

FEATURE

**Pace Yourself** *The Tony Pace Show is the next best thing and more*

By Sandy Posnak

**T**ONY PACE MAY NOT BE A household name like the dozens of legends that he impersonates, but that's okay with the multi-talented performer. He's satisfied as long as he's on stage and making people happy.

Pace became enamored with show business at an early age. "When I was young I'd wake up in the morning and know that this is what I wanted to do. I've been involved in music since the sixth grade when I played *Oliver Twist* in the musical *Oliver*," Pace said during an interview following a recent performance of *The Tony Pace Show* in the Screening Room at Resorts Atlantic City. "The technical crew never knows what I'm going to do from one show to the next, but they handle it beautifully," Tony said. Currently *The Tony Pace Show* plays matinee performances only, and thus attracts "day trippers" — mostly senior citizens — who come to Atlantic City by car or bus. Due to popular demand it has just been announced that the show has been extended through September 15 and will switch to evening performances only beginning June 30. Our guess is that for the evening shows Pace will likely pull some impressions out from his repertoire of current pop stars that will appeal to younger audiences.

Pace got off to a great start at the recent show when he opened with a magnificent rendition of the classic "Donna Mia." He continued with a stellar impression of Louis Armstrong singing "What A Wonderful World" that also included some side-splitting humorous antics utilizing Armstrong's signature white handkerchief. This was followed by a spoof of Johnny Mathis singing "Misty," Rod Stewart's version of "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" and a cool impression of Michael Jackson.

Pace wasn't afraid to tackle duets, either. He did a hilarious rendition of Julio Iglesias and Willie Nelson singing "To All The Girls I've Loved Before" and donned a wig to render a solid impression of Edith and Archie Bunker singing the *All In The Family* theme. Although he didn't

view following a recent performance of *The Tony Pace Show* in the Screening Room at Resorts Atlantic City.

It's nice to be able to sit back, relax and enjoy an entertainer who helps you forget your troubles, forget your cares. And Pace does just that while incorporating music, comedic impressions and audience participation into a 60 minute set that whizzes by so fast, that if you blink you'll miss some good lines.

Though billed as a one-man production, Pace is visited by more than a dozen legendary stars via his impersonations. He

posture their gestures, inflections and other things," he told *Atlantic City Weekly*.

The performer mesmerized the audience when he showcased his own beautiful three-octave tenor voice singing "Music of the Night" from *Phantom of the Opera*, "My Way" and the aforementioned "Donna Mia." He has released two CDs. One is a collection of show tunes called *Broadway*; the other is titled *This Is Tony Pace* and features classic pop tunes. He is also a prolific songwriter and is currently putting the finishing touches on an album of original tunes.

Early in his career Pace led an eight-piece band. He recalls playing in an Atlantic City casino lounge in the early eighties. Sometimes for diversion he would inject humor into the act between songs. "I saw the value of people's laughter, so I started to incorporate both music and comedy into the show by doing parodies and things of that nature. I saw what people like Sammy Davis, Jr. and other entertainers of those days did. It was never just singing, *everything* became part of the act and I thought that was absolutely great."

Pace is capable of doing about 30 different impressions. "No two shows are ever the same," he says. "I probably have eight shows worth of different material. I'm having fun."

Between show dates and recording sessions Pace relaxes at his Londonderry, New Hampshire home with his wife Nancy and their children Bianca, 11, and Matthew, 8. He says that both children are inclined towards show biz careers. "I think Matthew will be a comic. Bianca will be the singer. But they're still young; they have to follow their own path." ■



*It's nice to be able to sit back,  
relax and enjoy an entertainer who  
helps you forget your troubles*

score bull's-eyes in the sound-alike department when emulating Bobby Vinton, Bobby Darin, Nat "King" Cole and Natalie Cole, the impressions were still entertaining because of his clever comedic touches. Pace has never met any of the legends that he impersonates, but to perfect his impressions of them he watches their videos and reads about them. "I try to research them as far as their