

## Temptations concert sparks excitement in audience

By Karen L. Peiffer

An evening with The Temptations was a long awaited treat for devoted fans of the Motown sound in Harrisburg on Nov. 10. For 90 minutes, audience members at The Forum immersed themselves in a flood of memories brought back by such Motown smashes as: "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone," "Just My Imagination," "The Way You Do the Things You Do," and "Get Ready."

A spark of excitement hung in the air from the moment the audience was seated and was ignited by The Temptations' dazzling performance of choreographed dance steps and perfectly harmonized voices.

On more than one occasion audience participants, completely losing themselves in the excitement of the show, danced in the aisles and belted out the lyrics to their favorite songs.

Even though The Temptations presented their fans with a slight difference in sound and appearance due to original member Melvin Franklins' temporary absence, their audience didn't seem to mind a bit.

When the group asked for four volunteers to help them sing a rousing chorus of "My Girl," five uninhibited members of the audience were tempted right out of their seats and onto the stage in a matter of seconds. All five performances were priceless, and the audience howled and applauded as though they were watching seasoned comedians.

Are The Temptations making a comeback, you may ask? The answer is a definitive "yes!" Formed 28 years ago in Detroit, The Temptations are on the move and still going strong.

Rahn Coleman, conductor of The Temptations' rhythm section, said the band is on the road 40 weeks a year. The group is currently in the midst of an international concert tour which has had them performing to enthusiastic audiences as far away as Japan and as near as Canada.

Founding member Otis Williams has recently authored a book about the history of the group entitled simply: "Temptations."

And, most importantly, The Temptations are planning to begin studio production on a brand new album as early as January of next year. The group is determined to add to the 35 Top 40 hits they currently list to their credit.

If The Forum performance and the audience reaction were any indication of the continued success The Temptations have to look forward to, they will indeed add to that list of hits and at the same time increase the number of their dedicated fans.

The Temptations packed the house in Harrisburg on Nov. 10, created an intense excitement not easily forgotten, and, in the end literally left their fans on "Cloud Nine."



The Temptations performed at the Forum Nov. 10.

## Temptations' lead singer feels exuberant after concert

By Karen L. Peiffer

He strutted into the lounge on the night of Nov. 10 as though he not only owned the hotel but also the city in which it is located. He wore his mink wrap which extended to below mid-calf like a newly-crowned Miss America. He proudly displayed a large diamond cluster ring on his little finger and an armful of gold bangles around his right wrist.

He peered at us over bronze-tinted sunglasses and grinned with the satisfaction of a professional performer who had just completed a very successful show and was still mesmerized by the intense excitement and enthusiasm of the crowd.

As he seated himself at our table he was truly a sight to behold. His white, polished teeth contrasted beautifully against his black skin, and his eyes sparkled in the candlelight.

Two hours after the spectacular show of beloved oldies, dynamic dance steps, and an energy that encompassed every member of the audience who deeply appreciates fine Motown music the lead singer of The Temptations, Ali-Ollie Woodson, was still reliving the experience.

He tapped out the familiar beat of "My Girl" against the ashtray and the glasses and literally bounced in his seat to keep time to his "music." If it weren't for the watchful eye of his body guard, affectionately referred to as Dragon and seated two tables away, he would have most likely broke out into song.

He was the epitome of the glamorous Las Vegas entertainer, and he commanded immediate attention from every employee and patron in the lounge.

Our bubbly cocktail waitress was the recipient of his extra special treatment as he carefully lifted the mink from his shoulders and seductively enveloped her in its luxurious folds. She spun around for all those who watched in a manner befitting the professional New York City model, and reluctantly relinquished the mink to its owner when she was needed at the bar.

As the conversation at the table continued and his kingly entrance was complete, he settled into his chair and gave us his direct attention. The evening wore on, and the successful, contented lead singer finally began to unwind.

He explained to us that when an entertainer puts his whole heart and soul into his performance and allows himself to be caught up in the emotional outpouring and thunderous applause of the crowd, the hardest part of the evening is handling the aftermath, or as some would say, the "down-time."

Woodson handled his "down-time" with ease and aplomb. The longer he sat still and listened, the heavier his eyelids became and the more frequent his yawning occurred.

With a sleepy smile on his face, Woodson stood up, offered us his apologies, and exited with a flourish disappearing through the saloon doors of the lounge.

## Hard work backstage pays off

By Karen L. Peiffer

On stage at The Forum in Harrisburg, the internationally-acclaimed Temptations put on a spectacular show of song and dance for an audience so large in size that they spilled over into the aisles.

The crowd got its money's worth. The Temptations created an intense excitement that made even the most critical member of the audience tap his foot and join the standing ovation near the end of the performance.

Unfortunately, what the audience did not see was the incredible energy that goes into putting together a show of this magnitude. As usual, there was as much drama behind the footlights as there was in front of them.

As early as 1:30 p.m., the sound and lighting systems had been installed and were being tested by the PA Audio company of Harrisburg and the Baltimore Stage Lighting company of Baltimore, Md.

Promoter John Detrick and security consultant Greg Sell were taking a break after a particularly rigorous morning of assuring The Temptations safe transportation from airport to hotel, coordinating the arrival of all the support personnel, and directing the placement of the Capital police who would provide ample security.

Stage Manager Derrick Jenkins was supervising the timely completion of more than 10 projects involved in the stage's final appearance.

Sales Manager Warren Castaneira and several employees of Wray Music Center in Lemoyne were busy unloading their store's rental equipment for the evening's performance.

Caterer Tim Davis from Casa Rillo's restaurant in Camp Hill was carefully preparing The Green Room for the dinner that was to be served before the show to members of the band, family, and friends.

Ten members of the Buzz Jones Big Band, the locally-hired horn section, arrived several hours before the performance in order to attend the rehearsal with Temptations conductor Rahn Coleman. A two-hour horn rehearsal quickly ensued during which time the members of the Big Band concentrated on perfection and berated themselves for even the most minute error.

The charismatic conductor sat amongst the horn section beating a wooden dowel from a hotel clothes hanger on an instrument case to keep the tempo. Surrounded by mirrors in the dressing room, used for the next two hours as a rehearsal room, everyone was driven toward one pursuit -- achieving a harmonic excellence before show time.

Several members of the horn section appeared apprehensive. But Coleman, wearing a fedora hat with feathers, grinned frequently, cracked jokes, and succeeded in putting them at ease almost immediately. During the 10-minute break, Ron Axsom, who had previously

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