



SMOKEY comes back to the Hollywood Bowl

by Suzanne Takowsky

GET READY... CAUSE HERE HE COMES...

Nobody on earth doesn't like Smokey Robinson. Fans follow the Superstar music cion around the world—and he plays around the world—to packed arenas of kids, teenagers, parents and grandparents. Robinson goes beyond time and generations; people love his music as much today as they did more than 50 years ago when he first hit the music scene.

Coming up...Robinson is headed to the Hollywood Bowl on July 14, 2010 for one night of...da-luv-thang! And nobody—I mean nobody does it better. That sexy, smooth unforgettable voice; Robinson has proven over decades to be *'mans best friend'* when it comes to romancing the ladies. Women have fallen head over heels in love with men they barely knew because Robinson was on the radio crooning a bump and grind come-on-over-here kinda song.

I sat down with the multiple award-winner—*King of Motown to us*—to talk shop about his incredible career, those famous love songs and his going back into the studio to record amid his non-stop concert schedule. One of the biggest and the most busy singers and songwriters of all time, Robinson celebrated his 50th year business and personal friendship with Motown founder Barry Gordy. No doubt one of the biggest talents and legends in the music industry, Robinson continues the thrill with his brand new CD release appropriately titled—*Time Flies When You're Having Fun*.

ST: Back at the Bowl after 20 years—why so long?

SR: **I am very excited to be playing the Hollywood Bowl again. Usually when I play in Los Angeles, I am at the Greek Theater or the Universal Amphitheater. This will be my first time back in more than 20 years. I am really looking forward to it. The Hollywood Bowl is a great venue. I like the whole atmosphere—the outdoor picnic, the tables...everything.**

The day we spoke Robinson had just finished performing to a sold-out crowd at the Primm Hotel outside of Las Vegas. His kind of town, he plays in Vegas about four times a year.

ST: With such a non-stop schedule do you get any downtime?

SR: **People ask me all the time if I get tired of traveling and performing and I have to say, NO! I love what I do. I spend a lot of time on planes but once I walk out on that stage it is like I'm doing it for the first time—each and every time. I look into the audience, people all ages are singing along. Performing is a great joy in my life. I just feel so blessed to be able to do what I love. I live in Las Vegas as well as L.A. and I feel like I'm on vacation all the time. Sometimes when I travel I take my golf clubs with me and play. When I am in L.A. I play golf with guys I've known for 30 and 40 years. We have a great time.**

Smokey's new CD, *Time Flies When You're Having Fun*, is filled with new and fabulous R&B songs, and of course delivered with the same soft, easy and sexy Smokey sound we all love. Over the years Smokey has received many awards from Grammys to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Kennedy Center honoree, Doctorate of Music degree from Howard University, recipient of an Honorary Doctorate degree from Berkeley College of Music, a Songwriter's Hall of Fame honoree and a double star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame as a solo artist and member of The Miracles. In May he was honored on the Apollo Theater's new Walk of Fame, in New York City. Robinson says receiving this award is a moment he will never forget.

"I started out at the Apollo and to receive this plaque in front of the

theater is one of the proudest achievements in my life."

Another moment he won't forget happened days ago when he was toasted at the Friars Club in New York at the magnificent Waldorf Astoria Hotel. A packed room of celebrities turned out and Oprah got in on the action via a video taped message for the star.



Speaking of Vegas and excitement, on the Strip right now at the fab new Imperial Palace: Smokey Robinson Presents Australia's Human Nature, a dynamic group of four multi-talented guys from downunder who rock the stage and the world with Motown's greatest songs. Their show according to Robinson is mind blowing.

"These guys are simply unbelievably talented. I grew up with the Motown sound and artists and for them to be able to sing the old songs and sound so much like the original stars is incredible. They have performed for years and I am proud to have introduced them to Las Vegas."