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Beware Of Fake Oldies Groups

By Mary Ann Apostol

There are a lot of us out here: ones who remember all the oldies and love nothing more than going

to a show where our favorite oldies groups are playing. Now we'll get to hear all those songs that have marked so many nights, so many moments, and so many phases of our lives. It's the music we grew up with, and through kids, marriages, work and play, it has always been there, an anthem in the background of our lives.

But when we plunk down our cash for a ticket, we've got to beware. We're entering a world where the brand names don't always come with the actual brand. Doo Wop, and other oldies groups often aren't the groups we were counting on hearing. They have the name, and they might wear the uniform, but many who present themselves as originals are actually "fake."

Behind the name, up there in the stage, in the jackets and ties, are a bunch of singers who didn't sing a note on those original 45s, and have no connection with those who did. Somehow they've managed to get the name of the classic group, but they may have taken the original group's name by deception or outright theft. Often they are simply imposters. Handing over our hard-earned dollars to these guys does a great disservice to the original artists. It helps the fakes keep up their deception, and in many cases it deprives the original artists of money and reputation. Once people have accepted the imitators, it makes it much harder for original members to prove a claim.

You might find this problem when going to see groups called the Coasters, Drifters and the Platters. You pay for the tickets, arrive at the concert, and don't recognize a single face up there on the stage. When they open their mouths to sing, you're sure of it. Notes turn sour, and the voices singing them are obviously not the same. A real lover of oldies has to watch for this. While inevitably there will be changes in personnel, a group should be able to hold onto its identity. The real music lover should make sure the group has a pedigree going back to the original hits, and not simply some singers who took a name in order to cash in. Keep in mind: Carl Gardner is the Coasters one and only lead singer. Herb Reed and the Platters is the only group by that name in which there is an original member. Bill Pinkney is the only original Drifter still performing.

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In New York assemblyman Peter Rivera has introduced a bill that would allow original music groups to seek civil penalties from fake groups who use their names. In Pennsylvania state senator Bob Robbins introduced the Truth in Music Advertising Act and on February 22, 2006, Governor Ed Rendell signed it into law. The law prohibits anyone from either advertising or conducting "a live musical performance in Pennsylvania through the use of false, deceptive or misleading affiliation, connection or association between a performing group and a recording group." If such fraud is discovered Attorney General Tom Corbett is empowered to stop the performances. Conviction can bring fines of up to \$15,000.

So be an informed consumer. Before you pay good money to go to an oldies show, find out who these "oldies" are. Make sure there's an original member or two, or that this band is descended from the original through the consent and authorization of the band members who made the hits. Once you know the make-up and the history of the group that's going to perform, you can make an informed choice about whether you want to go to the show. It could be that you want to hear reproductions of the songs that you love, and will not be bothered by the fact that the performance is not by the original group. But you don't want to do it at the expense of the original members, and you certainly want to

know who these singers are before you sit down to enjoy the show.

Remember the oldies but goodies way back when? Rediscover the sounds of yesterday! Find out what your favorite golden era performers of the 50's, 60's and 70's are doing today! Mary Ann Apostol brings you her FREE I love the Oldies Newsletter. Go to

<http://www.ilovetheoldies.com>

to sign up.

How To Tell The Difference Between A Fake And Real Handbag

By Jeff Jefferson

Like any other item of clothing that you want to buy, handbags also have lots of fakes in the market. Without the right information, you can end up spending a lot of money buying the handbag of your dreams, only to find out at the end of the day that it's fake.

To prevent this from happening, take note of the following guidelines on how to tell the difference between a fake and a real handbag. As you know, it is safer and much more convenient for you to know... before placing your order. You don't want to go through the stress of having to return the handbag when you discover that it is safe. In other words, prevention is better than cure.

– The most obvious differences between fake and real handbags is the misspelled logos you find on the fake handbags. Fakes don't take the time to carefully make the handbags. If you look carefully you can spot some of the misspellings. Sometimes however, these misspellings can be intentional. They want to imitate a particular handbag brand but intentionally misspell the name so as not to enter into any legal trouble with the real company.

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– Watch out for handbags with cheap leather. This is one sure sign of a fake. I know it is very difficult at certain times to identify if the leather is cheap or not, but if you take your time to look carefully, you will notice it. That is why you should never be in a hurry when shopping for the handbag of your choice. Take your time and look carefully before parting with your hard-earned money.

– To get real handbags and not fakes, always shop for your handbags from authorized and registered dealers– whether online or offline. Some of the places to find fake handbags are at home parties, flea markets, New York's Chinatown, mall kiosks, to mention a few.

– Price is one of the most important determinants for identifying a fake handbag from a real one. The price of a fake handbag is usually cheap– to push you to buy. Don't expect to buy a \$500 handbag for \$100. It just is too good to be true and is certainly a fake.

Doing the above can help you identify a fake handbag from a real one... and save you from falling prey to the many fake handbag dealers out there.

Jeff Jefferson

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