

ELVIS ON THE RED

The entire audience aboard the Paddlewheel Queen couldn't help falling in love with ELVIS on Friday, September 19, as Nick Drobot performed his tribute to the King in support of the ALS Society. The cruise ran from 7:00 until 11:00 and started with a wonderful dinner provided by the staff of Paddlewheel Cruises.

Then the moment everyone was waiting for, ELVIS (Nick) took the stage for his first set. Within moments he owned the crowd. Side talk all but disappeared and all eyes in the place followed his every move. The boat had gone back through time. Elvis was back, and as good as ever. The only



additional sound on the boat came from people singing or clapping in time to the King. Over the next hour, Nick led us through Elvis' legendary song list, from All Shook Up to Hound Dog; Are You Lonesome Tonight to Heartbreak Hotel. About halfway through his set, the song Little Sister announced the entry of some back up dancers, led by Nick's Priscilla (his wife Colleen) and some of her sisters and family members. Songs like Blue Hawaii and Teddy Bear provided ELVIS with the opportunity to come out into the crowd to hand out leis and teddy bears, often pausing for hugs and pictures.



Even the break wasn't actually a break for ELVIS, since he spent the duration of it visiting with his many fans, chatting, signing autographs and getting pictures taken. In fact, he was having such a good time visiting with everyone that it was difficult to get him back to the stage for his second set. And what a second set it was. Nick hadn't slowed down one bit. In fact, if anything, he was much more pumped up and ready to give everyone their money's worth. From Can't Help Falling in Love, sung directly to ALS Manitoba board member Kathleen Kirk, to Viva Las Vegas, which inspired a Priscilla led conga line, the second set was even more highly charged than the first. Even after he was finished singing, his show wasn't over, since he made sure to wish everyone well individually as they left the boat.



From beginning to end, Nick Drobot was a class act, and put on a tribute to Elvis that no one will soon forget. The ALS Society will certainly not forget it, and plans are already in the works to do it again next year. Watch for your chance to get tickets to this incredible show.

Brian Campbell

