

'Elvis' show brings back memories

By J.P. SQUIRE
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A comedic Elvis rocked Kelowna Community Theatre Sunday to the delight of 1,200 screaming, yelling fans.

In two shows, Randy "Elvis" Friskie proved why he is probably the world's best Elvis impersonator as well as a superb entertainer in his own right.

Few knew Elvis Presley on a personal level, but Friskie's Elvis is a part-time comedian who pokes fun at his own swivel hips and rubber legs.

"We've got to slow this down because I can't do that anymore," he quipped after an acrobatic All Shook Up.

He joked about his skin-tight leather pants while the sweat poured off his face and bare chest.

The show was divided into three segments: Elvis in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

Lead guitarist Steve Hillis, Friskie's partner for the past three years, performed a credible Garth Brooks during the break between the '50s and '60s.

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Randy 'Elvis' Friskie

All of the early Elvis standards were there: Hound Dog, Blue Suede Shoes and Don't Be Cruel.

He danced down the aisles, connecting with the audience, to

Jailhouse Rock, Viva Las Vegas and Return to Sender.

He even does Elvis Presley doing covers of Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline and Frank Sinatra's My Way.

After 15 years as Elvis, Friskie has had so much practice, so much experience that his show looks and sounds real.

A nervous Cassandra Friskie, his 10-year-old daughter, joined him for Don't Cry Daddy and almost brought down the house.

Friskie keeps it in context, however, commenting: "I'm not up here trying to be Elvis; I'm just trying to bring back a few memories."

That's why the 1,200 fans were there, after all.