

Saturday, July 19, 2008
Spaghetinis: Seal Beach, CA

Guitar & Vocals: Nils

Guitar & Vocals: Harold Payne (current member of the Gravity 180 Band)

Bass: John Hart from Philadelphia (Philly funk) aka John "big pocket" Hart

Percussion: Oliver Brown (original member of KC and the Sunshine Band), (current member of the Gravity 180 Band)

Keyboards & Vocals: Clydene Jackson, (sang in the Lion King) (current member of the Gravity 180 Band)

Vocals: Eddie Brown (he and Oliver are brothers)

Drums Corey Mason (R & B vibe)

Q proudly announced the debut performance for Baha TSR recording artist Nils and his band. They wowed the crowd from moment one with 'Georgie Porgie'. They really rocked the house with this catchy and familiar tune. ***Oliver Brown on percussion blew everyone away. I am certain I have never seen an artist with as much rhythm as Brown. He attacked the congas with a frenzied dancing-while-playing style and what appeared to be his insatiable love of his music. It was an awesome experience to watch and hear! He never stops moving for a second, while delivering his craft.*** Nils teamed up with ***Clydene Jackson exuberantly singing, "Kissed the girls and made them cry, kissed the girls and made them cry."*** ***Clydene belted out vocals like there was no tomorrow. Now that girl's got a set of pipes! Nils was off-the-hook on guitar and the stage chemistry was phenomenal.***

"Ok, I'm pulling this one out of my back pocket", Nils announced while introducing, 'Back Pocket', (Pacific Coast Highway CD). Oliver continued to tear it up on percussion with his own little mini dance party front, corner stage. Nils let a little rock-style seep out showing us it is ok to be a rocker while playing smooth jazz. "Break it down now", quipped Nils as he proceeded to send his guitar screamin' then whipping it into a frenzied moan. At songs end, he happily mentioned his is currently living in LA. This is great news in my opinion!

From his new CD Ready to Play next up was, 'Dreamin'. This one was one nice sample of easy listening with an ample sprinkling of percussion. Nils created striking cries with his guitar that were soul piercing.

The title track from the Ready to Play CD followed shortly thereafter as Nils suggested, "Let's crank it up a bit." He was definitely ready to party. His feet could scarcely keep up with his desire to dance and play. There was some fancy footwork going on front and center. ***Oliver was 'on' with his stellar percussion*** as the synchronized band chemistry continued to create a fantastic vibe. "My band's ready to play", he announced proud as a peacock.

It was time for a Nils story about this next tune. He told of his recording experience with this one. He explained he was quite content with the song while working through it in his home studio. Suddenly, he looked over in mid-song and both of his cats were laying on their backs with their collective feet in the air in feline bliss. In honor of this special moment he appropriately named the tune, 'Catnap' (Ready to Play CD). The song has a great vibe and it very laid back. It is no wonder the cats got their groove with it! He burst into the audience on this one sharing the song

and workin' the crowd. He managed to stop at our table momentarily and suspend a flirty little guitar moment in midair. "Here we go!" he said while launching the finale.

Next up was a song featuring keyboard player Clydene Jackson on vocals with a light vocal assist by Nils. The song was the Deseret tune, '**You Gotta Be**' (Ready to Play CD). "She has quite a voice doesn't she?" Nils asked. The audience agreed in unison. Nils then extended the invitation, "Sing along if you know the words." **All the while Oliver, our resident dancing ball of fire continued to deliver stellar percussion. His fluid movement and perfect rhythm rocked everyone's world tonight.**

"The next one is a little party track we call, '**High Five**' (Ready to Play CD), he said. It was clapping and chair dancing time for this one. It was impossible to sit still for this tune! The oh-so-charismatic Oliver coaxed the audience to get this clapping party started. **Brown definitely has the 'it' factor tucked carefully inside his heart. What a performer!** Nils, as always, gave this one his all and it was yet another rockin'-great tune. **The percussion magician** was serving up stellar while John suddenly made his debut from the previously-quiet back corner. He seduced his bass offering a solo that was unplugged. The crowd loved him. He stole this song with that little piece of handiwork! It was a classic music moment, Oliver Brown stood back dancing and playing the tambourine while Nils stepped back a bit to give Hart the room he needed for a rather large music moment. Everyone was in awe as he smoked it. Corey's fiery drum solo took this song up one more notch. The band again stood back while his successive drum rolls rewarded him with his moment in the sun. Nils then hoisted his foot atop the stage ledge while he poured out more of his guitar magic. Corey was rippin' it up on drums and Oliver was, of course, still dancing!

It was time for my favorite Nils title track, '**Pacific Coast Highway**'. "This is the one that put me on the map", he explained upon introduction. Oliver Brown was going at the congas and more while Nils went crazy on his guitar. Life seems to be going quite well for me. To be front row, center for a hit like this one, I'm certain it does not get better than this! One foot on the stage ledge led to a leap into the audience by Nils yielding fun, fun and more fun. After combing the venue spreading his guitar vibe he was back on stage finishing the tune and the set.

Set II

"Alright we're back", Nils excitedly shared, '**Sneakin**' (Pacific Coast Highway CD), was up next. Clydene sang this one from the depths of her soul. Her low, raspy style on this one really came 'sneakin' 'round, just sneakin'. She defines the word sultry with her style and class. Nils' passionate guitar playing had him gyrating as he dug deep for this one. He shared several rock-a-dilly moments while leaning back deep in his music zone. He dripped in passionate music bliss. "Sneaks up on you, doesn't it?" Nils joked.

'**Last Night**', (Ready to Play CD) was comically introduced as Nils admitted, "I named it after the night I did it!" This was a collective zone event. Every band member was in music euphoria.

As the clock was edging closer to midnight he introduced, '**Midnight Breeze**' (Ready to Play CD). "A midnight breeze is something we all long for on these summer nights!" he said. This intense song had Nils playing guitar one-handed while he perched on foot on the stage ledge. They were really jammin'.

He then asked that we reach back in time to a tune he did with the Blue Planet record label. He

reminisced about recording it with George Benson, but further explained an unfortunate a turn of events brought the demise of the label. **'Brazilian Dance'**, was one of my favorite tunes of the night. ***Oliver's solo on percussion early into the song was absolute genius. He continued to impress every one of us. You could have heard a pin drop, we were all in awe.*** The band stood back while he took this song to a new level. ***It was an once-in-a-lifetime moment for me. He had his 'it' factor really groovin'.*** ***The lid was blown completely off the venue by the time he finished this outstanding display of incredible expertise. The doors were blown out and the roof was completely off the place. Talk about a moment in music. That was indeed magic!***

A few introductions were up next as Nils mentioned Oliver Brown was one of the original KC and the Sunshine Band members. He then shared that Clydene was the premium voice for the Lion King, He introduced John Hart on bass as the one charge of Philly funk and Corey Mason on drums would be take care the rhythm and blues vibe. Nils went on to explain that he produces a band called Gravity 180 featuring Harold Payne, Oliver Brown and Clydene Jackson.

'Moonlight on the Water', was a feel-good tune. The addition of instant charmers, ***Eddie Brown on vocals and Harold Payne on guitar and vocals was breathtaking.*** The Brown brothers had it going on in the rhythm department! An immediate feeling of cool breezes across the ocean intoxicated the audience as they sang. They went on to sing, "Feels so right". And it did! This cut had a distinctive reggae feel as they continued singing, "Beautiful night, such a beautiful night." "Share your love tonight, it feels so right" echoed calm. Everyone then began clapping rounding out the aura of feel good perfectly. Harold Payne was off the chain in a collaborative effort with Clydene. There were countless vocal wow moments.

'California Blues', showcased Clydene's voice. All the singers remained on stage offering yet another can't-sit-still number. "Ah, living in paradise where the weather's always nice", summed it up nicely. Neither of the team Brown and Brown ever stopped moving for a second. ***Clydene was layin' it out on vocals really giving it to the crowd. What a voice she has!*** Nils cut in wailing on his already-crying guitar as Clydene momentarily drifted to calm. Brown continued on vocals having a blast and involving everyone there in his rhythm party. The finale had Clydene smokin' it on vocals!!!

'Somewhere in My Heart', took this stage full of talent over the top. ***Clydene's voice was again mind blowing as she delivered the chair sway straight out.*** All seven performers were completely in the zone in perfect harmony. Arriving in anticipation of seeing Nils and walking away with a richer soul having experienced not only his stellar vibe, but that of the six other band members he had in tow. Such is the unique beauty of Spaghetini's.

Nils introduced the next one as a song written by a guitar player for guitar players. Two notes into it, I know it was the all-time classic, the 1975 Carlos Santana original, **'Europa'**. The song reeked of passion and rushed towards me with memories of walks I had in the hills of Oregon amongst wild blackberries vineyards. The wonderfully-extended version of this song took this one home as Nils wrenched this one from the depths of his soul. They stretched the finale to the limit and rendered me breathless.

As the audience clamored for more, they were justly rewarded with, **'Summer Nights'**, (Pacific Coast Highway CD). Nils and the band continued the party with more of their stellar music. Oliver Brown was going completely crazy on the congas while ***Nils was up on the ledge of the stage exploding like a champagne cork on New Years.*** Brown really has the moves as evidenced by

hit dance-dance-dance style until the last note. ***Nils and the band roped, tied and nailed this one!***

An enormous thank you goes out to Nils and his band for including me in one of the best jazzy rock 'n roll parties I've ever attended!

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