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# STAR GATHERING

*You Won't Believe Your Eyes And Ears ...*

By Hilary L. Green

**O**ne of the hottest shows in town can be found in Stratosphere's gorgeous Broadway Showroom. It's none other than "American Superstars," and it pays tribute to some of the biggest names in the music business.

"Superstars" producers Mark Callas and Donny Moore take great pride in the fact that their featured performers look and sound just like the celebrities they are portraying.

Sometimes this means conducting auditions all over the country to find the right person. Callas and Moore believe that it is this strict attention to detail in casting and producing their show that sets "American Superstars" apart from other tribute shows.

Callas and Moore have been producing various editions of "American Superstars" since 1991. Their shows have played throughout the country and there is a sister show playing in Greece. They are continually adding to and tweaking their productions to keep them fresh and new.

The most recent addition to "American Superstars" at Stratosphere is Darren Lee's salute to Elvis Presley.

"Our research showed that visitors to Las Vegas want to see Elvis," Callas explains. "So we brought in the most talented one we could find. Darren Lee won the World Elvis Competition in Memphis, Tennessee, beating more than 400 professional contestants."

Lee's portrayal of the swivel-hipped king of rock 'n' roll is a huge hit with the audience. His segment includes such Presley hits as "Viva Las Vegas," "Blue Suede Shoes," "All Shook Up" and "Can't Help Falling In Love With You." His boyish good looks and great moves capture the spirit of the handsome star in his younger days.

Sandy Taggart follows with a marvelous portrayal of Latin singing sensation Gloria Estefan. Taggart has really done her homework. She is so good



**KING OF SHOWS**—See the greatest stars of our time in "American Superstars"

that it isn't unusual for latecomers to ask if she's the real thing. Likewise with Johnny Potash's fiddling tribute to Charlie Daniels. The classically trained Potash astonishes the audience with his championship fiddle playing, demonstrating why he counts Daniels among his many fans.

Madonna strikes a pose, presented by the lovely Coty Alexander. She is able to capture and re-create the many looks and sounds of the Material Girl by calling upon her own experience as a singer and a dancer to present the superstar with precision and flair.

Damian Brantley rounds out the cast of "American Superstars" with his portrayal of Michael Jackson. On top of looking like the gloved one, Brantley has Jackson's voice, and is a good dancer.

Bring your camera so you can have your photo taken with the star-studded cast after the show.

**"American Superstars"**

■ **Where** • Stratosphere

■ **When** • Fri.-Wed.

■ **Information** • 380-7711