Wayne "Mr. Las Vegas" Newton to Perform at the PAC Sept. 20

SAN LUIS OBISPO- The glamour and showmanship of Las Vegas will be brought to the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan stage when Wayne Newton performs his solo concert on Friday, September 20 at 8 p.m.

Otter Productions, Inc. and Cal Poly Arts have joined to bring "Mr. Las Vegas" to San Luis Obispo for one night only. Jim Greer of Spin Magazine stated that a Wayne Newton show "is the standard by which I will henceforth judge each future concert of any genre. I'm not talking about camp, or kitsch. I'm talking about full-blooded American entertainment."

Newton's career success has spanned decades, beginning when he was six years old. It has been noted that while Elvis Presley was still driving a truck for a living, Wayne Newton -- ten years his junior -- had already sung before a president (Truman), toured with a Grand Ole Opry road show, and released his first record.

When speaking of Presley, recalls Newton: "There are two people I know who flunked 'Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour' auditions: Elvis Presley and me."

While legendary stars like Jackie Gleason, Lucille Ball, and George Burns were all mentors for the young performer, Bobby Darin brought Newton his early record hits: "Heart," "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," "Summer Wind," "Dreams of an Everyday Housewife," and Newton's signature song, "Danke Schoen." His later release, "Daddy, Don't You Walk So Fast" was also a No.1 hit nationwide.

Since those early recording days, Newton has broken all Las Vegas hotel attendance records and in 1994, he performed his 25,000th show on the Strip. The big-voiced singer also plays 13 different instruments, many of which are worked into his shows.

In 2000, he signed one of the largest contracts in entertainment history
with the Stardust Resort and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip, calling for Newton to perform 40 weeks a year, seven shows a week for the next ten years in the newly re-named "Wayne Newton Theatre."

Says Newton, "This is the most exciting, productive, and fulfilling time of my professional life. I'm still doing the kind of shows I've always done and I can tell you one thing: (people) have never walked out saying, 'He didn't work hard for us.' I know what it's means to save your money to go see someone perform and I'll work as hard as I have to, making sure they enjoy it."

With 142 albums recorded to date, Newton is currently working on a new triple-disc set. In addition to his Las Vegas engagements, touring concerts, and television and film roles, Newton also contributes his time to many charitable organizations, including the National Association of Missing and Abused Children.

Last fall, Bob Hope turned over the duties of USO touring for the armed services, naming Newton "CEO of the USO Celebrity Circle."

Good seats remain; tickets range from $58 - $78 and may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

This performance is also sponsored by New Times.

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