

Friskie really is the King

REVIEW: Imitator bang on in his representation of Elvis Presley

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staff reporter

At first glance, you'd think Elvis Presley really was on the Cowichan Theatre stage singing *Jailhouse Rock* during Saturday's *Tribute To The King*.

Blink and you realize just how good Randy Friskie's imitation of Elvis is.

Sure, Presley was taller but Friskie gets top marks for bringing the King back to life for fans of all ages.

In fact, Friskie's banter and trembling hip antics show he's having fun without losing sight of reality.

He knows Elvis died Aug. 16, 1977 and he isn't coming back.

Friskie's an actor, not an impersonator, depicting Elvis the way most remember him from fading concert footage.

After that, we suspend reality and realize how



Andrew Leong

Randy Friskie portrays leather-clad 1960s Elvis during Saturday's spot-on Cowichan Theatre tribute.

Sixties Elvis donned a black leather-look outfit for *Viva Las Vegas*, *Return To Sender*, *It's*

The polished band also backed the shockingly mature voice of Cassandra Friskie, 11, during

pivotal Elvis was to rock n' roll; how many songs he immortalized before drug abuse took its toll.

But 350 fans at Saturday's show were there to honour Elvis' accomplishments, not to remember his mistakes.

Friskie helped out with three hot sets choreographing Presley in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

More diction and less crooning by Friskie would have shared Elvis's lyrics better.

Early Elvis performed a hip-displacing *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Teddy Bear*, *Hound Dog*, and *All Shook Up* in a trademark silver-sequined jacket, black slacks and white bucks.

Now Or Never, *Heartbreak Hotel*, and *In The Ghetto*.

Seventies Elvis closed the show in a white jump suit during *CC Ruder*, *Burning Love*, *Suspicious Minds* and *My Way* plus a flurry of karate kicks and punches.

It's clear Friskie studied Elvis's changing mannerisms and infused his songs with legendary moves.

His Las Vegas Show Band sizzled with three female vocalists and two percussion kits from the Amazing Grace Brothers, plus players on sax, guitar, keyboards and bass.

her memorable Patsy Cline tribute.

She never missed a beat belting out Cline's *Sweet Dreams of You*, *Crazy* and *Walking After Midnight*. Dad Randy should be proud of his young daughter's stage poise.

The high-volume show also involved Steve Hillis' tribute to Garth Brooks during his set involving *Thunder Rolls*, *The Dance* and *Friends In Low Places*.

But most fans got the Elvis they came for. Even if you didn't like his songs, Friskie's show is still great rock n' roll.

Elvis tribute rating: 8.5 pekvises out of 10.