

# ATLANTIC CITY WEEKLY

**Keeping up the Pace** For those of you still mourning the end of *Legends in Concert* in town, I have good news. Tony Pace is a one-man replacement. The singer, impressionist and comedian is at the Hilton Theater for a three-week engagement called *Up On The Roof*.

With a stage that has been convincingly designed like the roof of a brick building, complete with a giant antenna, chimney and a clothesline, Pace hangs his show on the premise of his early days dreaming of a show-biz career.

Pace opens his rooftop remembrance nicely with the Carole King-penned classic "Up On The Roof," then recalls how watching *The Ed Sullivan Show* introduced him to the wonderful singers he began to mimic.

He starts modestly with Kermit the Frog doing "The Rainbow Connection," followed by the rite of passage for any singing impressionist, Johnny Mathis doing "Misty." For something a bit different from standard fare, Pace then pays tribute to Aaron Neville with "All I Need To Know." His best bit was next. Noting that Nat King Cole managed to do a duet with his daughter after he was dead, Pace launched into an effective and hilarious recreation of that duet, "Unforgettable." The funniest thing about it was that he does Natalie better than Nat! His Louis Armstrong ("Wonderful World") is also excellent.

While I normally groan at audience participation bits, Pace's "Three Amigos" segment with three guys from the crowd is really funny. There is a minor glitch with a pedestrian Ray Charles rendition of "Georgia," but Pace picks up the pace after that with dead-on tributes to Billy Joel, Cher (complete with fright wig) and Jimmy Stewart doing rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back."

— **Lori Hoffman**

PHOTO BY TOM BRIGLIA

Pace as "Uncle Vinny."

