



Have you heard the NEWS



"There's Good Rocking Tonight"

News letter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen.

40th Anniversary of 1968 'Comeback' Special

December 3rd 2008 was the 40th anniversary of the first airing of Elvis's 1968 television special. This extravagant entertainment special features Elvis in some of his greatest and best-loved moments captured on video. Elvis in black leather and the giant red "Elvis" letters are just a couple of iconic images that come from this program.

Considered groundbreaking at the time, this special still has a contemporary feel and Elvis's informal jamming in front of a small audience is regarded as a forerunner of the "unplugged" concept, later popularized by MTV.

Sponsored by The Singer Company, it aired on the NBC television network in December 1968 and was broadcast again the follow-



ing summer.

The show was the first one-man TV Special to appear on commercial American television and was the highest-rated television special

of the year attracting a total of 42% of the viewing audience. "If I can Dream," released a month before the special, sold over 800,000 units in its initial release.

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Elvis Trivia

The picture shown of Elvis on this page is from the NBC 68 Comeback Special but you will see that Elvis is wearing a blue suit. This is from the rehearsal of the sit-down segment of the show. Contrary to rumour, no footage exists from these rehearsals....too bad!

Reminder

Please remember there is no Elvis Night in December. The next Elvis Night will be on January 30th.

Caught In A Trap—ITV1 Boxing Day 9.00pm

Connie Fisher has come a long way since first appearing as a twinkly-eyed West End wannabe on *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?* After winning the BBC talent search in 2006, she spent fifteen months treading the boards as Maria von Trapp in *The Sound Of Music*, released a solo album and headed up a revival

of the musical *They're Playing Our Song*. Now she's making her first moves into TV drama with a role as an Elvis obsessive in the one-off *Caught In A Trap*.

The Drama charts the story (based on a real life incident) of a woman (Gemma) who lives a rather mundane life but finds a way to fund her obses-

sion with Elvis Presley. She goes on a spending spree with Elvis memorabilia top of her shopping list, but the spending spirals out of control until Gemma is in serious danger of being 'Caught In A Trap'.

Perhaps something to watch over the festive period.





Christmas at Graceland

The Christmas decorations and lights are up at Graceland for anyone lucky enough to be in the area at this time of the year. The annual lighting of the traditional lights and decorations on the mansion property took place on November 21st. The extensive spectacle includes hundreds of blue lights along the driveway, a life-size Nativity scene, Santa and his sleigh and much more, originally displayed at Graceland by Elvis. The ceremony was attended by St. Jude Hospital child patients as well as the singer Martina McBride and Painter Thomas Kinkade who was there to reveal his latest painting 'Graceland Christmas'.

The interiors of the Graceland mansion are also decked in Elvis' Christmas décor for the holiday season and include his traditional red velvet drapes and Presley family Christmas artifacts on display around several trees

throughout the home, including the famous Jungle Room. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® was still just a dream when Elvis Presley became a supporter. Today, St. Jude is one of the world's premier centres for research and treatment into pediatric cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. In 1957, Danny Thomas, St. Jude's founder, asked Elvis to add his star power to a variety show in order to raise funds for the hospital. But Elvis didn't stop there. After the hospital opened its doors in 1962, Elvis continued to support its lifesaving mission.

Membership Fees

There have been no membership fees payable this year and due to the recent changes it has now been decided to renew all membership fees in March 2009 when they will all become payable.

All reminders will be issued in February/March next year.

Merry Christmas !



Christmas Duets

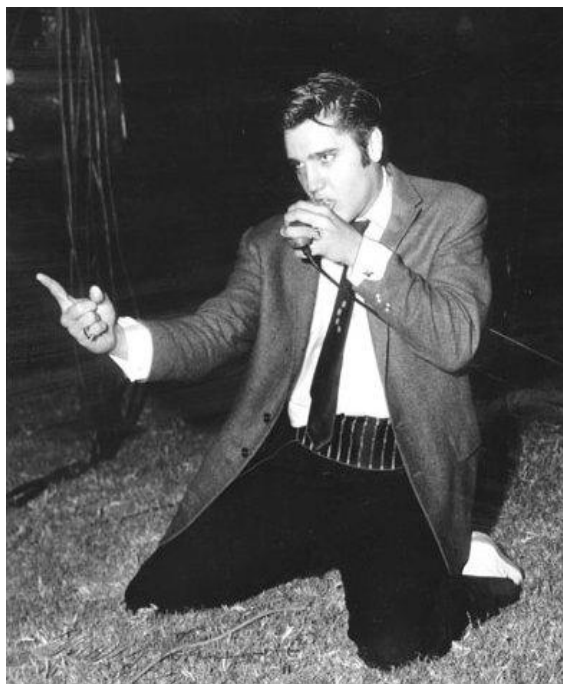
The new Album 'Christmas Duets' released on 14th October has been doing exceptionally well worldwide and as a result there has been a number of spin-off items appearing on the internet. One of these is the music video of Elvis singing 'Blue Christmas' with Martina McBride which is proving to be very popular on the internet. The video consists of Elvis in the sit-down session of the 1968 'Comeback' Special but has been digitally altered to show Martina McBride joining in the session part way through the track by sitting down next to Elvis!

It is extremely well done and certainly makes the future possibilities interesting. If anyone is interested in checking out the video it can be viewed on Youtube, or purchased from iTunes. For anyone wishing to see it who does not have access to the internet let us know and we will see what we can do.

EPE have set up a new website 'www.SingWithTheKing.com' for anyone wishing to view the video, but in addition you can actually record a duet of Blue Christmas with Elvis and save as an E-card for sending to friends. A good idea but one that I have not tried yet...

The 'Elvis Presley Christmas Duets' Album is the first Elvis Presley Duets recordings album and the first Christmas compilation of it's

kind ever produced. This release marks yet another milestone in Elvis Presley's legacy, 31 years after his death but has certainly divided opinion among the Elvis Fans with some thinking that the new technology is a great idea and should be embraced while others hate to see any of Elvis' music being altered in any way. I think the best thing to do is buy the album and decide for yourself!



Next Dance: Friday 30th January