

Elvis, Me, and Sascha

Earlier this month, I went to see the Elvis movie accompanied by my 22-year-old son, Sascha. OMG. Wow. **I was speechless.** Allow me to preface by saying that I have been a life-long Elvis fan. In fact, before I became very sick, I had created a unique "Rock" infused Tribute to Elvis that was aptly named "**Elvis Rocks.**" I was not impersonating him but rather interpreting his music with a six-piece band, which included a fantastic female singer (my wife), with the whole thing set to a backdrop of Elvis footage. Those who saw the show commented on how much they enjoyed it. I had also started a dedicated blog to Elvis back in 2012, but sadly, I became too unwell to continue working on it. You can still see it at: www.elvisrock.com.



The film itself was *beyond* anything I could have expected or imagined. The actor who portrayed Elvis reincarnated him like nothing I've ever seen. The best I had seen was Martin Fontaine, who did the **Elvis Story** shows in Québec City (I saw that show three times.) But the performance I saw on film eclipsed Martin Fontaine — not to take away from him in any way — he is terrific. But Austin Butler was so close to *being* Elvis that it was eerie at times - I could not believe my eyes. I'm familiar with all the slightest looks and gestures that made Elvis, well, Elvis! This guy had them *all* down. The movie itself is incredibly well done. I was really impressed with the director's vision and how everyone involved managed to create this epic film. Tom Hanks was, of course, outstanding. But so were all the other actors! I can't imagine the time that must have gone into producing this.

But aside from the movie, it was my son's *reaction* to it that blew my mind. At the end of the movie, he and I were both in tears. We sobbed as we watched the real Elvis sing **Unchained Melody** live at the piano, just three weeks before his death. It's an incredible performance. As the credits began to roll, I looked over



at Sascha, still trying to hold back the tears, and all he could say over and over was, "**Dad, it was such a good movie...**" We talked a bit, and he added, "**Dad, this is the best movie I have ever seen,**" as we continued crying together. He added, "**I'm in shock. I'm in shock. I don't know what to say. I've never experienced something like this before**". Imagine a 22-year-old millennial who was, until waking into this theatre, relatively unfamiliar with the Elvis phenomenon having such an epiphany? It's quite a statement and speaks to the power of Elvis' influence.

This was the moment where he *got* Elvis. The moment where the magic of Elvis, his life, his story, his music, and his voice instantly turn a person into an Elvis fan. It was a surreal moment for me, seeing my son mesmerized by what he had just seen. I was elated to know that Elvis was now a part of *his* life!

We talked for about an hour outside after the movie. He and I bonded over this like nothing before. We shared intimate feelings with each other. It was a defining moment in our relationship that I will never forget. **Thank you Elvis. Thank you very much.**

- Written by Patrick Franc

SONG OF THE MONTH: "Suspicious Minds"
https://bit.ly/suspicious_minds_73

This was one of the singles that revived Presley's chart success in the U.S., following his '68 Comeback Special. It was his eighteenth and last No.1 single in the United States. In December 2003, Rolling Stone ranked it No. 91 on their list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.



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