

'Elvis' live and appearing nightly in Sandy



The magic of Elvis still causes girls to swoon and flock to a stage.

A California entertainer who bills himself with the similar singular name of Aaron tosses scarves to beaming admirers and belts out "Don't Be Cruel," "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Love Me Tender" in a voice and style also similar to the late king of rock.

He curls his fingers and twists his body, and girls beam. Men also come up after the show to say how much he sounds like the late Presley and how much they liked the show. A burly logger even rushed the stage to plant a big kiss on the entertainer.

But there is a whole lot of Aaron in the show, too, and the 32-year-old feels that his strong, rich voice could do just as much for Jim Reeves numbers, Simon and Garfunkle music or even his own compositions.

"This voice of his — and it's his real voice just like he talks — could do the same for any number," says his new manager Bob Sheppard of Sandy, who booked him in TJ's Lounge in Sandy through Saturday night.

"He's not limited to doing an Elvis act."

Aaron grew up in California and visited Elvis at his home where Presley gave him one of his records.

A big fan, young Aaron played that record and dozens more over and over in his apartment after hearing Presley sing live some hundred times.

All told, Aaron has clocked some 1,000 hours of practice

and 15 years of entertaining at parties and two years professional singing throughout California, Washington and Oregon.

He's a leading candidate to entertain the national Elvis

fan club in Las Vegas soon, and harbors a dream to record his own version of "My Way," a late Presley hit that Aaron has rewritten as an Elvis tribute under new title "His Way."

With strong showings in Eugene, Coos Bay, La Grande and now Sandy, Aaron plans to move to Portland.

Now appearing through Saturday at TJ's with shows



HELLO AARON — An entertainer in Sandy wears the same clothes and sings the same songs as Elvis, but hopes for a career of his own to emerge from his act.

Story/photos by
Von Braschler
of the Post

GOODBYE ELVIS — Entertainer Aaron closes his act in Sandy with a scarf tossed to a girl in the audience in a gesture reminiscent of the late king of rock.



at 9:30 and 11:30, he plays with local backup music from Sandy's Rick Johnston on drums and Phil Christensen on piano and rhythm guitar.

Aaron brings top talent with him in the person of pianist Jack Nile who has arranged for top entertainers, including Sammy Davis, Jr. and Liberace.

"People who were close to him have told me that I sound more like Elvis than anyone else," Aaron said.

"A lot of people think I should record some of my songs like 'His Way,' and I don't care if I record it in Portland, Vancouver or wherever. No, I don't want to keep doing this Elvis act for much longer. It's time to branch out on my own. I can do Jim Reeves stuff, I can do a lot of different material. The voice is mine."

Like Presley, Aaron is quiet to the point of shyness offstage and neither smokes nor drinks.

He's one of the few entertainers who will perform Elvis songs of the 1950s, as well as recent hits from the 1970s.

Presley never knew of Aaron's plans to do an Elvis act when they met in 1971, a

time when Elvis told his young admirer that he was returning to live stage in Las Vegas. Aaron says he was the first outside Presley's inner circle to hear it.

"It's a long way from Memphis," as one tribute to Elvis goes, but Joe Lagassie of Bagnor, Maine, is taking another road to the top. Whether the jet-black Presley costume of the 1950s and superstar white, sequined suit of the 1970s can hold the personal talent of 32-year-old Aaron waits to be seen.

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