



Good Morning,

Welcome to the 30th Issue of the Strictly Elvis Newsletter – the mini-mag of Strictly Elvis UK and the Elvis Travel Service. Now that there are so few other Elvis publications we're often asked why we don't make the Newsletter bigger and cover more stories about Elvis and Elvis fans. The answer is simply that if we did, the printing and postage costs would go up (they're already high!) and we'd have to start charging fans to be members of our Elvis 'family' – and we really don't want to do that. Since its inception Strictly Elvis UK and its Newsletter has been free and we want it to stay that way but the basic postal weight of 100gms limits the size which, in turn, controls the amount of articles we can include.

Because of these restraints we don't tend to comment on current affairs in the Newsletter; the terribly sad passing of Lisa Marie hit us all hard but it also then divided opinion, with Priscilla's role in particular being questioned - putting both supporters and detractors at loggerheads on social media. So many opinions but mostly without any real, substantiated, knowledge, one way or the other. I'm often horrified by what I read online where Elvis fans are being critical of each other to the point that they are rude – hostile even – about the opinions of others. Perhaps that's why Elvis, ever the diplomat, said "I'd just sooner keep my own personal views about that to myself".



Photo courtesy of [dailymemphian.com](https://www.dailymemphian.com)

We all have opinions – perhaps it's a pity that they don't always come with the wisdom of knowing when to keep them to ourselves. I say this because over the many years I've been in the Elvis world I've seen other non-Elvis groups torn apart, even disintegrate completely because of arguments caused by differences of opinion. I'd like to think this will never happen with Elvis fans – that our loyalty to Elvis will hold us together for his, as well as our own, sake. And that was one of the main reasons that we started Strictly Elvis UK.



All the fun we had at our last Charity Ball

Certainly nothing in this issue too controversial; we have a right ol' hotch potch of interesting items (hopefully something for everyone) and including details of our Summer Break/Charity Ball Weekend in Liverpool, a great value, super fun break in one of the most fascinating cities in the UK... and one that you'll hear a lot about over the run up to the Eurovision Song Contest that's being held there soon. I wonder what Elvis would have made of that event... he'd have won it, hands down, that's for sure! Or is that just my opinion?

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

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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

ELVIS SUMMER BALL

17th June 2023

A fabulous Early Summer Elvis Break in Liverpool incorporating a Charity Ball. Full details in this newsletter.

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.

46th ELVIS ANNIVERSARY TOUR

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.

2024

USA SPRING BREAKS 2024

15th - 22nd April 2024

Memphis and Tupelo

21st - 30th April 2024

New Orleans, Biloxi and Crystal River

Another fabulous Elvis Travel Service USA Spring Break where our extension tour heads South to explore King Creole country, Follow That Dream locations and the charming coastal city of Biloxi, full of Elvis history.

47TH ELVIS ANNIVERSARY TOUR

August 2024 - Dates TBA shortly

Memphis & Tupelo

Memphis & Tupelo plus

Niagara Falls & Toronto

Experience the events of Elvis Week with our annual Elvis Travel Service tour. As well as Memphis and Tupelo we're featuring a fantastic extension tour to Canada where we'll get to see the Elvis history in two fabulous locations.

2025

ELVIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY TOUR

5th - 12th January 2025

Memphis & Tupelo

5th - 18th January 2025

Memphis & Tupelo plus Las Vegas,
Palm Springs & Hollywood

A wonderful way to celebrate this momentous occasion. Be part of the celebrations at Graceland before enjoying a little winter sunshine with a great West Coast extension. More details in this newsletter.

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.



ELVIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY TOUR 2025

ADVANCE DETAILS

Join Strictly Elvis UK/Elvis Travel Service as we celebrate Elvis' 90th Birthday in January 2025. We are making this announcement early to enable fans to save up for what will be an exciting tour. We will hold you a guaranteed place on the tour for just a £50 refundable Advance Deposit and you are welcome to pay in monthly instalments with our special Savings Plan. **Just call Strictly Elvis on 01473 621564 to reserve your place.**

It is too early for the airlines to confirm the flights and prices but having been arranging tours to Memphis and beyond for over 50 years we have the experience to accurately 'guesstimate' what the end price will be – failing any world financial disasters that is! – but don't worry, the £50 per person is merely a holding deposit to give us a good idea of numbers likely to travel. When we produce our fully detailed brochure approximately 10 months prior to departure you can then pay the remainder of the Deposit or have the Advance Deposit returned – in full.

We'll have two options and a choice of two hotels in Memphis – the luxurious Guest House at Graceland Hotel and the nearby Holiday Inn Express. Choose from an 8-day visit to Memphis and Tupelo with comprehensive tours of each, a full day visit to Graceland, admission and tour of Sun Studio and the Presley's Lauderdale Courts apartment, plenty of free time to explore Memphis with a shuttle bus service from your chosen hotel to Downtown plus, of course, your scheduled flights, hotel accommodation, coach transfers and the services of an experienced

tour manager. Or add on our extension tour to experience the glitz of Las Vegas and the glamour of Palm Springs – two places so significant in Elvis' life, and remember this will be in January so some warm desert sunshine won't go amiss! Our 3 night Las Vegas stay will be at the Westgate Hotel (formerly the Las Vegas Hilton) where Elvis stayed and performed, and our 4 night stay in glorious Palm Springs where Elvis had two homes, will be at the lovely Palm Mountain Resort.

ITINERARY DETAILS....

Day 1. Sunday 5th January 2025

Flight London to Memphis, Coach transfer to hotel and evening free. How about taking a peek through the Music Gates to see the Christmas lights at Graceland?

Day 2. Monday 6th January

Morning tour of the Graceland mansion with the rest of the day for viewing Presley Motors Car Museum, Elvis' aircraft and many other Elvis Exhibits and shops within the Graceland complex. Throughout the period of the Birthday Celebrations EPE will be arranging Concerts, Interviews and other entertainment.

Day 3. Tuesday 7th January

Today we'll show you where Elvis went to school, church, shopped, where else he lived, worked, recorded and lots more on what is regarded as the most comprehensive Elvis tour that there is.

Day 4. Wednesday 8th January (Elvis' Birthday)

Join Elvis fans from around the world at

Graceland for the annual Proclamation of Elvis Presley Day before boarding the coach for the drive to Tupelo, Mississippi to visit Elvis' Birthplace and then tour 'the friendliest city in the South'.

Days 5 & 6. Thursday 9th & Friday 10th January

Two days free to explore, shop, sightsee and relax.

Day 7. Saturday 11th January

Morning free for that last look at Graceland before the overnight flight to the UK

Day 8. Sunday 12th January

Morning arrival into London Heathrow.

AND OUR EXTENSION....

Day 7. Saturday 11th January

Instead of heading home we fly on to Las Vegas arriving in the late afternoon.

Days 8 & 9. Sunday 12th & Monday 13th January

Two glorious days to enjoy the world's most renowned desert resort – and where Elvis

performed hundreds of Sold Out shows in the hotel that you'll be staying in! Time to explore, enjoy a show or take an excursion to the Grand Canyon or mighty Hoover Dam.

Day 10. Tuesday 14th January

Drive through the Mojave Desert to Palm Springs, favoured by Hollywood legends and where Elvis had two homes.

Days 11 & 12. Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th January

Enjoy the sub-tropical warmth as you tour the homes of the Stars in this retro-styled city or take a cable car ride high into the snow-topped San Jacinto mountains.

Day 13. Friday 17th January

Morning drive to Hollywood for some sightseeing before heading to Los Angeles Airport for our flight to the UK.

Day 14. Saturday 18th January

Early afternoon arrival into London Heathrow.

EXPECTED PRICES (per person)

The Guest House in Memphis	Single	Twin/Double	Triple	Quad
Memphis/Tupelo	£3578	£2548	£2278	£2098
Memphis/Tupelo/ Las Vegas/Palm Springs	£5698	£4198	£3748	£3498
Holiday Inn Express in Memphis	Single	Twin/Double	Triple	Quad
Memphis/Tupelo	£2448	£1978	£1798	£1698
Memphis/Tupelo/ Las Vegas/Palm Springs	£4748	£3998	£3248	£3298

Exchange Rates: The expected tour prices shown are based on an Exchange Rate of £1 being equal to \$1.24 US Dollars. Obviously any change in this rate could affect the tour price.

Payment and Savings Plan: To help you budget, the payment for the tour is split into 3 with approximately 40% of the tour price being due upon returning of the Booking Form, a second deposit of approx 30% is due approximately 8 months prior to departure and the final 30% payment 3 months prior to departure. If you have paid a £50 Holding Deposit but choose not to travel then the £50 will be returned to you.

Those wishing to start a savings plan, whereby a monthly payment can be made, will receive details after paying the initial deposit. To reserve your place/s for £50 just call us on 01473 621564 to pay by credit/debit card, or send a cheque to Elvis' 90th, Elvis Travel Service c/o America as you like it, 2 Oxford House, 24 Oxford Road North, London, W4 4DH and make cheques payable to 'America as you like it'.

ELVIS PRESLEY: DRAMATIC ACTOR

NEW DOCUMENTARY

by Robert Maxwell



A report from the premiere screening of a new documentary Produced by The Elvis Presley Film Society

Of Elvis' first four pre-army films, three could rightly be described as dramatic roles, Love Me Tender, Jailhouse Rock and King Creole. There was nothing light hearted about those roles.

Of his first three post army films, G. I. Blues, Flaming Star and Wild in the Country, the latter two were undoubtedly his strongest dramatic roles. Seven films into his acting career and his ambitions to be a serious actor were being fulfilled. Five of the seven films proved to be excellent vehicles for Elvis to showcase his acting abilities, which he did with increasing confidence and deserved recognition from his peers and critics alike.

The Elvis Presley Film Society, Tom Shannon and Gerry McLafferty, have been producing documentary DVDs on different aspects of Elvis's film career of a high quality and integrity for many years now, and expected "ELVIS PRESLEY: DRAMATIC ACTOR" to be of the usual high standard offered from the Elvis Presley Film Society.

Here we go, opening scenes, extracts from several films set the quality bar very high as were the anticipation levels of the invitation-only audience that almost filled the Centre for Contemporary Arts.

Over the years of the EPFS the DVDs they have made have been noted for their attention to detail and factual accuracy which, unlike some other material we all have in our collections, is wholly reliable. The beginnings of Elvis's film career, I thought, was down to Parker getting in touch with some Hollywood contacts. It therefore surprised me to learn that in fact Hal

Wallis got in touch with Parker after watching Elvis on the 'Dorsey Brothers Show'!

The documentary is interspersed with interviews from actors and actresses who worked with him. Comparisons with James Dean and Marlon Brando - the leading male actors of the time - were numerous and highly complimentary. Critical acclaim for his acting abilities was very positive too, something as fans we always knew.

What did surprise me a little was the number of roles that he was earmarked for but vetoed by Parker for the flimsiest of reasons. I knew of quite a few but not as many as were highlighted here.

All of which gives lie to Parker's oft quoted phrase "I never interfered in the artistic side of his career. I only took care of the business".

Elvis was, and remains, the most successful performer the entertainment world has ever known, but the full range of his talent was never ever allowed to be developed by the people around him.

This film spotlights, as none have previously, that given the proper script and support, director, cast and crew, Elvis could easily prove that he was a serious dramatic actor!

Robert Maxwell

Strictly Elvis will be arranging a very special showing of this exciting new documentary at this year's Elvis Festival (see details included with this newsletter) just another great reason to be part of this fantastic event.

ORDERING INFORMATION FOR THIS NEW TITLE CAN BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING:
elvispresley.filmsociety@ntlworld.com

THE BIG ISSUE

by Neil Cameron

We're very proud that you, dear reader, are holding our 30th issue of the Strictly Elvis newsletter in your hands. It only seems like yesterday that we were putting together an initial plan for the first issue. Whilst getting this anniversary issue together we ventured into the vaults here at Strictly Elvis HQ to take a look back at the history of the newsletter.

For those who may not have been with us back at the start, the Strictly Elvis newsletter was an exciting new concept in the Elvis World when it was launched. Free to receive (something that hadn't been done then, nor since) and with an emphasis on 'news of what's happening with the Elvis tours and with Elvis events' as 'The Wade' explained in his inaugural opening address, it was designed specifically to unite the Elvis Family. It was a publication that would bring togetherness at a time when the Elvis World was quite fractured. We're proud that we've been able to do just that, by producing something that everyone can read, with no membership or subscription fees to worry about, and that has promoted the social side of being an Elvis fan.

The first issue hit doormats at Christmas 2010. Amongst the articles were advance details of the big 35th Anniversary Tour in 2012 (just like now, we're always plotting and planning far into the future) and a brochure for the new look Elvis Festival that was due to launch at Vauxhall Holiday Park in 2011 - we may not have known it, but our Festival has grown beyond what we could ever have imagined, into a behemoth that is the biggest all-Elvis week-long event outside of Memphis (you can find details of the 2023 Festival elsewhere in this issue).

Looking back over the last 30 issues it's almost tiring seeing the amount of tours and events we've enjoyed over that time (how did we squeeze them all in?!) with a packed programme that's included trips across the USA and Europe, as well as Festivals and weekenders, exhibits and film showings, theatre trips and gospel concerts and so much more. It's been fabulous looking back at the many group photos we've printed in our Elvis newsletters, with the 'miles of smiles' of our Elvis Family all joining together.

With many other Elvis publications no longer in print, and most things in the world having become smaller, reduced in quality and more expensive we're darn proud to say that we're still producing our newsletter which has doubled in size (we went from 8 pages to 16 with issue 9), become full colour (which started with issue 6) and is still absolutely free! Just like with everything Strictly Elvis does, we buck the trend, shun the norm and go that extra mile to bring our Elvis Family the very best!

And in this (supposedly better) digital age where everything seems like it has to be downloaded, or read on an electronic device, we also like to maintain a good ol' printed copy, that you can hold in your hand - with a cuppa in the other. Call us old-fashioned but squinting trying to read a screen doesn't do much for us - and it's a lot better to spill tea over a piece of paper than your smart phone (not that we would recommend either of course!)

So thank you to you all for being along for the journey of our newsletter, we hope you've enjoyed reading it as much as we have putting it together, and that it's been a source of fun, entertainment and information for you all.

We'll leave you with another piece from that first opening gambit "the number of tours and events that we will be arranging or are associated with will not diminish - quite the opposite in fact as we are experiencing a huge upsurge in both bookings and interest in everything Elvis" And looking at what we have in our programme of events, that's exactly where we find ourselves today - as true now as it was 30 issues ago.

We'll see you for issue 31 (and beyond) very soon.



STRICTLY ELVIS UK/ELVIS TRAVEL SERVICE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF OUR EARLY SUMMER ELVIS WEEKENDER COMBINED WITH OUR GREAT CHARITY BALL

SATURDAY 17TH – MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023

We've chosen Liverpool this year for various reasons – 1) because as the host city for the Eurovision Song Contest just a month earlier the 'buzz' will continue, so Liverpool is definitely 'the place to be', 2) because (as you probably know) Liverpool is 'friendship-linked' with Memphis – two great cities with the common bond of having a huge influence on modern music, 3) because we do like to hold our Elvis events in other parts of the UK whenever possible and 4) because there's just so much to do and see in this city that you'll love it. Oh, and 5) 'cos we've found the perfect, most friendly venue possible for our Charity Ball.

The Aloha-themed Weekender (to celebrate 50 years of Elvis' epic concert) takes place at The Liner Hotel in the very heart of Liverpool – just around the corner from Lime Street Station, close to the shops, museums and galleries and a short stroll to Albert Dock and the Riverside Walk with its many famous sights. This modern hotel has the interior styling of an ocean liner (a luxury one at that!) with handsomely furnished rooms (all en suite) and more brass and varnished wood than you could shake a stick at. The

hotel's Ballroom looks and feels like that on a liner and is just perfect (remember Elvis first visited Hawaii by ship on the SS Matsonia in 1957) for our Charity Ball on the Saturday night when our band is the ever-popular Route 66 – led by Rockin' Dave Riley. Our Sunday night band is The Rockin' Sixties featuring members of the original Liverpool groups...who better to lead us through those Merseysound favourites. We'll also (of course!) have our all-Elvis Disco's. You'll love it.

And what else can you do in Liverpool? The city has an abundance of sights; take a Beatles tour to Strawberry Field or Penny Lane, visit the Cavern (close to where you'll find the Memphis & Liverpool Plaque) or the Beatles Museum, take the ferry across the Mersey, visit historic Albert Dock and see the Billy Fury statue, head over to Anfield, home of Liverpool Football Club, visit Liverpool's two incredible Cathedrals, ride the colossal 'Wheel of Liverpool', be a culture vulture and wander through the Tate or Walker art galleries or the many other fascinating museums, or just try some retail therapy throughout some of the best shopping streets anywhere.

PRICES...

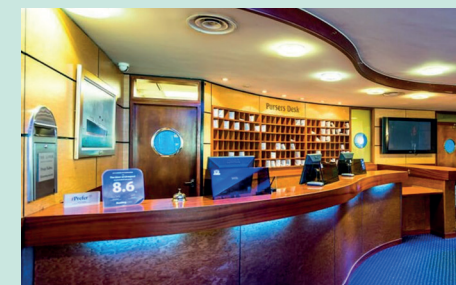
The cost of this weekend is £236 per person sharing a twin or double room or £342 in a double room for single use. That's inclusive of your accommodation for the two nights, breakfasts, free parking, the Ball and Dinner on the Saturday night (with Welcome Drink and Gift Bag), a live band and all-Elvis Disco on both evenings and VAT. Extra nights can be booked at a price of £54 per person per night sharing a twin or double room or £102 in a double room for single use.

There are a few deluxe rooms available, similar sized but with up-graded furnishings, use of bathrobes/slippers and sweet treats. These are available for twin or double use only at £15 per person per night extra.

For those of you who live locally and not requiring accommodation we can offer tickets for the Ball and Dinner (with Welcome Drink and Gift Bag) on the Saturday at £78 or with the Sunday night entertainment as well at £88.

TO BOOK...

Call Strictly Elvis on 01473 621564



A Message from Reverend Derek



Hello Everyone,

I recently conducted a funeral of a friend I've known for many years and I'm still coping with losing him. It seems so very strange to be **WITHOUT HIM** and I find myself still longing for the touch of **HIS HAND IN MINE**.

Within the Elvis world and our own Strictly Elvis family I'm sure many find themselves in a similar situation, coping with an absence where there was always a presence. This reminds us of recent losses, not least the sudden passing of Lisa Marie. The darkness of bereavement and loss never seems very far away for any of us and **WE CALL ON HIM** with the prayer that our precious MEMORIES will convince us that there is a place **WHERE NO ONE STANDS ALONE**.

Within the church I'm currently getting prepared for the events of Holy Week, Good Friday and, of course, the joy of Easter Day. It seems a short week when every human emotion comes to the fore and we find ourselves wondering what **LIFE** is all about.

I BELIEVE that **THERE IS NO GOD BUT GOD** and that strength will come to each one of us as we realise that there is **SOMEBODY BIGGER THAN YOU OR I**. Elvis sang "When the storms of life are raging **STAND BY ME**" (my favourite Elvis Gospel) and I hope and pray that none of us will forget in the dark what we have learned in the light.

With every blessing,

Rev Derek



THE ELVIS FESTIVAL 2023 - DRESS-UP PARTIES

For those attending our 2023 Elvis Festival we have some great party nights (and afternoon) lined up....

For our al fresco Patio Party we're celebrating the 50th state with a fabulous Hawaii themed afternoon. Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, leis, shorts - dress up for a party where we'll be sure to be slicin' sand and having some fun in the sun.

Elvis donned a variety of uniforms during his life - so we're asking you to wear your favourite uniform for our fun-filled night. There's loads of choice, so grab your favourite uniform and join in the party.

Another fantastic Fancy Dress theme for us all to enjoy is our 'Blue Night'. Elvis and the colour blue share quite a connection (count up how many song titles have the colour in them - there's more than you may think!) we're asking everyone to wear something blue - it could be a whole outfit, or maybe just one item, but we want to see everyone join in for this great night.

This year we'll be giving away some mega prizes for those taking part in our Fancy Dress parties. So dress up, join in and you could be a winner!

Details for our Festival spectacular are included with this newsletter. The original and best since 1980, come and see for yourself why this is now the biggest Elvis event in the UK.

We'll see you there!

GOT A LOT OF GIVIN' TO DO

by Strictly Elvis UK

Opening the mail at Strictly Elvis HQ can be really gratifying; none more so than on one day recently when we received letters from 3 of the charities that we (ie YOU!) donated money to as part of our year-end distribution of the remaining funds from our Charity collection account.

As you can see from the photo we've now had letters of thanks from all of the major charities we have supported - plus the letters of thanks for the donations to Little Havens Children's Hospice and the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation for Cancer Research that have been sent to the Elvis Fan Clubs of Essex and Tyne & Wear on whose behalf we made the donation.

Let us just read some of the comments from the letters....

"You've helped children in the UK and around the world stay safe, healthy and keep learning, so that they can reach their full potential. Thank you" **Save the Children Fund**

"It is because of generous donations like yours we can give hope to people in crisis, offering medical care and providing food, aid and shelter" **British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal**

"We want to say a big thank you for your kind donation which will help us support the 3 million people currently living with cancer in the UK today" **Macmillan Cancer Support**

"We can't thank you enough for supporting the British Heart Foundation and helping us to beat heartbreak forever" **British Heart Foundation**

"I hope you all had a good time at your annual Elvis Festival - please pass on our thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the fund-raising. Your gift means we will find a better way to diagnose and treat prostate cancer sooner" **Prostate Cancer UK**

"Thank you so much to everyone at Strictly Elvis UK for uniting against dementia. We will ensure that we make every penny count to drive our crucial work" **Alzheimer's Society**



At Strictly Elvis UK we feel that it's good (essential even) to continue with Elvis' legacy of supporting charities and we thank all of our Elvis family for helping us do this. As mentioned in a post on our Facebook page recently we decided to delay sending a floral tribute to Graceland for the interment of Lisa Marie until our tour group were there in April. We'll be placing the tribute in the Meditation Garden during the time our tour is in Memphis on behalf of all of the Strictly Elvis Family and we'll print a photograph in our next issue of the newsletter.

WITHOUT A SONG

by Carol Pugh

Most of us can name bands or artists who have been influenced by Elvis, be it the Beatles, Bruce Springsteen or even Jimi Hendrix. In fact, there's a whole exhibition given over to these artists and many more at Graceland entitled 'Icons - the influence of Elvis Presley'.

However, what about the artists who influenced Elvis; who did he admire and who did he chose to listen to? A quick glance at his record collection tells us that he had records by Mario Lanza, Ray Charles, Dean Martin a whole array of Gospel groups and Roy Hamilton to name just a few. Peter Gulanick, Elvis' author, went as far as to say that Roy Hamilton was Elvis' chief vocal inspiration and listening to some of Roy's numbers it's easy to see why. Roy combined semi classical techniques with a black gospel feel, in fact it's been said many times that Elvis was a white man that sounded black whilst Roy was a black man that sounded white and both shared the ability to successfully sing a wide range of music.

Roy's biggest successes though came through powerful ballads such as Unchained Melody, You'll Never Walk Alone and Hurt – sound

familiar? Take time out to take a listen to these as you'll see that Elvis' arrangements don't stray too far from Roy's.

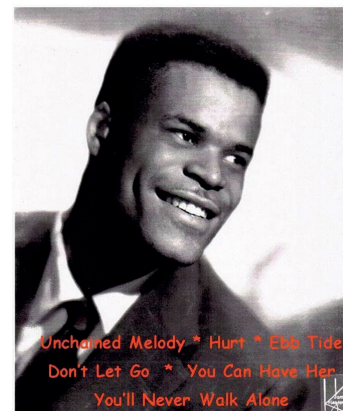
In 1969 Elvis and Roy met at American Sound Studios whilst both were being produced by Chips Moman, Roy by day and Elvis by night. Elvis would often arrive early just to hear Roy record. At one such meeting in July 1969 Elvis offered Roy a Barry Mann/Cynthia Well song 'Angelica'. The result was a soaring rendition full of emotion and drama, unfortunately due to limited air play it failed to become the hit that both Roy and Elvis wanted. Tragically a short while later Roy passed away, suffering a stroke at just 40 years of age.

Elvis chose to pay tribute to Roy in 1971 by reciting part of Roy's 1955 recording of Without A Song when he received his Jaycees Award. "I learned very early in life that without a song a day would never end, without a song a man ain't got a friend, without a song the road would never bend, without a song. So I'll keep singing the song".

It is now Roy's son, Roy Hamilton Jr that holds the baton for his father and who along with his wife Maria are campaigning to endeavour to get Roy Hamilton inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, so that his significant contributions to music are recognised, just as Elvis recognised them. Roy Hamilton Jr joined us last August in Las Vegas as part of our tour, thrilling our group by providing us with a stirring rendition of Unchained Melody in the Viva Las Vegas Chapel, one of our traditional Elvis Travel Service surprises.



ROY HAMILTON SR & JR



Please Visit Our Website www.royhamilton.net And Sign Our Petition To Get Roy Hamilton, "The Golden Boy of Song" Into The Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame

So just as Elvis did, please take time out to listen to Roy's recordings, reflect on his amazing talent and if you can spare a moment sign the petition at:

<https://www.change.org/royhamilton> to see one of Elvis' influencers duly recognised.

For more information about Roy Hamilton and Roy Hamilton Jr. visit their Website.
Roy Sr's Website: www.royhamilton.com | Roy Jr's Website: www.royhamiltonjr.com

THE STRICTLY ELVIS BOOK-MART

Our new Strictly Elvis Book-Mart is a great place to stock up your Elvis library with a great range of books – many signed by the authors, and some available exclusively through us. Books that we currently have in stock are:

- Elvis: Destined To Die Young** – by Sally A. Hoedel - £29.50 (signed by author)
- Destined to Fly** – by Sally A. Hoedel - £27.95 (signed by author)
- Elvis: Unlocked by Dixie Locke** - £39.95 (signed by author) / £29.50 (unsigned)
- Taking Care of Elvis** – by Letetia 'Tish' Henley Kirk - £26.00 (signed by author)
- Elvis: Safe and Sound** – by Dick Grob - £29.95
- Elvis, We'll Remember You** – by Ed Bonja - £23.95
- Elvis in Paris** – by Jean-Marie Pouzenc - £25.00
- Elvis Style** – by Zoey Goto - £21.95
- A Legendary Life** – by Bill Morris - £27.95 (signed by the author)
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ELVIS (THE MOVIE) AT THE AWARDS

by Sallie Phillips

Award season is finally over and we can celebrate all the accolades given to the team who brought our beloved Elvis to a whole new generation, as well as giving him back to us in a way I doubt many of us thought possible.

As part of the Strictly Elvis family, I strongly believe that I am not the only person by far who thought this film should win all the awards. Certainly the man who brought the King back to life deserved everything. In my eyes, Austin, Baz and the whole cast and crew were always going to be winners, and it seems many critics agreed, with the film nominated in over 100 categories across the many different award shows.

The British Academy Film Awards were no doubt a highly successful showing for the film, winning four of its eight nominations, including a thoroughly merited Best Actor in a Leading Role victory for Austin Butler.

There were also numerous wins at the AACTA Awards in Australia with success in the Best Film, Director, Actor, Cinematography and Editing categories to name a few.

Even the soundtrack got in on the act, bringing the King's music to a whole new era. Wins for Top Soundtrack at the American Music Awards and Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media at the Grammys followed.

I think cinematographer Mandy Walker deserves a special mention, making history twice over as the first woman to win the Best Cinematography at the ACCTA Awards and again for her win at the American Society of Cinematographers Award in the feature film category. Without her, we may never have got to see the majesty of Elvis captured in the brilliant way it was.

The casting, hair and make-up and production design teams all deservedly won for their hard work. Hair and Make-Up marked Elvis' single win at the Critics Choice Awards, as well as a BAFTA alongside Costume Design.

Without Baz Luhrmann's long-time collaborator and costume designer Catherine Martin, who

knows if we would have seen Elvis' iconic looks bought back to the big screen where they belong? At the New York Film Critics Online Awards, the film scored wins for both nominations, in Breakthrough Performance for Austin Butler and Best Use of Music. I hardly think anyone can argue with that!

For me, the most important awards came in one of the earliest ceremonies at the Golden Globes in January. Although only winning one of three nominations, it was the big one, Best Actor in a Leading Role that came home.

This was the only time Lisa Marie was in attendance, and I think I speak for everyone when I say that victory means the most, purely because she was there to see the man who brought her father back to life get the recognition he so richly deserved. I'd just like to take a moment to say... RIP Lisa Marie.

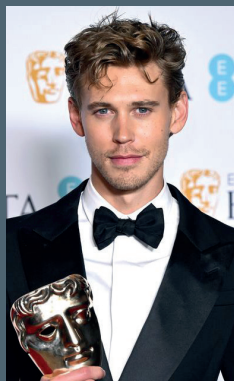
We can also safely say this was an Oscar-nominated film, in eight categories and Austin, Baz and the whole team would have been rightful winners in the eyes of those who matter, the Elvis fans.

I think a lot of the Elvis family would share my view that this film was a great triumph with 45 wins throughout award season. This achievement is testament to that, and a reward for the sheer level of determination and hard work put in by everyone involved.

My biggest belief is that the biggest award the film could have won was the approval and the adoration of the Elvis family and fans. It certainly did that.

Congratulations, Elvis film, cast and crew. You did our man proud.

Sallie Phillips



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