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IDENTICAL TWINS GIVE AUDIENCE STAR TREATMENT

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HYANNIS - Seeing is believing. But when Eddie Edwards appears onstage as Cher, the impact is beyond belief. The performer's lithe physique is poured into fleshtone tights, thigh-high black leather boots, and a black thong that leaves little room for the imagination. You could hear gasps in the audience during a recent performance. When he turned around, Edwards showed off a large tattoo emblazoned on his rounded posterior, just like Cher's.

Sporting a flowing black mane and sequined headdress, Edwards vamped about the stage provocatively as he delivered one Cher hit after the other, sounding just like the in-your-face sexy singer. The effect was astounding. That's just a slice of "Celebrities on Stage," a celebrity impersonation show starring Edwards and his identical twin brother, Anthony. The talented duo performed their show for 11 seasons at Christine's Restaurant in Dennis and are now playing at the Sheraton Hyannis Resort this summer.

The unique brother act is a clever gimmick of identical twins doing celebrity look- and sound-alikes. (Carol Burnett suggested they combine their impressive talents).

Through the magic of artful makeup (which they do themselves), wigs, and glitzy costumes, the brothers create illusions that at times look and sound so much like the originals that it's eerie.

Direct from Las Vegas, the show is rated PG, but that doesn't stop the engaging entertainers from slipping in some risqué tongue-in-cheek material.

The two-hour revue provides nonstop entertainment. You don't have time to get tired of one impersonation before they move on to the next.

The brothers split the show, playing to their strengths. Eddie impersonates the female stars while Anthony handles the male performers.

Eddie delivers a simply divine impression of the brassy Bette Midler. Squeezed into a skintight spandex pants outfit in rainbow colors, he belts out soaring renditions of "The Rose" and "Wind Beneath My Wings." Anthony's throaty impression of Neil Diamond nails the performer's distinctive gravelly voice. But he really shines with his outstanding depiction of flamboyant rocker Elton John. Decked out in a long coat of red, white and blue fake fur, a patriotic top hat and platform heels ornamented with large piano keys, he flashes the famous gap-toothed smile. His vocal impression is amazing as he pounds on the piano and delivers a winning medley of the singer's hits, including "Benny and the Jets," a rockin' "Crocodile Rock" and Elton's touching tribute to Marilyn Monroe, "Candle in the Wind."

Eddie's impression of Barbra Streisand is on the money, visually and vocally. Looking glamorous in a beautiful white gown slit to the thigh and a sleekly styled wig, he's a dead ringer for the superstar. He depicts Bab's affected mannerisms, flipping his hair aside. He packs the segment with stunning renditions of Streisand hits including "People," "Memory," "Second Hand Rose" and "Don't Rain on My Parade."

The brothers team up for two duets, as Sonny and Cher doing "I Got You Babe" and Diamond and Streisand performing "You Don't Send Me Flowers."

The most striking part of the show occurs when Eddie sits at a dressing table downstage, wipes off his makeup, slips out of a tight sequined gown and removes his wig revealing his male persona, casting aside the illusion he spent the evening creating as he sings "I Am What I Am" in his own strong voice.

Anthony's added a new bit to the show to demonstrate his vocal prowess and to prove that the brothers don't lip sync their vocals. He delivers an impressive sampling of vocal impressions (sans costumes and makeup) of Rod Stewart, Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, Tom Jones, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder and even Kermit the Frog. The brothers wrap up the show as themselves in a jaunty song-and-dance number, "Just the Two of Us." But they're best when they're imitating the stars.