsible for Elvis' untimely demise. However, upon seeing the casting of Tom Hanks as Parker, and relative unknown Austin Butler as the King, I soon became optimistic, particularly given the resemblance between Butler and Elvis. My expectations improved after seeing the trailers and behind the scenes footage of Butler singing Elvis' beloved 'That's All Right', sounding much like the man himself.

I was particularly impressed when it was revealed that due to tapes from the '50s being unusable in the film, Butler was performing all of Elvis' pre-army singing himself, and pulling it off spectacularly well. For me, one of the best parts of Elvis' career was his triumphant return to live concerts with his '68 Comeback Special, and I hoped, given director Baz Luhrmann's unique flair, that this would be given the attention it deserved. This was important, considering that among Elvis fans, it is well-known that this was the only time that Elvis had the strength to stand up to Parker.

Of course, everyone now knows how successful that decision turned out, particularly with the powerful 'If I Can Dream' closing the show in an iconic performance which would highlight Elvis' emotional response to the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert Kennedy. The performances of Butler and Hanks in this sequence alone were phenomenal.

I don't cry a lot at films, but this scene, and the ending sequence with the now legendary performance of 'Unchained Melody', had me bawling.

Something I really enjoyed was the attention given not only to Elvis' early days, so people could see what inspired him, but also the high points in his career, showing just why he is a legend but also why his story ended the way it did.



One thing that I really have to

commend is how they managed to, make it very clear who the film's villain was, despite the narration attempting to persuade you otherwise. That is a very difficult line to walk, and it was done excellently. The song choices were excellent, combining Elvis' classics with today's artists to bring in younger viewers.

I believe that this film will be in the mix come awards season, deservedly so, particularly with Baz Luhrmann, Tom Hanks and of course, Austin Butler producing absolutely astonishing performances. There is a reason this film got a 12-minute ovation at Cannes.

Do I think this film did Elvis the justice he deserves? Absolutely.

Did it confirm my opinion of Col. Parker as a money-grabbing slimeball who killed him? Yes.

Despite that, who else can sell out arenas 45 years after their death?

This film cemented Elvis' place in history as the King of Rock n' Roll.

His legacy will continue to live on.

The Elvis film has been one of the most talked about aspects of Elvis' amazing legacy. Just like Sallie's article there's been some fantastic reviews and opinions about this cinematic treat, including one from Gerry McLafferty the president of our good friends The Elvis Film Society. Too long for our newsletter (and it would be a crime to have edited it) you can read it on our website under the Features page. And for more info on the Elvis Film Society get in touch with them at:

[elvispresley.filmsociety@ntlworld.com](mailto:elvispresley.filmsociety@ntlworld.com)



THE VERY BEST OF  
**ELVIS**  
IN CONCERT • LIVE ON SCREEN

WITH THE  
**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC CONCERT ORCHESTRA**  
LIVE ON STAGE  
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST



2023

25 OCT GLASGOW OVO HYDRO  
26 OCT MANCHESTER AO ARENA  
27 OCT BIRMINGHAM RESORTS WORLD ARENA  
28 OCT NEWCASTLE UTILITA ARENA  
29 OCT LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA  
31 OCT LONDON THE O2  
01 NOV CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA

TICKETLINE.CO.UK • BOOKINGSDIRECT.COM  
OR THE VENUES DIRECT  
VIP PACKAGES: EVENTTRAVEL.COM

KENNEDY STREET

PRODUCED BY ELVIS PRESLEY ENTERPRISES-©2023 ELVIS PRESLEY ENTERPRISES, INC.  
ELVIS™ IS A TRADEMARK OF ABG EPE IP LLC RIGHTS OF PUBLICITY AND PERSONA RIGHTS:  
ELVIS PRESLEY ENTERPRISES, LLC © 2023 ABG EPE IP LLC

AAA