



Hot Tom still has the moves

Picture: Jacinta Mathews

CONCERT

Tom Jones
Sandalford Wines, Swan Valley
Sunday, March 14
Review: Simon Collins

Ten years ago, the ladies pitching undergarments at Sir Tom Jones couldn't reach the swivel-hipped sexagenarian on stage at the Perth Entertainment Centre.

And it was no different in 2010, with eager women hurling knickers towards the Welsh wailer only to see their lacy offerings fall well short of Sandalford Wines' big stage. Once again, the spirit was willing but the throwing arm weak.

While the Ent Cent is in mothballs and ageing fans have not yet worked out effective undie delivery strategies, da Jones boyo remains the vocal powerhouse from Pontypridd — a veritable force of nature. A very sweaty, loud force of nature.

Jones, who turns 70 in June, has stopped dying his hair and, while he's still not acting his age, he revels in being a recording and touring star more than half a century after making his debut — billed as Tiger Tom, the Twisting Vocalist — in a Welsh working men's club

On Sunday night at Sandalford, Tiger Tom was

the Sugar Daddy, exploding on stage with the cheeky number penned by Bono and the Edge of U2 for his latest album, *24 Hours*.

"The older I get, the better I was," he purred out in front of a hip, young 10-piece band as they opened with songs off the new CD, plus Jones' theme to the 1965 Bond film, *Thunderball*.

Thunder, indeed, but the fans didn't match the superstar's bombast until he unveiled 1968 murder ballad, *Delilah*, and *Mama Told Me Not to Come*, a rollicking cover recorded with fellow Welsh rockers *Stereophonics* for his 1999 comeback album, *Reload*.

This *Three Dog Night* number and a scorching cover of *Otis Redding's Hard to Handle* showcased Jones' soul chops — he is, after all, one of the blackest white singers of all time.

As he summed up in pure Vegas style: "Is it hot in here, or is it just me?"

The soul segment ended with *Never off 24 Hours* — a declaration that he will never "never, never, never" give up music — before he ploughed into some "country songs" performed how he used to do 'em back in Wales.

The highlight of this portion of the concert was undoubtedly *Green Green Grass of Home*, which was introduced a cappella by four of

Jones' band before the knight and 10,000-plus fans joined in. It was stirring stuff, let down by the subsequent cover of the *Drifters' Save the Last Dance for Me* that was cheesier than Welsh rarebit.

But the fans could not fault Jones, who joked about his age, gyrated to his up-tempo hits and basically turned on his white-hot charisma to give his followers what they wanted: *What's New Pussycat?*, *She's a Lady* and his *Full Monty* version of raunchy *You Can Leave Your Hat On*. The latter saw the underpants fly as Jones removed his jacket to reveal a sweat-drenched shirt.

The LA-based songman pushed the limits of his larynx, nailing the screams of mid-90s hit *If I Only Knew* before delivering signature songs from two separate eras of his incredible career, 2000 hit *Sex Bomb* and the song that started it all back in 1965, *It's Not Unusual*.

Dripping with sweat, Jones finally took a short break while his band rolled out *Prince's Sexy MF* to introduce the surprise funk hit of 1988, *Kiss*. Some older fans took this as a cue to leave; others joined Tom as he announced "think I better dance now".

More funk in a misplaced new song, *Take Me Back to the Party*, closed the show but by then we were sated, favourite songs sung and panties thrown.

CASH

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LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Monday's Winning Numbers

7 3 6

Date: 8 Mar 2010. Draw 4138

Tuesday's Winning Numbers

6 4 1

Date: 9 Mar 2010. Draw 4139

Wednesday's Winning Numbers

7 3 1